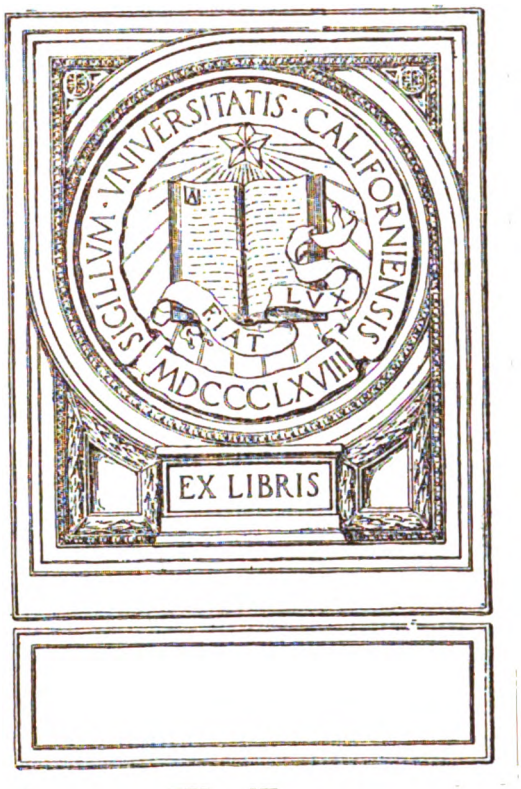
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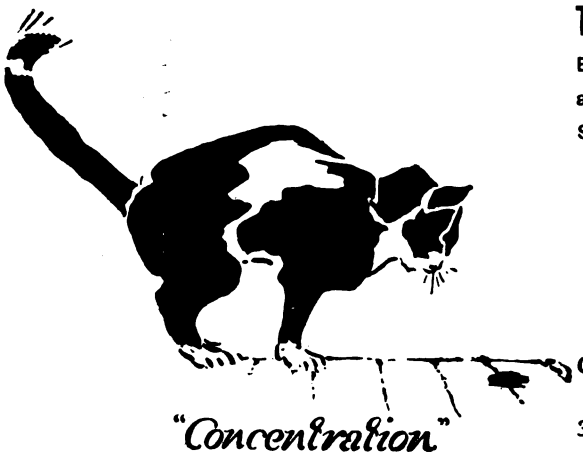
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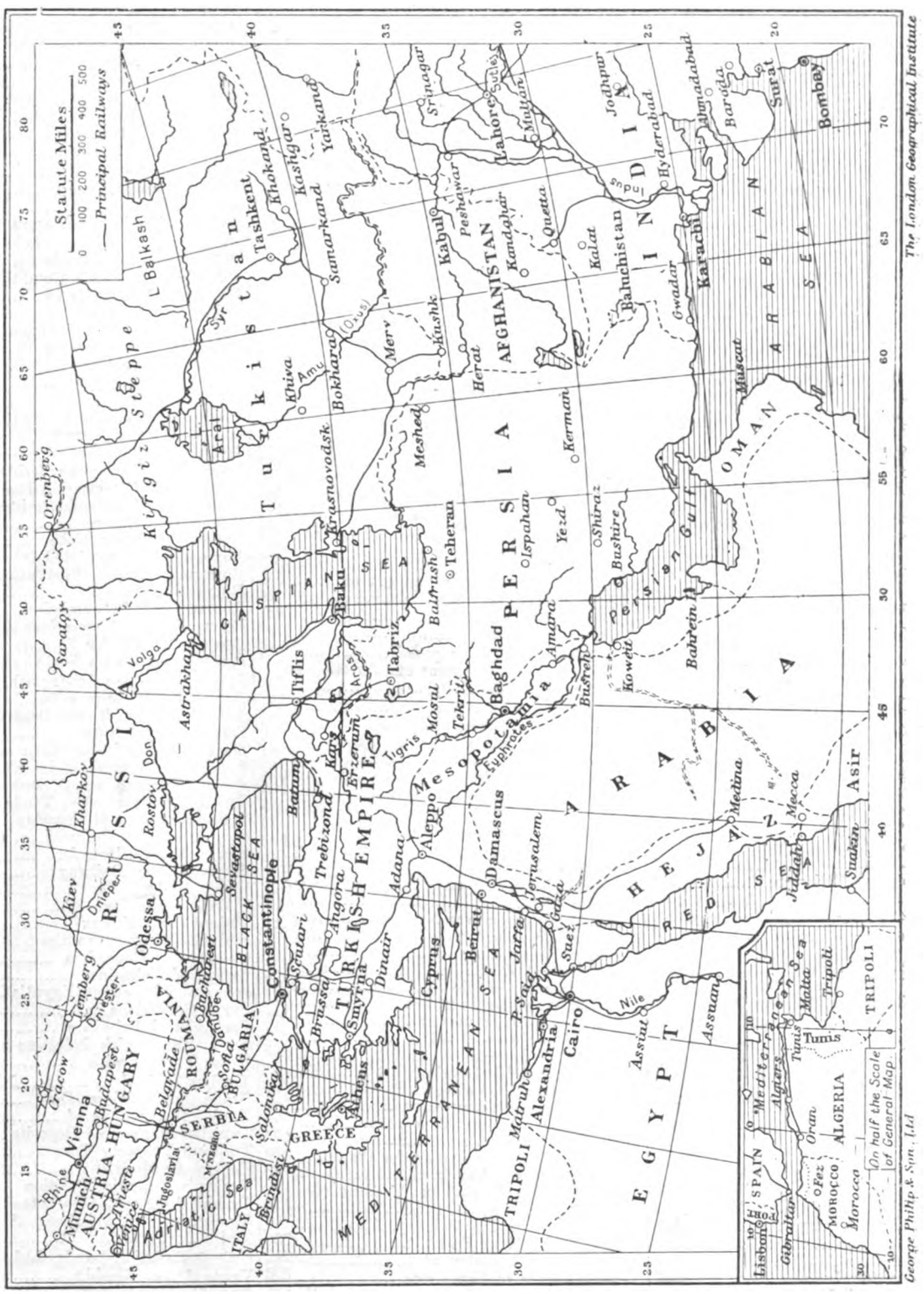
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The Markets Reached by "THE NEAR EAST."



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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A justifiable anxiety arising out of the absence of news from the Balkans has reference to the general attitude of the Governments of Great Britain, France, and the United States towards Near Eastern affairs. The British public can hardly fail to be reminded of the condition of things in 1915, when the Peninsula was divided, as it were, into so many water-tight compartments. No attempt was made by the Allies to correlate their diplomatic efforts, and as far as Great Britain was concerned, there was for some time no collaboration between her representatives at the different capitals, and little enough between them individually and the Home Government. Neither nations nor their affairs stand still these days, even during an armistice. It would be a mistake, therefore, to adopt the attitude that nothing matters in the Balkans until the Allied Conference has fixed the new boundaries. The Allies cannot with impunity divest themselves of their responsibilities for a single day. Indifference on their part, or relaxation of their authority, as the case may be, will provide others with the opportunity for mischief. There may be no call for a policy of actual interference; but every country ought to feel that the eyes of the Associated Governments are upon it and regulate its political affairs accordingly.

The constitution of the new Yugoslav State is still an enigma to the outside world, and even *The Times* falls into the error of giving the heading of "New Serbian Ministers" to the appointment of two more Ministers, neither of whom is a Serbian, to the Southern Slav Cabinet. According to the official phraseology the new State comprises Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and the three peoples have hitherto been represented by the Serbian Government, the Agram National Council, and the London Yugoslav Committee. A joint Government has now been set up, as noted above, but while the Serbian Government figures prominently in connection with developments in Serbia, little is heard of the authorities in control of Croatian and Slovene affairs. It can hardly be the intention of the northern partners of the Federation to dispense with separate Governments, if Serbia retains hers; but, so far, no official light has been thrown on this point beyond the statement that the Serbian Legation and Consulates in France have received instructions to replace the arms and name of the kingdom of Serbia by the arms and name of the kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

A welcome corrective to the propagandist tendency of certain organs has been supplied this week in an unexpected quarter. The Rome correspondent of *The Times* takes exception, at considerable length, to the statements of a Paris correspondent who, for some time past, has been the mouthpiece of the Serbian Opposition element of the Yugoslav propagandists. The Rome correspondent declares that he deprecates exaggerated Italian claims as much as he does those of the Yugoslav extremists, and, echoing a sentiment that has repeatedly been expressed in these columns, adds:—"I believe that the problem can and must be settled by compromise, but I am quite convinced that only harm is done—and serious harm—by those who contend that only Italy is to blame. In conclusion, I would say that, while many Italians have worked for a moderate programme and for an agreement, the Yugoslavs have made a very inadequate response—in public."

The fatal lack of vision and knowledge which has dogged the Allies' handling of the Balkan question is responsible for much of the present *impasse*. Steps ought to have been taken to avoid the possibility of collision between Italian and Yugoslav troops, and similarly no Serbian soldiers ought to have been allowed to enter Montenegro. The summoning of a so-called Montenegrin Skupshtina at Podgoritza under Serbian bayonets, for the purpose of proclaiming the deposition of the King and the annexation of Montengro by Serbia is a disgrace to the whole Allied cause, as it is entirely on a par with Germany's action in Lithuania and elsewhere. It would be a useful warning, if the Allied Conference were to insist upon the punishment of those responsible for the *mot d'ordre* that gave rise to the Podgoritza meeting. As already pointed out in these pages, the destiny of Montenegro may be complete incorporation in the kingdom of Serbia, but the Allies cannot be too particular in requiring that the union should be carried through with due regard to the principle of self-determination. But until the Associated Governments, to use a homely phrase, put their foot down, there can hardly fail to be friction between the rival interests in the Balkans.

It is not only between the Italians and the Yugoslavs that the Governments of Great Britain, France, and the United States will have to act as arbiters, while requiring absolute acquiescence in their verdict. The rival claims of Serbians and Roumanians to the Banat have not loomed so prominently on the Allied horizon, but they constitute nevertheless a further problem awaiting solution. In common with Montenegro this contested territory was overrun by Serbian troops, and collisions with Roumanian forces have only been avoided by the creation with the help of French troops of a neutral zone between the Serbians and Roumanians. General Franchet d'Esperey intervened late in

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the day, and is understood to have drawn the dividing line at a point which leaves the Serbians in possession of more territory than they can expect to retain. The silence of the Roumanians on the subject—which is entirely to their credit—may be attributed to their preoccupations in other directions, or may be due to a superior confidence in the justice of their case and in the judgment of the Allied Governments. The population of the Banat is admittedly mixed, and comprises Roumanians, 41 per cent.; Germans, 26 per cent.; Serbs, 20 per cent.; and Magyars, 13 per cent. In any allocation of the country it may be impossible to prevent entirely the retention of a number of communities under foreign jurisdiction; for a strict delimitation of nationality would result in unpractical frontiers. The consensus of impartial opinion favours the incorporation of the greater part of the Banat in Roumania, with a portion in the south-west corner allotted to Serbia for the strategical defence of Belgrade and the north-western section going to the Magyars.

There are signs that M. Bratiano's Cabinet, which, as was pointed out last week, represents the National Liberal Party alone, is intended like its predecessor to be short-lived. The need is felt for a Coalition Cabinet at this stage of Roumania's history in order that the nation may grapple with the vital problems confronting it in a national and not a party spirit. It is evident that both Transylvania and Bessarabia will contribute to Greater Roumania a strong democratic bias, expecting to find the old kingdom entirely in line with them. In these circumstances the composition of the temporary Cabinet is of minor importance, provided the new Government that is to speak in the name of Greater Roumania is representative of all the best elements in the reunited nation.

Interesting developments appear to have taken place towards the end of the year in Turkey. In spite of the presence of Allied forces in Constantinople, and the flight of Talaat and Enver Pashas, the Committee of Union and Progress had remained in being and contrived to make its power felt in the daily life and political affairs of the capital. The Chamber proved to be almost entirely under its thumb, and Tewfik Pasha's Government ruled only in name. Emboldened by its success, the Committee is said to have been planning its own return to power; but presumably this prospect at last roused the Allies to action. On the day when the trial of strength in the Chamber was to take place, an irade of the Sultan was read dissolving Parliament. It is clear that the Allied Governments must now make up their minds whether Turkey is to be helped along the constitutional road to better things or is to be left to be the prey of intrigue and Committee rule. If they decide that some semblance of Turkish administration must be maintained, they must select the most likely officials or political party and give them the necessary support to enable them to eliminate the Committee, which is now described as more a secret society than a political organisation.

The demarkation of boundaries in Hither Asia promises to be almost as intricate as the problem presented by the Balkans. Unless it is decided that existing treaties are to be cancelled by mutual agreement, the larger Powers will not be in a position to preach moderation to the smaller States. We are, of course, dealing with the East, where bargaining is not only a fine art, but also the breath of life. Accordingly, the only people to whom the claims of the Armenians to territory stretching from the Mediterranean to the Caucasus can come as a surprise will be the simple-minded authors of the famous Sykes-Picot agreement. By this document, which it is only fair to suppose was drawn up by enthusiasts rather than by either the British Foreign Office or the Quai d'Orsay, France stipulated for, and Great Britain consented to, a sphere of influence stretching from Beyrout to the Persian frontier and including Damascus, Aleppo, Sivas, Diarbekr, and Mosul. In spite of M. Pichon's contention that such an agreement must be regarded as binding on the two countries concerned, it is evident that it will not be compatible either with Armenia's claims or with Arab rights, to say nothing of a common-sense development of the territories in question. In these circumstances, it would seem better for France and Great Britain to tear up the treaty before entering the Conference, rather than to watch its being formally consigned to the wastepaper basket.

An "Egyptian correspondent" in the *Star* would have his readers believe that "all is not well" in Egypt, and the verdict is endorsed editorially by the sub-heading: "Her Deplorable Administration." The burden of the complaint is to the effect that, as the staple product, cotton, has diminished in output and the nominal increase in the value of her exports and imports conceals the fact that the pound has "more than halved in value," Egypt's prosperity is a misnomer, "a dangerous misnomer, for the resultant satisfaction has already led to a slackening of national exertion, and Egypt, capable of producing cereals enough for twice her population, finds herself short of bread in the towns." Criticism of this nature is always easy, and can always rely upon a medium of publicity that is ignorant of the facts of the case. It is quite true that Egypt is capable of producing a prodigious amount of cereals, but it is equally true that she has not done so for a good many centuries. The country relied almost entirely on imported foodstuffs, and the shortage of bread was due to the lack of transport from which the whole world has been suffering. As soon as the situation was appreciated the Egyptian Government took steps to promote the cultivation of cereals, with the result that Egypt has grown more than at any other period within recent times. The benefits that she has derived from good government are almost incalculable. If lean times are ahead, they will be shared in good company; but it is to Egypt's credit that she has weathered the war period so successfully. The conclusion of the article betrays the nigger in the pile. Egypt, we are told, like India, "has earned her claim to a measure of self-determination," and the new British Parliament is to see that she gets it.

The Yugoslav Cabinet has now been reconstructed under the presidency of M. Protitch, who had previously been given the portfolio of Finance. M. Koroshetz and Dr. Trumbitch remain Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs respectively, while M. Pashitch is to be at the head of the Yugoslav Mission at the Allies' Preliminary Conference in Paris. This compromise is probably the best arrangement that could be made in the interests of the new State. There will be too much to be done in Yugoslavia in the immediate future to render it advisable that the chief members of the Government should absent themselves indefinitely from the country. On the other hand, no one could represent the Southern Slavs with more authority at the Allied councils than M. Pashitch. A Serbian remains at the head of the joint administration; but the capital of Yugoslavia is likely to be Serajevo and not Belgrade.

The outstanding feature of the Indian Honours List is the appointment of Sir Satyendra Sinha to the Privy Council, a rare distinction in India, but one which is thoroughly appropriate in the circumstances. The Honours conferred on the Maharajas of Bikanir, Baroda, and Alwar will be generally welcomed, while the promotion of Sir Oswald Bosanquet to K.C.S.I. will be thoroughly popular in the Central Indian States, where he has worked for so many years. The K.C.I.E. awarded to Sir William Marris is a not too generous recognition of his outstanding services in connection with the scheme of constitutional reform. In other respects the List is of the usual type, but it is distinguished by the tardy recognition of the work done by Mr. William Crooke and Mr. Vincent Smith, who left India twenty years or so ago, but have in their retirement made such valuable contributions to Indian scholarship, and who will add a new lustre to the Order of the Indian Empire.

At first sight it is not easy to discover even the nucleus of an "Indian" party in the new House of Commons. Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Montagu are

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there on the official side, Colonel Yate and Sir J. D. Rees will doubtles ask as many questions as hitherto, and in addition to them the House contains a few Members, like Sir Henry Craik and Colonel Wedgwood, who have occasionally displayed some knowledge of, or at least some interest in, Indian affairs. Among the new members, we notice the name of only one who can speak with authority on such topics, but Mr. T. J. Bennett, C.I.E., will be a most valuable acquisition if he expounds in the House that sane, middle view of Indian problems which has of late characterised the utterances of the *Times of India*.

Among the casualties of the election, the most prominent, from this point of view, is Mr. Charles Roberts, who will be greatly missed by Mr. Montagu—or his successor—when the Reform proposals come before the House. Mr. H. E. A. Cotton failed to secure a seat at Finsbury, while in Nottinghamshire Dr. Tara Chand, the only Indian name we noticed in the whole list of candidates, was unable to save his stake, and the various members with Socialistic leanings who occasionally spoke on Indian affairs have without exception disappeared in the *débâcle*. The way is thus left open for the appearance of new "friends of India," and we are prepared to welcome their appearance so long as they take the trouble to master the essential facts; the days when India wanted nothing but sentiment have passed away, and she now claims hard work and clear thinking from anyone who wishes to speak on her behalf.

Perhaps one of the new members may be able to elicit an official statement regarding the object of Lord Jellicoe's approaching visit to India. The announcement made recently by the Admiralty gives ample reasons for his journey to the Dominions, where naval questions have for years been prominent, but offers no explanation of the inclusion of India in his tour, and people are asking whether the idea is merely to tinker with the organisation of the Royal Indian Marine, or whether the ancient glories of the Indian Navy are to be revived. The latter course would be popular in India, where national aspirations claim a self-contained defensive force: we doubt whether the cost of a navy has yet been counted by its eager advocates; but that is another story, and, apart from the question of finance, the sentiment is one with which we have no quarrel.

Another project which raises awkward practical questions is that of holding a meeting of the Indian National Congress in London next spring. London would doubtless enjoy the spectacle, especially if Indian costume was worn, as we presume would be arranged, but we foresee very great difficulty in transporting a sufficient number of delegates. The passage question is of real importance just now: leave is some years overdue, most Englishmen in India are thoroughly stale, and Mr. Fremantle, the Controller of Passages, has already perhaps the most delicate and thankless task that has ever been assigned to an Indian official. A demand for a few hundred additional berths, just at the time when the press of applications is likely to be greatest, is one which probably could not be met, and, unless the Royal Air Force will oblige, it looks as if a new grievance would be the only result of the proposal.

Of more serious political interest is the news that Sir Reginald Craddock's scheme of reforms for Burma contemplates separation from India as the ultimate goal. This question has for long been debated from a more or less academical standpoint, but of late there have been signs of its transfer to the market-place, and it will be interesting to see whether the vision of Indian nationalism will insist on the comprehension of the Irrawaddy and the Salween. For ourselves, we have never been able to form a clear idea of Burma as part of a self-governing India: the Burmese outlook on life is so distinctive that there would be grave risks of bringing a new Ireland into being, and the Indian problem is so difficult as it stands that any reasonable simplification is to be welcomed. There is room in Asia for a great Dominion of Burma, if the people will set to work to develop the varied resources of their country.

EDUCATION IN EGYPT.

THE SECONDARY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.—Part I.*

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The following are extracts from the summaries of the examiners' reports on Part I. given by Mr. Boyd Carpenter:—

Arabic.

The general results were bad, more than 16 per cent. of the candidates failing. The subjects for composition were well chosen, and considerable difference of ability was shown in the writing. There were fewer long-winded introductions and less exaggerations. The chief faults lay in the reproduction of sentences learnt by heart without understanding and their unintelligent insertion in irrelevant places. The same evil was noticed in the grammar, but there was a steady improvement in handwriting. The real causes of the large increase in failures are, in the examiners' opinion, "the fact that so many inexperienced and ill-prepared candidates are allowed to present themselves, and that the majority of these had not passed or attempted to pass any examination for admission to a secondary school." While the pronunciation in the Oral was fair, the vocabulary of many students was very insufficient. The rules of grammar had been well memorised, but their application was often forgotten in reading and speaking. Whilst considerable difference of opinion was expressed over the results in translation, there was general agreement that they were hardly as satisfactory as the previous year. The standard of work differed greatly, but there were distinct signs of an improvement in oral teaching. The results of the translation from Arabic into English were on the whole good, though marred by the use of elaborate words instead of simple ones. The piece for translation from English into Arabic was somewhat harder, and, owing to the fact that many candidates did not understand the original phrases, it resulted in mere stringing together of isolated words. Apart from careless grammar and false concord, the main error was a tendency to excessive paraphrase or excessive literalness. One of the recommendations of the examiners in this connection is that the teaching of Arabic-English translation should be placed as soon as possible in the charge of competent Englishmen.

History and Geography.

The answers in history were not as satisfactory as they might have been, the standard of work varied greatly, and there was a distinct increase in the number of bad answers. There still persists the fundamental error of learning by heart without intelligence or interest. Petty incidents, pretty stories, apochryphal anecdotes, are accepted under the name of history. There are no signs of any conception of development of the growth and change of civilisation affecting modern life. To the majority, history is still a collection of dates and facts, all dead, all remote, only relieved from complete tedium by a sprinkling of fables. In geography, on the other hand, the examiners considered this year's work as much more satisfactory than that of last year. Many state that the standard of Part I. was relatively higher than that of Part II., and that in many cases far more intelligence and general knowledge were shown. The commonest faults were lack of arrangement, inaccuracy, and reliance on memory rather than on observation. One very serious fault is the evident divorce between history and geography, with the result that sketch maps are few in number and inferior in quality.

Science and Mathematics.

The most striking feature of this year's examination in mathematics was the very large number of candidates who entered unprepared. In geometry above one-fifth obtained zero. These gave no evidence that they had been through an adequate course of instruction, and had not reached the standard for admission to the Secondary School; in consequence they should never have found their way to this examination. In geometry the book-work was fairly successful, but failures were common where some degree of independent thought was required. There was a great deal of careless confusion of signs and figures. The papers in algebra were better than those in geometry; weakness was noticeable in factorisation, quadratic equations, the use of brackets, etc. Many candidates seemed to rely on their memory of their First Year Syllabus and to have forgotten or neglected the study of the Second Year Syllabus. In arithmetic exactly the opposite fault was seen, but the results were better than in either geometry or algebra, although there were flagrant cases of careless reading of questions. The questions in science were easy, and the fact that half the candidates failed to obtain 40

* An article dealing with Part II. appeared in The Near East, December 13.

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per cent. of the total marks and 16 per cent. to obtain four marks shows that the standard of scientific knowledge is not improving among the second-year students.

English and French.

The work displayed this year in English was deplorably bad. The list of faults again includes want of intelligence, carelessness, ignorance of common rules of grammar, syntax and idiom, poverty of ideas, and complete absence of individuality. Dictation was moderately satisfactory, but the punctuation was very careless. In many cases the grammar questions were well answered, but it was obvious that the candidates considered grammar as of no practical value. In composition, although the tests were easy, the results were very disappointing. In very few cases was there any attempt at rough notes, at a skeleton outline, or proper proportion for the subject matter, whilst in at least two cases a complete composition in Arabic had been written on one page and meticulously translated on the other. In scores of cases the supposed essays were in reality compositions on "Thrift," or "The Uses of Money," or even on "Appearances Are Deceptive," pointing to the old habit of learning model essays off by heart, with the inevitable result that they are often inserted where they are totally irrelevant. In this connection the examiners are unanimously of opinion that more time should be devoted to oral composition, but they recognise that this cannot be done so long as the classes are so large. Indeed, they consider that overcrowding is one of the chief reasons for the unsatisfactory results of the examination, and, adds Mr. Boyd Carpenter, so long as the present system exists, the percentage of failures must necessarily remain high. In the Oral a general indifference in the manner and matter of the work was noticeable. In most cases the syllabus had been quietly ignored as far as concerned reading books and recitation. One of the books had not been opened at all by most students. The reading was on the whole good, but conversation was very unsatisfactory. The simplest questions were often misunderstood, and the lack of general knowledge made it very hard to get the students to talk.

Whilst the French results were relatively satisfactory as a whole, the grammar and composition left much to be desired. The composition of a large number was rendered completely incomprehensible because the actual wording of the subject had been ignored. Thus on the second composition subject, "Decrivez le depart d'un train," one candidate wrote a biography of George Stephenson! The dictation was distinctly good, and carefulness was shown in the handwriting.

In reviewing these reports Mr. Boyd Carpenter remarks that there are three important points to be noticed in this year's Part I. examination. There has been an enormous increase in the number of candidates, there has been a corresponding increase in failures, and there has been an alarming reduction in the percentage of marks obtained in most subjects, particularly in English. As regards the second feature, he points out that the questions were well selected and adapted to test the knowledge of any adequately prepared student, that there was no ambiguity of phraseology or of wording, and that leniency rather than severity was displayed in the marking. The unwelcome explanation remains, says he, that the work of this year's candidates was inferior to that of previous years, and that on the whole the standard of attainment has declined. A contributory cause of this deterioration, he considers, has undoubtedly been the serious derangement of school routine and the emergency measures forced upon the authorities of certain schools by the circumstances of the past year. The real cause, he thinks, is to be found in the overwhelming increase in the number of candidates for Part I. This increase has not been evenly distributed among good, moderate, and bad students; it has been an increase of the least eligible. This influx of ill-prepared candidates has inevitably reduced the percentage of successes and has had a vitiating effect upon the general standard.

Mr. Boyd Carpenter, whilst considering that it is a cause for congratulation that Egyptian parents should show themselves anxious to provide their sons with a training having for its object the formation of good citizens, points out that a sound education cannot invariably be obtained. Many so-called teachers are without any practical or theoretical qualification for the cause they profess to serve, and their schools are only a means of making money quickly without undue sensitiveness about the methods employed. A school is often opened with much rhetorical advertisement and with a staff insufficient in numbers, experience, and capacity, grossly underpaid and housed in insanitary and overcrowded buildings. The eagerness of both parents and students to obtain some education approved by a certificate is systematically exploited, although at the same time many parents in their desire to save a few pounds do not hesitate to send their sons to schools which they know to be ill-equipped and badly directed. It would, says he, undoubtedly tend to the general welfare, physical, mental and moral, if such speculative schools could disappear, or at least be so discouraged that the profits would hardly repay the risks. He thinks that the time has come for the Ministry of Education to consider seriously the advisability of establishing some form of control over the candidates who present themselves for examination.

Turning to the more particular causes of this year's catastrophe, Mr. Boyd Carpenter says that the first thing to notice is that the examiners' reports show that the decline in standard is not confined to any one subject. Whilst the results in English cause the greatest uneasiness, geography and French alone show any relative improvement. The root of the evil lies in the lack of common sense, in the absence of any reasoning power, in the dull mechanical repetition of memorised facts, in the want of interest and practical intelligence. Leniency of judgment, he adds, to those who fail to take any interest in their own language is neither to be expected nor desired, and the absence of any number of papers of outstanding merit in any subject is disheartening evidence that the candidates are not atoning for their general mediocrity or weakness by a display of any specialised interest in particular subjects.

The position of the English language in secondary schools is, as he points out, of more than academic interest. At present a land of many spoken languages, there is a special reason for the development of the English language in Egypt. The cordial co-operation of Englishmen and Egyptians, the co-ordination of Western and Eastern methods depend very largely upon a practical knowledge of English and Arabic. During the past three years this has already been generally seen, and in many cases the war has succeeded in doing what painstaking scholastic efforts had failed to achieve, awakening an interest among Egyptians in the English language. The causes of this are eminently practical, but they will not cease with the war. The impetus to Egyptian trade and industry which has already begun will increase immeasurably in the near future, and in order to seize his business opportunities the young Egyptian will need a working knowledge of English. And not only in private enterprise is this necessary, but also in law, medicine, agriculture, engineering, which attract the greater part of the successful candidates in Government examinations, and where the medium for the transmission of much Western knowledge must be English. The present position of the language in the schools, adds Mr. Boyd Carpenter, is deplored by the authorities of the higher colleges as deeply as by the actual teachers of English themselves. A commission has been sitting for some months studying suggested improvements in the teaching of English, and its considered recommendations will doubtless form the basis of reform in the near future. But, he points out, one reform is clearly desirable. In almost all cases candidates from small private schools have secured better marks than those from large ones. The practice in conversation which is so necessary becomes very exiguous in overcrowded classes, if not impossible, and restriction of the number of students in a class in the schools generally, both Government and non-Government, is greatly to be desired.

Mr. Boyd Carpenter then proceeds to make some valuable suggestions for the rectification of the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. A commission should be appointed to review the Secondary Course, to indicate any change thought desirable in the light of recent experience, and to adumbrate modifications likely to prove advisable in connection with other educational developments now pending. Steps are also necessary to restrict indiscriminate entries to the examinations. Mr. Boyd Carpenter suggests that it shall be laid down that candidates who have failed in three or more subjects or whose total marks represent less than 30 per cent of the maximum shall not be allowed to present themselves again until after a lapse of two years.

With modifications such as these he does not see why the results of future examinations should not show absolute as well as relative improvement. But to ensure this there must also be greater co-operation between student and teacher. It is easy to blame the latter for the shortcomings of the former, but until it is recognised that theory and practice must be united, and not divorced, there will always remain a certain unreality in examinations.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The High Commissioner's Illness.

The High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, whose health has, unhappily, not improved, has been granted six weeks' leave from November 21. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Stevenson, has taken over the administration of the island; Mr. J. C. Fenn acts as Chief Secretary; Mr. E. H. Heidenstam is appointed Private Secretary to the Acting Governor.

A message is published from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressing, on behalf of H.M. Government their appreciation of the share which the people of Cyprus have borne in the common effort during the great struggle. The High Commissioner, on behalf of the people, has expressed their thanks for this gratifying assurance of appreciation.

Permits to travel overseas from Cyprus are now happily to be obtained. The restrictions on the issue of passports, and on the embarkation of women and children are removed; but those regarding journeys from the United Kingdom to Cyprus remain in force.

The Question of Village Headmen.

Village authorities in Cyprus consist of a *Mukhtar*, or headman, and a commission of four *Azas*, or elders. The old Turkish law which regulated their status has been amended and supplemented in many respects since the British occupation; and in 1906 a law was passed making better provision for their election and duties. The authority and privileges of these headmen have been very largely increased, and they possess the power and protection which belong to constables, in the lands of their villages. Their duties are very numerous, and it is most desirable that the most honest and competent men should be in office. The election is in the hands of the villagers. But, although many villages have made excellent progress in the management of local affairs, rural Cyprus in general has not yet so far progressed that villagers can, as a rule, be relied on to exercise their powers with the discretion that the times demand, or except under Government supervision. A step in the right direction has now been taken by means of regulations, which have recently been published, for the proper conduct of elections, and which should lead to a distinct improvement. The voting for *Mukhtars*, both Christian and Moslem, will now be under a presiding officer, to be appointed by the District Commissioner. When the poll is closed, returns will be made in duplicate, one being posted on the door of the village church or mosque, and the other forwarded to the Commissioner, who may, if he deems necessary, order a fresh election. If any complaints are received as to irregularity, he will hold an inquiry, and his decision will be final.

An Order in Council directs that the Currency Commissioner may issue notes not exceeding in maximum value £600,000.

CENTRAL ISLAMIC SOCIETY.

On December 21, at 21, Cromwell Road, London, the Central Islamic Society commemorated the birth of Mohammed, by a conversazione. Among those who were present were Major-General Dickson, Sir Ameer Ali, P.C., Sir S. P. Sinha (Indian delegate to the Peace Conference), the Honourable Mr. Basu, of the India Council, Syed el-Ehsan el-Bakry, Sheikh Kidwai, Dr. Miller Maguire, and Messrs. N. C. Sen and M. H. Isaphani. The rooms presented a very animated scene. A variety of races and religions were represented, Indians predominating, but there were also Egyptians, Persians, and Arabs present.

Mr. Dudley Wright gave a short address entitled "The Life and the Work of the Holy Prophet." He said that as a religious reformer Mohammed had come into the world at a time peculiarly ripe for instituting and prosecuting successfully such radical and blessed reforms as he had undertaken, and that the disinterestedness of his mission was now beginning to be recognised. Time had been when his maligners and misrepresenters had dominated religious thought and opinion, but within the last two or three decades a more liberal spirit had prevailed. Slowly but surely the world was beginning to judge Mohammed in the right perspective, and the nobility of his character, the purity of his aims, and the sincerity of the mission he undertook at Divine command were being generally acknowledged and appreciated.

Mr. Basu said that no religion in the world had brought about such unity and equality among peoples differing in race and colour as had that first taught by Mohammed.

MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA.

Colonel Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, is instructed to contradict the various statements that the Montenegrin Skuptshina has voted the annexation of Montenegro with Serbia. The Government is about to leave Paris for Montenegro, where the Montenegrin Skuptshina can only be convoked in accordance with the rules of the Constitution.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The New Government.

The change of Government in Roumania has not the slightest political importance, the former Cabinet having been composed of occult Liberal elements backed by the supporters of M. Bratianu. They used this kind of political make-believe because of the internal situation, which was troubled, and because they feared that the other political groups would strongly oppose the formation of a Bratianu Cabinet. Now the Liberals, who were in power during the neutrality of Roumania and who joined in the war on the side of the Allies, again take responsibility at a time of the most extraordinary interest in the history of the Roumanian people. They are not willing to share power with the other parties, because they hold that the union of the whole Roumanian race is mostly due to their courageous pro-Allied action, and that no other political party is therefore entitled to share the honour with them. They consider, also, that such social reforms as the universal suffrage and the land question were already initiated by them as far back as 1913. Events are so important, so overwhelming that, at last, the representatives of all the political groups in the country must unite so as to be able to face such a situation. The King desires a coalition Government, and M. Take Jonescu, who is now in Paris, was asked to join the new Cabinet, but he declined.

The Famine.

Roumania has always been one of the most important granaries of Europe, but now her population is seriously menaced by famine. The Germans took the cereals from the country without any regard to the needs of the people. not sparing even the quantities required for sowing; so that the next harvest is also threatened. Now the Roumanian Government is compelled to ask the Allies for wheat and flour to stave off the threatened danger. The cost of living is terribly high, and the lack of food in the villages causes the rapid spread of diseases. Influenza, in particular, is making ravages. Thus far it is nearly impossible to know exactly what is the real situation in the villages that were under the German occupation, because the means of communication were completely destroyed. The invaders took over all the telephone apparatus, cut the wires of the telegraph, blew up the bridges, and destroyed the railways. All this damage cannot be repaired yet, because it is impossible to obtain materials.

When the Germans were compelled to retire from Roumania they took all the money from the banks, without any regard for private property. All the savings of the people and the money needed to run the various businesses and industries were taken. It is impossible to reckon yet what the sums carried off in this fashion amounted to.

In Transylvania.

The Roumanians of Transylvania had an admirable political organization; therefore, when the Dual Monarchy was dismembered, their administrative and political machinery came into action automatically. Their political programme satisfied both the Saxon and the Magyar minorities living amongst the Roumanians, so that these elected to join up in the new political formation of Transylvania. The Magyar Minister of Nationalities, the well-known sociologist M. Oskar Jaszi, tried to persuade the Saxon and Magyar minorities to remain faithful to the idea of a Magyar State, but without any success. *Nepsava*, the Socialist organ in Hungary, recalled the statements made by M. Jaszi some years ago regarding the decision of minorities in Transylvania. "The pressure on the Magyar State," wrote Oskar Jaszi, "is due to an Asiatic administration, unfair taxation, bad schools, and all sorts of economic knavery. As for the non-Magyar nationalities, the situation reaches the climax. When has a Magyar been heard to complain of the following persecutions:—That he was fired on by a policeman for wearing his national emblem; that he was thrown out of a public building by an official of the Government because he could not speak Magyar; that he was unjustly sentenced because a bribed interpreter had badly translated his complaint; that his children can neither read nor write because the time they spend at school is employed in being crammed with poems and recitations in Hungarian, which they do not understand; that his musical and literary associations have not been tolerated because the language employed is not the State language; that he cannot elect his brethren of the same race as members of Parliament, judges or clerks, their mother tongue not being Magyar; that every summons, notice, or official notification is a State secret to him, because he does not understand the language in which they are printed?" This is really one of the most important human documents, and throws much light on the internal situation in Hungary, explaining why the nationalities hate the National Magyar State.

TO THE WOMEN OF INDIA.

The Queen's Message.

The Queen has sent the following message to the women of India:—

Buckingham Palace, January 1.

A short time ago I sent a message of thankfulness and hope to the women of the Empire. I wish now to add to it a special message to the women of India. If my words are brief and simple, they are from the heart.

I know that by the custom of their country and the time-honoured traditions by which they are reverently bound the women of India are for the most part prevented from undertaking those public and industrial tasks which their sisters in other parts of the Empire, when the man-power of the country went forth in its defence, were able to discharge. In the seclusion and solitude of their homes the women of India have had to bear the bitterness of partings, to suffer bereavement and privation, to live through days and months of doubt and anxiety, in ignorance of the fortunes of the war and without tidings of their absent ones. Reports have reached me from many sources of their fortitude and endurance during the strain of the war, which have filled me with admiration and gratitude. Many have done more than this. I have heard of letters from Indian women to husbands, sons, and brothers with the forces abroad, exhorting them to be brave in battle, stout-hearted in adversity, faithful to their country and the Throne to the point of death. The history of India is full of the heroism and courage of its women in the past. The war has shown that their spirit is unabated.

The women of India are equally noted for their charity and compassion. I know how deeply they have been moved by the desolation which the war has brought into many households, and how ready they have been to provide relief for the sick and wounded, and to lighten the privations of their poorer neighbours.

I rejoice to think that many influences are at work which make for the greater well-being and advancement of the women of India. I watch with the deepest interest and sympathy every step that is taken to bring the means of education and knowledge more within their reach, to provide greater facilities for their obtaining proper medical relief through the agency of their own sex in women's hospitals, or in the privacy of their own homes, to widen their interests and activities, and to secure to them the adequate protection of the law.

I wish with all my heart that every success may crown these efforts.

PRE-DYNASTIC EGYPT.

The Relations of Ancient Egypt with Foreign Countries is the subject of a course of four lectures being delivered before the Egypt Exploration Fund by Dr. A. M. Blackman at Burlington House, London. In the first of these, delivered on December 20, the lecturer claimed that the records he had referred to showed that from the Proto-Dynastic Period onwards, if not earlier, the Egyptians were in constant communication with the inhabitants of Palestine, Syria, the Sinaitic Peninsular, Libya, and the Sudan. Trade was carried on by sea with the Ægean islands and the Syrian coast towns, and, according to Professor Edward Meyer, the latter were early Egyptianised. The same authority stigmatised as a "fond imagination of modern visionaries" the theory that the entire Egyptian civilisation was derived from Babylonia; but the inhabitants of the two countries must have met in the markets of Syria and the tents of Bedawi chiefs; and there were signs of cultural contact. For example, both Egyptians and Babylonians brewed beer by breaking up barley bread and allowing it to ferment in water. With Punt (the Somali coast) the intercourse of Egypt in the earliest times was probably by land, but, later, trade with that region was conducted by ships starting from an Egyptian port in the Red Sea.

The lecturer mentioned two cases of pigmies, such as those now found in Central Africa, being brought to Egypt. The first of these came from Punt, the second was brought from the territory between the second and third Nile cataracts, but had come originally from "the land of the Horizon-dwellers." This curiosity was brought by Harkhup, ruler of Elephantine, a tributary prince of Pharaoh, who was so delighted with the idea of receiving the present that he wrote Harkhup a letter giving him elaborate instructions how the pigmy was to be protected. "Come northward," he wrote, "to the Court immediately. Thou shalt bring this pigmy with thee. . . . When he sleeps at night appoint excellent people who shall sleep beside him in his kennel. Inspect ten times a night. My majesty desires to see this pigmy more than the produce of Sinai and Punt."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE*

This is a most interesting and suggestive little book, which should certainly be read by everyone who is concerned in the problems of Indian administration. We do not mean that it contains a completely satisfactory solution of those problems, but it states them in perfectly clear terms, and indicates principles of action which are at least relevant, and which have been too little in evidence of late years. It is pleasant reading, too, well written, neatly printed, with that almost forgotten boon of a wide margin, and illustrated with a map and diagrams which can be grasped by anyone.

Major Tandy's main thesis is that the central administrative machine has become inadequate to handle the growing volume of work with the increasing efficiency demanded by the times. Multiplication of departments only adds to the congestion, while attempts at decentralisation have hitherto had little result. He finds the explanation of this position in neglect of the principle that no one man can co-ordinate effectively more than, say, half a dozen units. The Government of India attempts to co-ordinate about twenty-two units (Provinces, States, and Agencies taken together), and congestion is the inevitable result. He devotes some space to justifying this principle, which lies at the root of all military organisation, and which, as he points out, was adumbrated by Jethro when he told Moses that "this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it by thyself alone." The principle being established to his satisfaction, he applies it to India by proposing an intermediate grouping of units, Provinces and States being formed into five Presidencies, each under a Governor-General, and the five being ruled by a Viceroy, if possible, belonging to the Reigning House. The great seaports determine the lines of the grouping, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Karachi giving outlets to four, but the unfortunate Central Presidency being left without a doorway to the sea. Inside each Presidency Provinces, and States would remain precisely as at present, but they would be effectively co-ordinated by the Governor-General, and the Viceroy's central administration would perform the same function for the five intermediate units.

Such is the author's remedy for existing congestion. It presents many advantages, and is open to sundry criticisms, which it would take us too long to detail. We may just hint, however, that insufficient weight is occasionally allowed to the element of human perversity; mechanically, the scheme is thoroughly sound, or could be made so with comparatively small changes, but sentiment develops in strange directions, and union may arouse as violent hostility as partition. Notwithstanding such difficulties, the author's concrete scheme deserves serious attention, but in any case the book is worth reading as an example of clear thinking in the administrative sphere. Like everyone who writes from India, Major Tandy has hard things to say about the India Office, and his suggestion of reform by high explosives may be commended, in its metaphorical sense, to the committee recently appointed to consider the future of the institution.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Blake of the R.F.C." By Lieut.-Col. H. Curties. (London: Skeffington and Son, Limited. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Clemenceau." By Camille Ducray. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 2fr. 50.)

"La Paix de Bucarest" (7 Mai, 1918). By D. Iancovici. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4fr. 50.)

From an authoritative source Reuter's Agency learns that the Sultan of Turkey, by an Imperial Order dated December 23, has dissolved the Chamber of Deputies.

As a result of the Serbian Victory ball given at the Princes' Galleries last Friday night under the patronage of the Lord Mayor and Mme. Yovanovitch, a substantial sum was raised for the Serbian War Funds.

*"India's Opportunity." By Major E. A. Tandy, R.E. (Calcutta: Caledonian Printing Co., Ltd. Rs.2).

INDIA'S OPPORTUNITY

Considered Apart from Its Political Aspects.

By Major E. A. TANDY, R.E. (*Survey of India*).

Price 2s. 6d.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

OMAR KHAYYAM.

From time to time readers have pointed out that the title "Tangier to Teheran," although alliterative, fails to convey any clear meaning to many people, and that it does not fully cover the field dealt with. Therefore, with the Editor's approval, these weekly Gems of Philosophy and Truth will henceforth appear under a new title. "The Caravanserai," taken in the sense of Omar Khayyam's quatrain quoted above, seems to meet the views expressed by my kindly critics; and the New Year, with its new volume, is surely the time to make the change.

***

A caravanserai, or *khan*—the rest-house for caravan travellers, man and beast, in the Orient—is a good place in which to gather the gossip of city, camp, and desert. Superior travellers may keep themselves to themselves in their upper chambers, but the zaptiehs, servants, and muleteers who accompany them usually let their tongues wag when they gather round the fire in the courtyard below. Thus, the *khanchi*—who "looks after" the khan and supplies travellers with water, firewood, eggs, and so forth, and the muleteers with fodder—has good opportunities to hear many versions of many stories. The ordinary traveller has not quite such good opportunities, perhaps; but I hope that if I keep my ears open something good may occasionally come my way.

***

I read a few days ago the account of an interview which the representative of a certain journal had with the Emir Feisul. The Prince is represented by his interviewer as expressing surprise at the "inferior position" of the European woman as compared with that of her Arab sister. "Here," he is reported to have said, "the women slave at all sorts of professions; but in our country they work only in the home, while many women, having plenty of money, do no work even there." But was the gentleman from Fleet Street impressed—or depressed—for one instant? Not a bit of it. "Neither do they vote," he sapiently remarked. And he adds: "'No,' gravely acquiesced the Prince. 'The Eastern women are not yet sufficiently advanced to take part in national affairs.'" It would afford me exquisite satisfaction to know what thoughts passed through the dignified Arab's mind as he gave his grave reply to the ineffably wise remark of the pressman.

***

That remark, by the way, reminded me of an Egyptian proverb about a lady of a certain profession, who, repenting for one night, enquired virtuously whether there were no police officers to arrest those of her sisters who had not yet seen the error of their ways. I dare not put the saying quite literally in English, but it is transliterated thus in a little Arabic book that I possess. "*Tàbot el qahh'bah lêilah qàlat wala walee yëmssik elqohh'ab.*" After all, a thousand years have not yet elapsed since our women were granted the vote—as the virtuous pressman might have remembered, to his own advantage.

***

The Emir, I am glad to see, spoke out plainly as to his views regarding the future of Syria and Palestine, and he declared that the Arabs had not risen in revolt against the Turk in order to substitute any European control. "The desire is," he said, "to set up a form of government under the guarantee of a Power that is big enough (and I am not referring merely to material size) to ensure fair play to the three great religions of the world, and to the Arabs of Palestine and to the Zionist Jews." Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, that is a courageous statement, and one that the Powers will do well to bear in mind. If the Arab point of view is ignored, it will inevitably mean trouble for Europe; and enough mistakes have been made already.

***

The pacifists and cranks have received a nasty knock in the Election. But they are a thick-skinned, obstinate lot, and are kicking against the pricks. We may, therefore, expect ere long to find the pro-Germans hard at work with their tongues and pens. So there can be no harm in quoting a few sentences from a letter recently received from an American. It is worth while adding that he is a clergyman, and is now engaged on an errand of mercy; but he does not confuse "mercy" and "justice." He writes: "Port Said is crowded with shipping, and the world moving again—transports carrying troops homeward to New Zealand, Australia, etc., relief ships along the Syrian coast, and signs of life everywhere. . . . Let no German criminal escape, and the U.S.A. will back you to its last man and dollar while we help rebuild this half-ruined earth." Will pro-Germans please note?

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. January	1918. December.		1337. Rabia II.	5679. Shebat
3	21	Friday	2	2
4	22	Saturday.....	3	3
5	23	Sunday	4	4
6	24	Monday	5	5
7	25	Tuesday	6	6
8	26	Wednesday	7	7
9	27	Thursday	8	8

It is stated by the Greek Press that King Alexander will visit Paris, London, and Rome at the end of this month.

The King has given orders for General Sir Charles Monro to be promoted G.C.B. for services in connection with the war.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania dined with the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Misu at the Legation on Christmas night. It is reported that he is to enter as a pupil at Eton.

The marriage arranged between Major G. V. Comyn, M.C., Indian Army, and Miss Lazarus-Barlow will take place on Saturday, January 4, at All Souls Church, Langham Place, at 1.15.

Sir George Lloyd, Governor of Bombay, arrived there on December 16. Lord and Lady Willingdon are coming to England before Lord Willingdon takes up the Governorship of Madras.

In recognition of his eminent services to the Greek Army, the Greek Government have conferred the Croix de Guerre on General Milne, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Macedonia.

A memorial service for the late Lord Edward Cecil was held in All Saints Church, Cairo, on December 23, and was conducted by the Bishop in Jerusalem, assisted by the Rev. C. T. Horan, British chaplain.

General Paraskevopoulos, Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army, has awarded the Croix de Guerre of the Second Class to General Briggs and General Wilson, commanding the 16th and 12th British Army Corps.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant Charles J. Houssemayne du Boulay, R.N., son of Colonel and Mrs. du Boulay, of Marchmont, Cheltenham, and Veronica, younger daughter of William Morgan, of Karenza, Cheltenham.

The engagement is announced between Miss Gertrude Jacob, daughter of Mrs. H. F. D. Jacob, of Culford, Coonoor, South India, and Mr. Frederick Hutchison, son of Mrs. W. T. Hutchison, of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic.

On December 26, at the Parish Church, Brighouse, Lieutenant W. R. Hanson, R.A.S.C., of Ceylon, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, Smith House, Lightcliffe, was married to Dulce, younger daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Farrer, Brighouse. The Rev. Canon Hone officiated.

On December 21, at All Saints Church, Margaret Street, W., Captain P. J. K. Warren, R.G.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Warren, of Southsea, was married to Joan, youngest daughter of the late Colonel C. T. Jessop, C.I.E., Assam Light Horse, and Mrs. Jessop, of Westbury, Wilts.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports (December 31):—The newspapers publish telegrams from Rome stating that the King and Queen of Roumania will embark after Christmas (Old Style) for Western Europe. After visiting Constantinople and Athens they will travel to Rome, Paris, and London.

Kwaja Kamal-ud-Din, the Imam of the Mosque at Woking, is suffering from a nervous breakdown. Recently his condition was made much worse by the sad news that his eldest son, the son's wife and their child, had all died in one day at Lahore, it is supposed from influenza. Kwaja Kamal-ud-Din is now recuperating at Margate, and it is hoped he will be fit to return to his ordinary occupations by the end of the present month.

The marriage took place on Tuesday at St. Columba's, Pont Street, of Mr. Hugh Le Geyt Kensington, the Rifle Brigade (retired), eldest son of the late Sir Alfred Kensington and Lady Kensington, and Miss Agnes Manson Macfarlane Adamson, youngest daughter of Mr. Richard Whitecross Adamson. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. Robert Hay Adamson, and her brother, the Rev. J. Adamson, M.C., Chaplain to the Forces, performed the ceremony. Mr. F. L. Durnford, R.F.A., was best man.

The Times of December 28 contained the announcement of the golden wedding of Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carnac, Bengal Civil Service, second son of Admiral J. Rivett-Carnac, R.N., and Mrs. Marion Rivett-Carnac, eldest daughter of Major-General Sir Henry Durand, member of the Supreme Council of India. The marriage took place at St. John's, Simla, India.

The Rev. H. Gordon Peile, formerly assistant chaplain of Singapore Cathedral, who will take up the appointment of vicar of South Acton on leaving the Army, went through the Singapore Mutiny with the local Volunteers, and was mentioned in despatches. Having served as chaplain to the Singapore garrison, he has, since 1916, been senior chaplain at Wimbledon Camp.

Mrs. H. C. Lukach, the wife of Lieut.-Commander H. C. Lukach, R.N.V.R., Commissioner of Famagusta and author of "The Fringe of the East," "The City of Dancing Dervishes," and other works on the Near East, has received the King's unrestricted permission to wear the "Samaritan Cross" conferred on her by the King of Serbia for services in Macedonia with the Serbian Relief Fund.

Prince Feisul took luncheon on Monday with the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House. Among the other guests were:—Lord Robert Cecil, Lord Winterton, M. de Fleuriau, C.V.O., Prince Livio Borghese, Colonel Sir Henry and Lady McMahon, Sir Eyre Crowe, Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., and Lady Stonhouse, Sir William and Miss Treloar, Sir David Burnett, Sir Vansittart Bowater, Sir Denison Ross, C.I.E. (Director of the School of Oriental Studies), Mr. R. F. Synge, C.M.G., and Mrs. Synge, Major-General Radcliffe, C.I.E., Mr. J. E. Shuckburgh, and the Sheriffs. Brigadier-General Nuri Said and Colonel Lawrence were in atendance on the Prince. On Tuesday Prince Feisul visited Lord Robert Cecil.

Sir Frederick Robert Upcott, of St. James's Court, Buckingham Gate, formerly Chairman of the Indian Railway Board, left £27,009.

M. S. Flandin made his official entry into Tunis on Monday as Resident-General of the French Government, succeeding M. Alapetite, appointed French Ambassador at Madrid.

Surgeon-General Charles Planck, who served for thirty-two years in the Bengal Medical Service, and marched with General Outram's force to the relief of Cawnpore and Lucknow, left £14,858.

Colonel Sir Henry McMahon will preside at a lecture on "Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Palestine in Relation to the War," which will be given by Mr. W. Herbert Garrison at the Central Hall, Westminster, this afternoon at three o'clock. The lecture is intended for children, and is given under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute.

Under the patronage of Queen Alexandra, Princess Christian, Princess Royal, Princess Patricia, the Grand Duchess George of Russia, and Prince George of Serbia will be given, on Sunday, January 19 a matinée at the London Coliseum in aid of the Serbian Red Cross Reconstruction and the Russian Relief Fund. The Duchess of Somerset and Lady Egerton are organising the matinée.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, has sent a Christmas and New Year message to the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations (Sir Edward Ward) and the Hon. Organiser of the Camps Library (Dame Eva Anstruther), in the course of which he says: "We shall ever remember and be grateful for all you have done for us, and we extend our appreciation in no less degree to those who have so generously contributed to the funds."

The following message has been received by Sir Robert Hudson, G.B.E., chairman of the Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John from General Marshall, in command of British Forces in Mesopotamia at Baghdad:—"Army in Mesopotamia send heartiest Christmas greetings and every bright wish for the New Year. We again desire to thank you most warmly for your many kindnesses in the past and the devoted interest you have always taken in us."

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. Herbert Dunk is appointed Acting Registrar-General from November 21.

Dr. B. Puritch, the newly-appointed Secretary to the Serbian Legation at Washington, arrived in London from Paris on Sunday.

A correspondent writes:—Count Curivobene Gonzago, Italian Minister in Persia, died suddenly in Teheran on October 17 last. Sig. G. Catolani, the new Italian Minister to Persia, left Italy for Teheran on December 15.

M. Paul Terka, a Christian Albanian from Durazzo and a prominent supporter of the Entente, has been appointed Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs. His appointment has produced an excellent impression in Allied and Albanian circles.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.

The list of "New Year" Honours is not yet complete. Amongst the names already published are many of interest to our readers. Sir S. P. Sinha becomes a Privy Councillor and the Maharajah of Bikanir a G.C.V.O. General Sir Julian Byng is promoted G.C.B. Vice-Admiral Sir Somerset Gough-Calthorpe and Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck receive the G.C.M.G. Mr. Harry Lamb, C.M.G., is promoted K.C.M.G., and Mr. Alexander Telford Waugh, Commercial Attaché at Athens, and Mr. William Charles Fleming Robertson, Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, and Acting Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to the Government, Malta, both receive the C.M.G. Mr. Cecil Hermann Kisch, Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, India Office, is given the C.B. (Civil Division).

OBITUARY.

Lord Stratheden and Campbell died on December 26 at 17, Bruton Street, aged 89. He was formerly in the Bengal Civil Service, which he entered in 1849, and was employed as Associate to the Lord Chief Justice as Secretary of Commissions in the Court of Chancery (1860-73), and as Master of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

The Rev. Frederick Roberts Elliot, M.V.O., who has died at his residence at Paignton at the age of seventy-eight, was formerly chaplain at Kadikeui, Asia Minor, and from 1889 to 1908 he was chaplain to the British Legation at Athens, when he acted as English tutor to the sons and grandson of the King of the Hellenes. Mr. Elliot was made a member of the Royal Victorian Order in 1905.

The death is announced, at the age of sixty-eight, of Captain Duke Arthur Crofton. He served with the Naval Brigade during the Abyssinian War, for which he had the medal, and was lieutenant of the Teméraire during the bombardment of Alexandria and during the Egyptian War. For his services there he was promoted commander for Alexandria, and given the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Khedive's bronze star. He retired in 1900.

Sir Richard Charles Oldfield, who has died at Deddington Place, Kent, suddenly, of pneumonia, aged 90 years, was the eldest son of Henry Swann Oldfield and Letitia, daughter of Colonel Scott. He was educated at Eton and Haileybury, and entered the Bengal Civil Service in 1848, serving during the Mutiny, and being wounded near Agra. He was a Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Allahabad, from 1873 to 1887. Sir Richard married, in 1854, Maria, daughter of Major Frederick Angelo. There were two children of the marriage.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A decree has been issued notifying the partial raising of the blockade of the coasts of Asia Minor and Syria.

One thousand British troops, the majority of whom are pivotal men, have left Malta on their way home to be demobilised.

General Franchet d'Esperey, according to the *Echo de Paris*, has been summoned to confer with the French Government in view of the new Near Eastern problems.

The Greek Government, says Reuter's correspondent in Athens, has decided to employ 2,000 Bulgarian prisoners on various public works. They will be paid the usual rate of wages.

Mr. H. V. Lanchester, F.R.I.B.A., whose name is well known in connection with town planning, leaves for India this week to join a commission dealing with the improvement and development of Cawnpore.

The German military authorities at Görlitz have refused to allow the Greek soldiers interned there to quit Germany. These are the Greek troops who surrendered to the Bulgarians at Kavala in 1916.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—A message from Jassy states that the Bessarabia National Assembly, which had already voted in favour of the union of Bessarabia with Roumania conditional upon the granting of a large measure of autonomy, has now voted for the country's definite union without any reservation, in the firm conviction, it declares, that in a great Roumania a purely democratic regime is assured for the future.

According to information from the Caucasus, conflicts have occurred between the Armenians and the Georgians, the latter having occupied Armenian territory on the retreat of the Turkish troops.

According to news received in Athens from Constantinople, three hundred localities of Turkey have addressed appeals to the Allied representatives in Constantinople for their union with Greece.

A telegram to Paris from Constantinople states that Enver Pasha and Talaat Pasha are about to try, with false passports and disguised, to get to Spanish Morocco, where Raisuli is said to have promised them assistance and support.

A telegram to the Greek papers from Constantinople states that in consequence of the situation in the Turkish capital the British High Commissioner has ordered a detachment of marines to be landed from the British squadron.

According to news received by the Armenian Bureau, sanguinary disturbances have broken out at Erivan, the capital of the Armenian Republic, as a result of the shortage of food, and the Armenian Minister Kardshikian is reported to have been killed.

A battalion of French troops has been detailed to occupy Stamboul, the Turkish quarter of Constantinople, and a British battalion will be quartered in Pera, the European part of the city, while it is expected that an Italian force will occupy yet another district.

A message from the Cape British Indian Council to the Indian National Congress at Delhi conveys its congratulations on the part India has played in the world-war, and requests the Congress to insist on the granting of full responsible Government to India and full British citizenship to Indians in South Africa.

According to information from Sofia, Dr. Maximoff, the Bulgarian Socialist leader, admitted in a recent lecture at Pyrgos that superior Bulgarian officers committed unspeakably indecent outrages upon the inhabitants of Seres and Kavala, and that the richest Greeks had to resort to begging. He was ordered by his superiors to leave Greeks to die.

Owing to the preoccupations of the Government of India with regard to post-war problems and Indian reforms, the activities of the Imperial Legislative Council during the cold weather session are being confined to important legislation and to the Budget of 1919-20. Lord Chelmsford has assured the Council that full opportunities to deal with other matters will be afforded during the autumn session at Simla.

A new Indian weekly, the *Deccan Ryot*, is published at Poona as the organ of the agricultural classes, and especially of the "depressed castes" in Western India. The editor, Mr. A. B. Latthe, M.A., makes a strong appeal to the Indian Moderates of the school of the late Mr. Gokhale, as well as to English readers interested in the cause of democratic progress in India on reasonable lines, and with adequate safeguards for the well-being of the Indian masses.

The Karachi correspondent of *The Times* in a message dated December 19, says:—"Intending cold weather visitors to India may experience considerable difficulty in obtaining passages back to England next year. The demand for accommodation is far in excess of what steamer companies can at present offer, and the Government have now appointed a Controller of Passages, who will ration available berths among those most deserving.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1919.

NEW BOUNDARIES.

Within a few days the formal business of the Paris Conference will begin. No part of the problem with which the Associated Governments are confronted is more intricate than the settlement of the Near East. According to the President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, "the real object of the war and peace is the reorganisation of Eastern Europe and the solution of the Eastern question." With the freeing of the small nations from the menace of Germany, who was resolved to give effect to her theory that there could be no future for them, as history aimed at the fashioning of large States, War's negative task, as Dr. Masaryk declared, has been fulfilled; but a positive task awaits Europe—to organise East Europe, with the eighteen nations that the geographical term covers. In a settlement in which every item will represent a separate and vital contribution to the avoidance of future wars it is unnecessary to attempt to apportion degrees of importance; but the Near Eastern Problem stands in a category by itself owing to the exceptional knowledge of the geography and ethnology of the countries concerned, as well as to the political insight required for its solution. The statesmen on whom the responsibility for a decision rests will do well not to trust merely to a judicious weighing of the conflicting claims that will be submitted to them at the Conference. For a clear judgment they will probably need to turn away at times from the perfervid and *ex parte* statements of the different delegates to a consideration of the views of those who have had the advantage of studying the self-same problems under less agitated conditions. It is right, therefore, that every aspect of the question should be canvassed as widely as possible in the public Press, and all those who are anxious to see adopted a permanent settlement of the Near Eastern question, as far as one is possible, will welcome the more serious contributions that have recently been made to the literature on the subject.

It is significant of the extent of the problem that no writer attempts within the compass of a single article to cover the whole of the ground. Apart from the actual demarkation of boundaries, nearly every mile of which will present its own particular problems, there are four major questions of policy which have to be decided—the rival claims of Italy and Yugoslavia to Dalmatia, the boundaries of Bulgaria, the status of Constantinople, and the future of Asia Minor. With regard to the first, we can state without fear of contradiction that it is the earnest wish of the British public that the disputants should be able to arrive at a settlement between themselves without carrying the matter to arbitration. The principles that should govern the solution are agreed upon—nationality and self-determination; and a free plebiscite under impartial supervision should supply the verdict. In regard to the more detailed delimitation of frontiers in the Balkans it seems hardly necessary to insist at this stage that the greatest care must be exercised to avoid occasion for irredentism on any considerable scale. We are tempted to go further, and to recommend that compulsory repatriation under adequate safeguards and with due compensation should be introduced in preference to any conspicuous violation of the rule that no Balkan community is to be left under alien jurisdiction. Thus, if for considerations of military or political strategy it were decided that violence must be done to the principle of nationality in the case of Bulgaria, it were far better that the Allies should make themselves responsible for the withdrawal of every Bulgarian from the territory handed over than that an incentive for intrigue and unrest should be provided by the presence of a single Bulgarian family in a neighbouring State. To the average European mind any such precaution may seem excessive; but no one with knowledge of the history of the Balkans will question the wisdom of the suggestion at a time when a superior power is on the spot to carry it into effect without risk of challenge. If this principle be strictly adhered to, the details of delimitation become less significant. We cannot deprecate too strongly the shortsightedness which ignores the fact that the future of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, and consequently of each of the States composing it, depends on the faculty of the different peoples for co-operation, political and economic. No settlement, therefore, can be regarded as satisfactory which is not based on a deliberate effort to bring and to keep the countries together in the future, however bitter their present relations may be as the result of events during the last five or six years. It must be a further axiom of any settlement that no point shall be allowed to be considered as prejudged as the result of action taken during the last few months; in particular that the future of Albania and of Montenegro shall be decided on the merits of each case in its general setting, and not as the fortuitous presence of this or that body of troops may cause it to be staged for the edification of the Allied Conference.

It is the desire for a permanent settlement that is mainly responsible for the proposal that Constantinople should forthwith be handed over to Greece. Its history is Greek, and few people will maintain with any conviction that in no circumstances can the future hold out the prospect of the city becoming Greek again. But the Allies cannot afford to ignore the exigencies of the present time in order to anticipate the years ahead. As far as is known Constantinople has fallen to the Allies with the bulk of its population Turkish. To make it at once a Greek city would have the effect of creating a new centre of that irredentism which it has been one of the purposes of the war to eliminate. Moreover, gratifying as such a solution might be to the *amour propre* of Greece, she could only approach the additional burden of empire with misgivings at heart at a time when the affairs of the old country and the certainty of territorial expansion in Asia Minor are likely to tax her administrative capacity to the utmost. She is not likely to forget, for the moment at least, that the only alternatives for the Premiership of M. Venizelos that presented themselves recently were men of the stamp of Gounaris, Lambros, or the ineffective Zaimis. The services of her best administrators are needed on the mainland, and they will be the first to utter a warning against commitments that must sooner or later saddle the country with the upkeep of a large army and a considerable navy. Greece will have a better chance of achieving her destiny, if Constantinople is held for the time being in trust, until the bitternesses that have been engendered have subsided and the guardians of others need no guardians themselves. The Allies have pledged themselves to free the city from Turkish jurisdiction, and if they have to supply a substitute, there can be no question that the United States is the most suitable Power. It does not necessarily follow, however, as a writer in *The Round Table* has urged, that America should also assume administrative responsibility for nearly all the territory lying between the Sea of Marmora and Afghanistan. The guardianship of Constantinople and the position of adviser in a new and limited Turkey would be a fair contribution for the United States to make towards meeting the Allies' responsibilities. But we do not believe that the Americans would contemplate with any satisfaction an indefinite extension of this rôle or would wish to see Great Britain abdicate the peculiar position she has gained for herself among the peoples of the Near and Middle East.

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ESDRAELON.

(From a Correspondent.)

Making from Haifa to Nablus (which is Neapolis and Shechem, but not Sychar), we left for our journey the main road through Nazareth and followed a track down the plain Esdraelon, passing with the Kishon near Tel-el-Kassis, where the Priests of Baal met their doom, through the narrow strip left between Carmel and a spur of the Galilean Hills. For all the humanity and diligence of a modern British Army, the ground within a few days of the fighting was of necessity with things less comely than "gold and scattered coinage strewn." Here and there were dead unburied, and the ground in places was encumbered with horses, carts, vehicles of every description, and scores of lorries, ruined by our air attack. All this was nothing to the immense amount of transport by Nebi Balan, north-east of Nablus. Six or seven miles of crowded lorries were there destroyed or taken. This time in Esdraelon it was not the state of the ground that determined the enemy's ruin, as when the stars in their courses fought against Sisera. This time the surface was as dusty as when the clouds about his wheels showed miles away Jehu's furious driving from Bethshan up to Jezreel. What a battle here must be in rain, with Kishon in spate and the hills pouring torrents on the flats, one can imagine from the state of a single car, the Commander-in-Chief's, whose driving wheels could get no grip of the mud after a short shower. It was because of the impassable mud, and not to avoid a wet cloak, that Ahab was warned to make fast for home, "for the rain cometh."

The ground was dry enough when I saw it. Wherever there had been a post or a rally it was littered, almost covered, with every kind of contrivance, weapon, tool; telephone machines, chemical arrangements, smiths' and joiners' benches; but above all with papers. There was paper by the half-acre. I wonder does every camp and outpost of ours hide treasures of stout literature under its bookless appearance. "Se sub serenis vultibus, austera virtus occulit," and very likely the travelling boxes of our mess are stuffed with books of reference. At any rate, many of our soldiers read in the great Book of the Land; to the profit—mayn't we say?—not only of our piety but of our historical perspective.

But is it so certainly for the advantage of our judgment? One has reactions against the influence of the Bible on our measure of present facts. If the Bible events and the Bible histories stood alone, we might think that what happens before our eyes in this land only seemed uniquely important because the places we move in have been celebrated in language of unmatched beauty and fervour. Would a Highlander's raid on Stirling seem as momentous as Barak's descent from Tabor in the flank of Sisera's extended line, if only it had been sung by an artist like Deborah? Are we deluding ourselves when we experience a touch of awe in watching General Allenby's operations? When his cavalry reversed that old success of light infantry against chariots and horsemen, is it really sensible in us to remember that the engagement took place where Sisera's long line was cut and dispersed East and West, in Esdraelon, called in the Hebrew tongue "Har Megeddon"?

Is it more than a sentimental trick to recall the Canaanites' defeat, the defeat of Midian by Gideon, of the Philistines by David, of Holofernes, a new Sisera matched with a new Jael? It would be a relief to answer once for all, yes. For no one going on paper over the ground covered by a great literature but must from time to time suspect himself of affectations best unnamed, the horrible trick of going to Scripture for purple patches. Should we think of this country as we think of South Africa, if it were not for the great words? Deborah was a very great and a contemporary poet, and Esdraelon found a greater poet still when David or some other sang that Dirge over Saul and Jonathan which is written in "The Book of the Brave." Deborah's thunder and the music of "How are the Mighty fallen" are enough to dignify—the critic says—the smallest tribal fight. Would Wales be as great as Palestine if only someone there—and it is the likeliest place—had sung "Lord, when Thou wentest out of Seir . . . O, my Soul, march on in strength." Is a little country made great only because great words have been conceived on its hilltops and carried through ages in the great Book of the world? One hears a voice like Celia Brooke's saying in a cool staccato of commonsense that things are just what they are, and that we are slaves of a literary illusion when we give a special dignity to the operations between the coast country and Nablus because of the names of places; that when Indian Lancers put every man of a Turkish Force out of action they were riding for Nazareth, and when our light cars rushed an aerodrome at Afuleh they were possibly on the exact ground of the Philistines' assembly against Gilboa; that the whole force that turned East from the sea swept from Sharon, round the flanks of Carmel, and across the "Valley of Decision." The names have a magic. Do they bewitch us?

The answer suggests itself. First, a small area and the doings of small forces do not inspire great history or become a text of great prophecy unless the issues at stake are really great. Those little battles were real decisions leaving results still discernible.

When Barak made North and South one land, when Gideon pushed out the trans-Jordan people and David checked the Philistines, they made Israel safe; they gave room for a national sovereignty, and for a state life that was matrix for the greatest books in the world and gave Europe an instruction, a law, and a hope not yet explored, still to be lived out. The old engagements, with arms simpler than any that shocked Dalgetty in the Highlands, were great in the real political sense, that is in the sense of principles defined, aims directed, and human co-operation raised to higher moral issues.

Jesreel and Jenin are great as Chalons is great, great for the development of human order, greater for creative ideas. For what changed current of language or thought did Jena determine that is at all comparable to the difference between our world—bad as it is—and a world without the Bible? That is the first reason for believing the land to be legitimately wedded to the tremendous old words; and the second reason is that those old conflicts are only the earliest known of a long list.

It was not for fashion or religion that Egyptian kings campaigned in Esdraelon, and Antiochus, and Pompey, and Mark Anthony. Napoleon no doubt missed nothing of the Bible interest when he came. But he did not come into the valley by Megiddo for the Bible's sake, but because he knew it was the only proper road for victory in the Near East. In retreat he passed between Carmel and the sea. Esdraelon is the broad pass from the sea to the Jordan. If you hold it you get the Phœnician ports and Damascus and Lebanon. It is much more. It is the road from Greece and from Egypt alike to Assyria, a road from Africa to Asia.

This is why there is hardly a hill or a stream in all that little country but has, not one or two, but ten records in written history. For example, that short and most moving chapter the history of the Crusades in success and failure, illustrates almost like Scripture the fact that our broad plain, with narrow entrances and threatening heights, is an arena of judgments. The Crusaders found decisions, judgments there, as Saul and Josiah did. You see a condemnation of the best natural means when led by a fainting conscience in a half-deserted cause; you see a condemnation by battle of the warmest piety and the most excited confidence when combined with the rejection of warnings and the neglect of preparation. On this ground it is the cold fact that the good cause—as, looking back, we can't but call it—has again and again triumphed when it was faithfully served. Here it held on against tremendous odds when the Knights of St. John kept the Red Cross flying at Belvoir (north of Beth Shan) for eighteen months in the face of Saracen conquerors; and on the same ground Crusaders failed, as Bible kings failed before, when good intentions were left to do the work of prudence, or sagacity was trusted to redeem a selfish aim and the methods of deceit. Our modern trial is as critical as any, as full of judgments. It is not, of course, to be measured by the gigantic scale of the operations it forms a part of, but by the importance of the principles at stake. On this scale Barak's doings were as great as Vespasian's or Napoleon's. For us here, always in the glow of a greater interest, the thing has united Palestine, freed Arabia, opened a road to Armenia. But it is important not as a deliverance of Syria and a great stroke for the Near East. It is only rightly considered as a moment in the age-long struggle upwards of freedom and truth.

One need not then be shy to remember the place-names of an old glory, to remember that Lejjun is Roman Legio and old Megiddo, that Carmel on the left is the old place of prayer to God "that answereth by fire, the fire of sacrifice," that the long plain with its broad triangular centre is still Armageddon, stained now by the complicated relics of a modern defeat, the ruined machinery of a modern enemy.

We are really following not a fancy, but a clue of history when we see a unique significance in the mere scenes of the late operations, operations as momentous for the future of the world as any of the old battles. They may perhaps one day be seen as among the most important in a struggle for principles as old as the world and hopes that will outlive it.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Armenia at the Conference.

On Monday *The Times* published an "Outline of Armenia's claims to be brought forward at the Peace Conference," which was "given on the authority of Boghos Nubar Pasha . . . the recognised leader of the Armenian people." The special correspondent who contributes the article points out that "Armenia's interests clash with nobody's save the Turk's, and he has forfeited the right and lost the power to resist her aspirations to a new birth. The adjustment of frontiers with other new States —Georgian, Tartar, and Arab—to the north and east and south is a matter of minor importance. The lines of nationality are fairly clear, and are not likely to involve serious dispute. The existence of a compact, autonomous Armenia is the main thing, and I gather that the delegates will not prove unaccommodating in respect to the interests of their neighbours." The settlement in this part of the Near East has certainly been simplified by the fact that the young Armenian Republic of Ararat has agreed to throw in its lot with the Armenians of Turkey. The Armenians' moral claim to independence is declared to be indisputable. "The only argument against an independent State that could be used by the friends of Turkey is that the Ottoman policy of extermination has been so thorough that there are not enough Armenians left to form the nucleus of a population—an argument for non-intervention that would establish the principle of the murder of small civilised nations to admit the survival of barbarism." As to the government of the new State, we read:—

Armenia will not be strong enough for a long time to stand on her own feet, and experience has shown that a divided international control is too cumbrous, slow, and complicated to admit of smooth and uninterrupted progress. Armenia asks for a mandatory—one of the Entente Powers, England, France, or America, to stand sponsor for her while she is developing strength. This Power would organise a Government, lay down the main lines of administration, and provide troops for the protection of life and property during the period of transition. A large force would not be necessary, as an Armenian gendarmerie could be enrolled almost at once. The 25,000 Armenian troops in the Caucasus could be called in, and the 8,000 with Allenby, as well as drafts from America and elsewhere. Under the provisional Government the principle of self-administration will be developed, perhaps with a nominated council in the first place, to be succeeded by an elected one. The delegation believe that in a few years the new Armenia would be capable of self-government and self-defence. Nubar Pasha reckons on a population of something like two and a half millions so soon as there is confidence that no shadow or vestige of Turkish suzerainty will darken the prospect of the future.

To many readers the question of boundaries will be of extraordinary interest, in view of the many proposals that have been put forward at one time and another. This is dealt with as follows:—

The new Armenia, including Russian Armenia, the six Turkish vilayets, and Cilicia, or Armenia Minor, will, if the proposal of the delegation is accepted, extend from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. On the Black Sea Samsun, with its interior communications with Anatolia, will naturally be Turkish. A stretch of coast east of this port to a point east of Trebizond will be the Armenian littoral. Between Trebizond, the port of Erzerum, and Batum, which will be the outlet of Georgia, the Armenian-Georgian boundary will be fixed. The Armenians lay no claim to Trebizond on historical grounds, but a thin strip of land on their northern border, interposed between them and the sea, would form an economic barrier which no unprejudiced commission could accept. From the Black Sea coast the northern frontier of the proposed Armenian State will run eastwards, including Ardahan, Kars, Alexandropol, to the present boundary of Erivan, beyond which the Tartar element predominates. South of this the eastern limits of Armenia will extend to the Persian frontier down to the Kurdish country. A line of demarcation will be drawn east and west, separating, as far as possible, on a national basis, the territory of the Kurds and Armenians. This line would pass through the Bitlis and Van provinces to Diarbekr, where the Arab frontier remains to be settled, and from Diarbekr south-west to Alexandretta, on the Mediterranean. Westwards the boundary on the Mediterranean coast would include Mersina, where a line drawn north to a point between Samsun and Ordu, on the Black Sea, would form the western frontier of the new State.

The article concludes with a warning and a reminder—the latter, presumably, not from an Armenian source:—

We are sure to hear a great deal about the liberalism of the Turk in the near future, but centuries have proved that he is incapable of reform. He is mere appetite, destroying what he cannot consume. Apart from its iniquity, his policy of extirpation has been a species of economic suicide, for it has killed the seeds of productivity. Fertile lands lie sterile under the dead hand of the Turk, whereas the Armenians are among the most practical, intelligent, industrious, and prolific races of the East. Each one of these qualities has been a count in the Turk's indictment of them; but whether in the character of civilising agents or as the seed of material regeneration they are the only possible inheritors of the soil which is historically their own.

In a few months the New Armenia should be a reality. The lifting of the dreadful shadow in which the country has been shrouded is the greatest service that the war has done for civilisation in the East. Full reparation is impossible, but the liberation of a people whose name has become synonymous with martyrdom, and who have long been threatened with extinction, will have been achieved. The extraordinary endurance of the Armenians under persecution, their faithfulness to their nationality and religion, is a certain pledge of the future solidarity of the race.

Articles to Note.

"Islam and the Future of Constantinople," by Sir Valentine Chirol; and "Old and New at the Foreign Office," by T. H. S. Escott, in the *Fortnightly Review* (January).

"In the Persian Oilfields," by Edmund Candler, in the *Cornhill* (January).

"Indian Constitutional Reforms," by Sir Andrew Fraser, in the *Contemporary Review* (January).

"The Carpathians: A Sportsman's Reminiscences of Country and People," by W. A. Baillie-Grohman, in the *Nineteenth Century* (January).

"Hindu Religious Settings," by the Rev. H. J. Kerridge, in *The East and the West* (January).

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INDIAN HONOURS.

The King has been pleased to approve that the Hon. Sir S. P. Sinha be sworn a member of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The following are other New Year Honours:—

STAR OF INDIA.

K.C.S.I.

Oswald Vivian Bosanquet, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.
Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.

C.S.I.

Hugh McPherson, Esq., I.C.S.
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

C.S.I. (ADDITIONAL).

Henry Fraser Howard, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.
Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department.
Henry Hubert Hayden, Esq., C.I.E., D.Sc.
Director, Geological Survey of India.
Lieut.-Col. Herbert Des Vœux.
Inspector-General of Police, Burma.

KNIGHTS.

Mr. Justice Ernest Edward Fletcher.
A Puisne Judge of the High Court of Calcutta.
Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad, Esq.
Vice-Chancellor, Bombay University.
Joseph Henry Stone, Esq., C.I.E.
Director of Public Instruction, Madras.
William Arthur Beardsell, Esq.
Sheriff of Madras.
Lucas White King, Esq., C.S.I., LL.D.
Prafullya Chunder Roy, Esq., C.I.E., D.Sc.
Indian Educational Service, Bengal.
Robert Herriot Henderson, Esq., C.I.E.
Assam.
George Cochrane Godfrey, Esq.
Coal Controller.

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ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

G.C.I.E.

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Lieut.-Col. His Highness Sawai Maharaja Sir Jai Singh, Bahadur, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Maharaja of Alwar, Rajputana.

K.C.I.E.

Nicholas Dodd Beatson-Bell, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.
Chief Commissioner of Assam.

William Sinclair Marris, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.
Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (on deputation).

C.I.E.

Lewis Sydney Steward O'Malley, Esq., I.C.S.
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Provash Chandra Mitter, Esq.
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James George Jennings, Esq.
Director of Public Instruction, Bihar and Orissa.

Samuel Perry O'Donnell, Esq., I.C.S.
Chief Secretary, Government of U.P.

Edward Mitchener Cook, Esq., I.C.S.
Controller of Currency, Bombay.

Christian Tindall, Esq., I.C.S.
Secretary to Government of Bengal.

Arthur Innes Mayhew, Esq.
Director of Public Instruction, Central Provinces.

William Crooke, Esq., I.C.S.
(Retired).

Vincent Arthur Smith, Esq., I.C.S.
(Retired).

Austin Low, Esq., J.P.
Chairman of Northbrook Society.

Lieut.-Col. Andrew Alexander Irvine.
Indian Army, Punjab Commission, District Judge, Montgomery, Punjab.

Hubert Digby Watson, Esq., I.C.S.
Deputy Commissioner, Jullunder, Punjab.

George Ernle Chatfield, Esq., I.C.S.
Collector and Magistrate, Ahmedabad, Bombay.

Lieut.-Col. John Telfer Calvert, M.B., I.M.S.
Principal, Medical College, Calcutta.

Charles Gilbert Rogers, Esq.
Chief Conservator of Forests, Burma.

Bernard D'Olier Darley, Esq.
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Thomas Reed Davy Bell, Esq.
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Walter Francis Perree, Esq.
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President, Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun, U.P.

Major John Hanna Murray, M.D., I.M.S.
Andaman Islands.

The Rev. Dr. William Skinner.
Principal, Madras Christian College, Madras.

The King has made the following promotions in and appointments to the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire in recognition of meritorious services during the war:—

K.C.I.E. (ADDITIONAL).

Mehtar Shuja-ul-Mulk, C.I.E.
Of Chitral, N.W. Frontier Province.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahim Bakhsh, C.I.E.
President, Council of Regency, Bahawalpur.

James Herbert Seabrooke, Esq., C.I.E.
Joint Secretary, Military Department, India Office.

C.I.E. (ADDITIONAL).

Col. (Temp. Brig.-Gen.) Herbert Augustus Iggulden.
Commanding Bangalore Brigade.

Maj. and Bt. Lieut.-Col. (Temp. Brig.-Gen.) Richard Stukeley St. John, D.S.O.
Indian Army, Embarcation Commandant, Bombay.

Maj. (Temp. Lieut.-Col.) Stanley Somerset Wreford Paddon.
Staff Officer, attached to Military Department, India Office.

Maj. Walter Mason, V.D.
Chairman, Surma Valley Branch of Indian Tea Association, Assam.

William Alfred Rae Wood, Esq.
H.B.M. Consul, Chiengmai, Siam.

John Carlos Kennedy Peterson, Esq., I.C.S.
Controller of Munitions, Bengal.

Lieut.-Col. Andrew Louis Charles McCormick, R.E.
Senior Mint Master, Calcutta.

Lieut.-Col. Francis Edward Swinton, I.M.S.
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Lieut.-Col. John Charles Lamont, M.B., I.M.S.
(Retired) Professor of Anatomy, Medical College, Lahore, Punjab.

Capt. Charles James Cope Kendall, D.S.O.
Royal Indian Marine.

Sardar Bahadur Lieut.-Col. Muhammad Afzal Khan.
Commandant, Bahawalpur Imperial Service Camel Corps.

Ernest Albert Seymour Bell, Esq.
Agent, Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Maj. Francis Richard Soutter Gervers, R.E.
Officiating Assistant Commanding R.E., Nowshera, N.-W. Frontier Province.

Colin John Davidson, Esq.
H.B.M. Vice-Consul, Yokohoma.

Francis John Preston, Esq.
Chief Engineer, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, Bombay.

Albert Harlow Silver, Esq.
Indian Munitions Board.

Frederick William Hanson, Esq.
Late General Traffic Manager, Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway.

Nawab Malik Khuda Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, O.B.E.
Revenue Member, Bahawalpur, Punjab.

Khan Bahadur Maula Bakhsh.
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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I see that the newspaper *Hestia* states that important negotiations have been conducted in Paris by an influential group of French capitalists with a view to the construction of new railway lines in Greece. It is reported that representatives of the firms interested will shortly go to Athens to undertake the preliminary investigations, and that the proposed Drama-Kavalla line will first occupy their attention. This news is particularly interesting, because France was greatly interested in certain Balkan developments before the war, and now she evidently realises the needs of the situation and means to lose no time in taking advantage of possible openings there. In this respect she is setting an example to British traders, who, for one reason or another, are still far too apathetic, and must bestir themselves if this country is to obtain any of the numerous concessions that will be available in the Near East in the next few months.

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Apropos of French commercial relations with the Near East, I noticed an article in a French contemporary recently strongly urging the traders of our Ally to pay special attention to the markets of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. The writer emphasised the open character of these markets, and advocated the formation of a special company with ships of its own as the best means of cultivating them. The markets in question have great possibilities of expansion, and there is, therefore, ample scope for French enterprise, and I am sure that we shall welcome a friendly commercial rivalry there with our Allies, just as they have lent encouragement to the development of our trade relations with Morocco.

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The position with regard to the claim of the Roumanian Consolidated for compensation was discussed at some length by Sir Watson Rutherford at the general meeting this week. He referred to the memorandum signed by Sir J. Norton Griffiths on December 1, 1916, and pointed out that the valuation of their claim was £1,270,724 13s. 7d., which had been certified by Messrs. Harmood-Banner and Son, after making up the books, as the fair value of the property destroyed. "In the proceedings which we have instituted against the British Government," he went on, "the Government admits that Colonel Sir John Norton Griffiths executed this memorandum and had authority to do so, and the Government's defence may fairly be summarised as follows: First, that the amount of actual damage and loss can only be ascertained by inspection on the ground. Secondly, that the Roumanian Government is primarily liable, and that the British Government are only responsible as guarantors in concert with the French and Russian Governments. Thirdly, they also deny that, according to the true construction of the memorandum, they are bound by Messrs. Harmood-Banner and Son's valuation." Sir Watson added that in his view there was no reason to doubt that eventually the full value of the destroyed property ought to be recovered.

Reference was also made by Sir Watson to the prospects for the resumption of operations, and what he said makes it clear that the outlook for the moment is none too promising. "It is not possible," he declared, "to ascertain the exact position in Roumania, but, according to our information, the bridges have been broken down and the railways cut, and there are little or no means of transport; the hotels have been stripped and dismantled; and the Huns have stolen all the transportable food, so that the people are on the verge of starvation, and the child mortality has been appalling. It will clearly take some time before the state of affairs can be sufficiently improved to admit of the entry of civilians. In the meantime, British and other Allied troops are on the Roumanian frontiers, and three of the engineers formerly in this company's service are there as British officers, and will undoubtedly do as much as they are permitted in the direction of safeguarding the company's interests."

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The new steamship service inaugurated between Japan and London by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha is the third line serving the Mediterranean to be established by that progressive company during the past twelve months. The previous lines were started in April between Japan and Marseilles and between Bombay (connecting with a service with Japan) and Naples and Genoa. The steamers in the new line, which will be quite distinct from the other two, will call at Colombo and Port Said, and will then proceed direct to London. It is stated that the management of the company is of the opinion that the recent increase in commerce between Europe and the Far East will be further developed, and that the carrying trade will provide room for all. This shipping enterprise, it may be noted, follows on Japan's successful attempts during the past three years to get a footing in the trade of the Red Sea district, of Egypt, and elsewhere, and it suggests very forcibly that Japanese competition has come to stay and must henceforth be taken into consideration by British exporters.

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The balance-sheet of Messrs. Cox and Co., the Army bankers, for the year ended October 5 shows a further substantial advance in the business done by this institution. During the war Messrs. Cox and Co. have had an unprecedented increase in their activities, and the growth of their deposits, etc., since 1914 has aptly reflected the rising strength of the Army. They now meet the requirements of the Army on the Continent, in conjunction with Barclays, by the undertaking of Cox and Co., France, and have recently established a fresh offshoot, Cox's Shipping Agency, which deals with general shipping business, insurance, and chartering. Turning to the latest figures, it may be noted that the capital of the bank has been increased by £200,000 in the past year, that the deposits have expanded by £2,350,000 to £19,265,000, as against a total of a little over £4,000,000 in 1914, that the reserve is now £425,000 against £80,000, and that cash in hand and at call is £2,330,000 higher at £9,967,500.

***

Judging by inquiries in quarters most likely to know, it seems that there is insufficient information at the moment for it to be possible to obtain anything like an exact estimate of the requirements of Serbia and Roumania in the way of reconstruction. But it may be said that the published accounts do not give the slightest cause for thinking that the work to be done has in any way been overestimated. Indeed, it is only too probable that if there has been any error it has been on the side of moderation In this connection I see that M. Milosh Savoitch, a former Serbian Minister, basing his views on provisional estimates, puts the economic damage suffered by Serbia at £400,000,000. This includes three harvests seized by the enemy, damage done to flocks and herds, damage done to roads, railways, buildings, and property in general, and the confiscation or destruction of manufactured goods to the value of £30,000,000.

***

Further details of the position in Serbia are contained in a recent letter from Dr. Clemow, administrator in that country of the Serbian Relief Fund. "The material damage is on a colossal scale," he writes; "stations, barracks, factories, mills, public buildings burnt to the ground. All machinery that could be removed from factories and mills was removed or destroyed, and it will take years to restore the industries of the country. Every iron bridge on roads or railways has been blown up, and even the very rails destroyed."

***

Contrary to expectation in some quarters, the report of the Gold Production Committee does not advocate any assistance for the Empire's low-grade gold producers. The conclusions arrived at by the members of the committee are as follows:—"That up to the date of our appointment the treatment of low-grade ore in the Transvaal has not to any extent which can be determined been reduced by the war. That from the point of view solely of gold production the abandonment of the treatment of low-grade ore in favour of higher-grade ore will not within any measurable period reduce the total output of the Empire, and that the continuance of the working of low-grade mines which are unable to work at a profit to themselves is not therefore a matter of any great importance to national interests. We are not prepared to recommend any bounty or subsidy for the purpose of stimulating the gold output of the Empire; gold being the standard of value, no more can properly be paid for it than its value in currency."

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Incidentally it may be stated that in the view of experts it will be possible, now that fighting has ended, to bring about a steady decrease in working costs on the Rand, and that will solve the problem, as it has been in connection with the Rand mines that the chief difficulty has arisen.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF ABYSSINIA.

An American Consul's Views.

The formation of the Abyssinian Corporation, Limited, with its substantial capital, has had the effect of attracting a good deal of attention in business circles to what may justly be described as one of the few lands of promise still open to the business community. Naturally, at a time when it is possible to look forward to a stern struggle for trade in a not too far distant future, when the general shortage of commodities caused by the war has been made good, a country whose possibilities are as yet quite unreained possesses quite unusual attractions. And as we showed in a previous article, while so little is known about the resources of Abyssinia, the available information suggests that, given satisfactory conditions, there is a rich future in store for the country. But though the outlook for traders is so inviting, seeing that Abyssinia's commerce is yet in its infancy, the fact must not be overlooked that the expansion of trade and the development of the country generally depend on the mitigation of a number of factors which at present prevent the march of progress. For instance, the purchasing power of Abyssinians remains at a comparatively low level, because of their neglect to take advantage of the natural resources of their country, Then the people dislike foreign aid in any shape or form; and, lastly, there is the difficulty of communications. But too much might be made of these factors, for the growing taste of the Abyssinian for a higher standard of life will automatically solve the first two difficulties, and perhaps, after all, the third may prove the greatest handicap.

On these questions and others connected with the present commercial position of Abyssinia our readers may be interested to learn the views of the American Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, who has written a long and very able report on the subject, and in doing so has probably covered the field more thoroughly than any previous writer. It is only necessary to point out that as Aden has always been the main distributing centre for the trade of the Red Sea district, Mr. Southard was in a peculiarly favourable position to describe the outlook in Abyssinia, and special importance is, therefore, attached to what he says. Dealing with affairs at the present time, he explains that Abyssinia's backward development has been due "mainly to its former almost complete isolation and inaccessibility; to the almost total lack of adequate transportation facilities, banks, and other similar aids to trade; to the apparent disinclination of the Government to encourage foreign trade; and to the consequent lack of business stability and confidence. There is a noticeable improvement in these conditions, but trade development is still in its infancy." He goes on to point out that the purchasing power of the Abyssinian is only limited by the desires of the people, and that they have only to plant larger crops and raise more animals to secure an increase in their supply of dollars, and he expresses the view that this is now happening. "The more influential classes of Abyssinians," he adds, "have never been interested in commerce. . . . This order, in the opinion of resident merchants, is changing. Some of the wealthier Abyssinians have been investing in commercial undertakings, and are showing an inclination to make systematic and business-like arrangements to market the products of the districts that they control."

Scope for Agricultural Industries.

The most important place in the list of exports of agricultural products is taken by coffee, of which, as is well known, Abyssinia produces two kinds, one known as Harrari, which comes from cultivated trees, while the other is Abyssinian coffee, and is the fruit of wild trees. Of the latter Mr. Southard says that it "lacks the richer aroma and flavour of the Harrari, although it is appreciated and liked by many coffee drinkers. The possible supply of Abyssinian coffee is practically unlimited. There are immense forests of it in South-western Abyssinia which have never been touched. The writer has not seen these forests, but has met and talked with many people who have." As regards Harrari coffee, he points out that there are no large plantations, but that, owing to the excellent prices and ready market for this commodity, foreigners are becoming interested in its production, and it is reported that at some places in Harrar Province plantations of some size, operated by modern methods, have been started. "Raising coffee according to modern ideas and methods," he states, "may be said, however, to be yet in its infancy, and the bulk of the considerable amount of coffee exported from the province is the yield of the small plots of the native Galla farmers, cultivated by rudimentary methods."

As a cotton-growing country, Mr. Southard thinks that Abyssinia possesses possibilities. At present the cotton grows wild, but is cultivated to a small extent to provide material for use in the home-weaving industries. The Abyssinian cotton, he says, is somewhat coarse, and usually has a short staple, but where Egyptian seed has been used a fairly long staple is secured. "So far as is known," he continues, "the most serious attempt to raise cotton on a commercial scale in Abyssinia has been made by a Frenchman near Dire Dawa. He has a plantation of several acres, and thinks that the results promised will be sufficient to warrant planting on a much larger scale."

As an agricultural country, Mr. Southard says that in general Abyssinia is regarded as unequalled in Africa. Agricultural methods are, of course, of the most primitive character, and on this point the writer's remarks may be quoted, as they should be of considerable interest to British manufacturers of agricultural machinery. "Most of the work," he says, "is done with three implements—a plough made with a forked stick; a one, two, or three-pronged soil fork made in a similar way; and a mallet with a stone head to break the clods of earth. Sometimes the points of the first two implements are shod with iron. Oxen are used to draw the plough, but all other labour is performed by man-power. The possibility of introducing simple agricultural implements was discussed with merchants in Abyssinia, but most of them felt that the people were yet too conservative. They did admit, however, that the suggestion had possibilities if time and patience were considered. In parts of the country in touch with foreign trade it was observed that hoes and shovels were being used with evident satisfaction, but the import figures do not show any appreciable purchases of goods of this sort. There is undoubtedly a potential market for agricultural implements and tools."

Another opening for trade suggested by the writer is in connection with the production of ghee (clarified butter), which is a fairly important export. The Abyssinians usually use a skin for churning, and he is of the opinion that the introduction of a small and cheap mechanical churn is a matter that might be worth considering, as if the natives were once interested there would be a good sale for it owing to the large numbers of milch animals kept in the country.

Mineral Resources.

Only brief reference is made to the mining industry of Abyssinia. Mr. Southard states that samples from the coal outcroppings in Western Abyssinia are said to have been taken and tested by French engineers, but there is no available record of the results. The coal, he points out, is undoubtedly good, and present in commercial quantities, but immediate development of the deposits is unlikely on account of their inaccessibility and the possible insecurity of concessions that might be secured from the Government. The potash deposits in North-East Abyssinia, which are said to resemble the Stassfurt deposits in Germany, are being worked by an Italian company, which obtained the concession in 1911. Mr. Southard says that the work has not gone very far, and at the time he wrote it was understood that operations were about to recommence after a year's inactivity. Then, as regards gold, workable quartz deposits are said to be known to certain foreigners in the country, who are naturally keeping the location to themselves until they obtain permission from the Government to work them.

Of forest products other than coffee special mention is made of rubber. Wild rubber vines grow in the forests of Southern and Western Abyssinia, and about ten years ago these forests first received attention, when a concession was granted to the Kordofan Trading Company. The monopoly, which later passed to the Bank of Abyssinia, who, according to Mr. Southard, would be willing to transfer it, "carries with it the exclusive right to gather wild rubber in the country and the privilege of planting trees on land that the Government will furnish. The former holders are said to have planted about 100,000 Ceara trees near Gore, which have grown well, and promise excellent returns."

Manufactures.

The manufactures of Abyssinia practically consist of a few sawmills near Adis Abeba, two or three flour mills, soap-making establishments, and small tanneries. Of all possible manufacturing industries, in Mr. Southard's view those for making soap and flour offer the best openings. The Abyssinians are great bread eaters, and there is an excellent market for wheat flour in Jibuti. A flour mill is to be constructed between Adis Abeba and Hawash, designed to produce 120 barrels a day, and it is reported that American machinery will be used if obtainable. Of the small soap-making establishments, one of which is capable of turning out ten tons of laundry soap per month, Mr. Southard says that they have not yet begun to supply the Abyssinian demand for soap, and that there is opportunity for a considerable expansion of this industry. Clearly in this and other directions Abyssinia already offers possibilities to British manufacturers, and it is to be hoped that there will be no lack of enterprise in trying to take advantage of them. America, Italy, and France have all found excellent openings in Abyssinia either for machinery or other commodities, and where they have succeeded there is no reason why we should fail.

In this brief review of Mr. Southard's notable report we have been able to touch on only a few of the matters with which he deals, all of which are of undoubted interest to British traders, and we must perforce leave to a subsequent article his detailed description of the market for manufactured goods in Abyssinia, and his discussion of the factors influencing commerce with the country.

MALTA TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 23.

Arising out of a published report of the general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, the following, which was added locally, should prove of interest to the many people in the Near East who have had occasion to transact business at or through the Malta branch:—"The opportunity is a favourable one for giving expression to the general satisfaction afforded in the working of the Malta branch under the experienced management of Mr. W. L. Hare, who, during his long and faithful service, has greatly extended the business of the bank and carried out extensive improvements in the premises, which are an ornament to the city. With the assistance of a capable staff, the requirements of the Navy and Army and the public generally—which have been extraordinarily heavy during the war—are carried out in a prompt, efficient, and courteous manner, highly praiseworthy to all concerned and correspondingly creditable to the directors and shareholders of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank."

CEYLON PIECE GOODS IMPORTS.

The Board of Trade have received a letter from the Principal Collector of Customs at Colombo in which he suggests that the attention of manufacturers and exporters in the United Kingdom should be drawn to the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act of Ceylon (Ordinance No. 13 of 1898) with regard to the stamping of piece-goods intended for importation into the colony. He states in the letter referred to that many consignments of piece-goods imported into the colony have been found to contravene the provisions of the above-mentioned Act in not having the yardage *stamped* on each piece. Not only is the yardage often entirely omitted, but the requirements of the Act are insufficiently observed in other cases, either by the omission of the word "yards" or by the use of labels gummed or pinned to the piece-goods. The collector states that where goods do not comply with the provisions of the law, the goods may be confiscated or penalties imposed.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Demand for Agricultural Machinery.

The suggestion that British manufacturers of agricultural machinery ought to give preference to the wants of agriculturists in France and Belgium, before those of any other country, has created considerable disappointment among agriculturists and importers of machinery in the Near and Middle East. It would mean that the latter might have to depend on supplies of machinery from America alone, and failing her might even be driven to importing from Germany and Austria. If the opportunity should unfortunately arise we may be quite sure that Germany and Austria will be equal to taking full advantage of it to renew commercial relations with those markets. The important advantages that will be derived by an immediate re-opening of trade relations between this country and the countries in the Near and Middle East, in which German and Austrian trade predominated before the war, have often been pointed out in these columns. Any delay or indifference, on the part of traders in the United Kingdom in supplying urgently-needed agricultural machinery in the East, will simply give other competing countries their opening in those markets, where agricultural produce is the foundation of trade and industry.

"Tanks" Instead of Tractors.

The report that the attention of the French authorities is being occupied with the question of the disposal of the thousands of small tanks that have been constructed by French makers, and have not yet been delivered, is of much interest in the above connection. It is stated that the authorities propose to use these tanks for tillage purposes, for which they would seem to be particularly adapted. Now that the whole of French territory has been liberated, it is certain that far more machines will be required for ploughing than are at present available, and, the deficiency can be remedied by the use of light tanks, which can be easily transformed for carrying out agricultural operations. These vehicles would appear capable of doing good work in the cultivation of beet-fields, and may also be particularly suitable for the large estates in North Africa, where a great deal of agricultural development will be carried out during the next few years. In the meantime, with the utilisation of these small tanks the demand for agricultural tractors in France will be considerably smaller than would otherwise have been the case, and British manufacturers may thus be able to supply buyers in the East with the tractors which are needed there more than any other agricultural machines, owing to the great dearth of draught-animals.

Austrian Trade Plans.

The Austrian agricultural implement makers have been contemplating a considerable extension of their trade in all classes of machinery and implements on the conclusion of peace, but the recent political troubles in their country have disappointed their hopes. In Bohemia, however, they are determined, in spite of the unsettled state of affairs, to produce agricultural machinery on a large scale for export to the East. How they can carry out such plans under the existing great scarcity of iron and coal is not known, but the determination displayed shows the Bohemian's views on the value of the Eastern markets.

An Italian Importers' Association

An Association of Machinery Importers and Merchants, says the *Sole*, has been formed in Milan, of which the most important Italian firms, and those belonging to Allied nationalities, have become members,

Roumanian Milling Industry.

The milling industry of Roumania is very important, and British manufacturers of milling machinery, as well as enterprising investors, should pay special attention to it. Up to recently German manufacturers and capitalists found this industry a source of profit, and they will undoubtedly try to renew their connections with it if ever they can find the opportunity. At present there are in the country 4,902 flour mills, of which 4,749 are in rural districts, 153 being in towns. Of the latter ninety-seven can grind one to six wagons (a wagon of ten tons) in twenty-four hours. They are all fitted with machinery for producing different grades of flour and meal; three of them can produce 200 tons in the twenty-four hours. The combined horse-power developed by 2,577 motor and steam mills is 87,000, and 2,325 mills are worked by water or wind.

New Form of Steam Motor.

A new form of steam motor has recently been invented, which is expected to supersede the internal combustion motor. The new motor is mobile, and the steam is supplied by pumping water intermittently into a spiral where it is vaporised by a blowpipe flame. The water circulates and is used over again, as in a motor cooler, and in much the same quantity. The motor has three cylinders, but has, it is said, the same effectiveness as a six-cylinder internal combustion motor. It does not weigh or occupy more space than an ordinary benzine motor, and is capable of using the most inferior crude oils as fuel. It is simple in working, can be easily controlled, and is said to be specially suitable for use in fishing boats.

British Exports of Machinery, etc.

In view of the fact that all the resources of the country were harnessed for war purposes, and that engineering firms have been busier this past year than in any previous period in the manufacture of munitions, the returns in the export trade in machinery and implements during the ten months from January 1 to October 31 may be considered as very satisfactory. Agricultural engines, rail locomotives, road locomotives and road rollers, pumping engines, winding engines, steam reciprocating engines, steam turbine engines, internal-combustion engines, and other kinds of engines (except for aeroplanes, motor-cars, and motor-cycles) were exported to the value of £3,130,260, against £3,238,777 for the same period in 1917. Agricultural and electrical machinery, boilers, machine tools, mining machinery, textile machinery, sewing machines, typewriters, and other descriptions of machinery were exported to the value of £10,546,423, against £13,495,461. Exports of implements and tools came to £1,325,158; against £1,627,566; motor-cars, complete and parts, to £3,133,000, against £2,467,859; whilst iron and steel were exported to the value of £30,658,037, against £39,229,117.

Navigation on Mountain Rivers.

In previous notes we have pointed out the great possibilities for the utilisation of the rivers in Serbia, Albania, and Macedonia for the production of motive power and for navigation. Obviously, the carrying out of this project will present natural, as well as technical, difficulties, which generally occur in dealing with mountain rivers such as the Balkan rivers. Hitherto it has been thought that where the hydraulic gradient is small, and the volume of water passing is great, navigation is the only use, and where, on the contrary, the fall is rapid, that power development is the only use. These conditions, which occur on certain points in the Balkan rivers, have been a problem to engineers who have to study their utilisation. Similar conditions occur also on certain points on the Bavarian Danube and on the Rhine in South Germany, where the use of these two rivers for navigation purposes and for power development, is receiving special attention. In dealing with this question a well-known German expert recently asserted that both objects—viz., power development and navigation—can be obtained on the same stretch of river. If a river be canalised, then the falls at the weirs should be used to develop power, and so pay for the canalisation. This condition, he points out, is present on the Bavarian Danube above Passau and on the Rhine between Basle and Lake Constance. He suggests that in cases where the bed of the river is unsuitable special canals parallel to the river should be formed. The subject has evidently been well studied by this expert, for he treats it in detail, quoting depths, volumes, and tonnage to illustrate his argument. In comparing these with the conditions that present themselves on the Rivers Vardar, Morava, Ibar, and Drin, it can be seen that the utilisation of these rivers for power development and navigation, as suggested in previous notes in these columns, may be achieved without special difficulties and with good results.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 27:—

Light rains have fallen in parts of Sind, North-West Provinces, and Madras.

Reaping of winter rice in Burma is progressing. The third cotton forecast of all India shows a decrease of 17 per cent. in acreage and yield as compared with that of last year at the same time.

Bombay Cotton Market continues irregular. Fully good broach for April-May delivery is quoted at Rs.651 a candy. Piece Goods Market is depressed.

Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co. have floated a company called the "Chemical Products, Ltd.," for converting sea-water into salt by evaporation. The capital is Rs.7 lakhs.

The Diex Aye Rubber Factory, Ltd., is being floated in Calcutta for the regeneration of old rubber.

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THE MONTAGU-CHELMSFORD REPORT.

London Chamber of Commerce Resolution.

The following resolution was adopted at a recent meeting of the East India Section of the London Chamber of Commerce:—

While not dissenting from the view expressed in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report on Indian Constitutional Reform that substantial State-aid may be necessary for the evolution and progress of Indian commerce and industry, this Chamber is of opinion that the report (a) accords insufficient recognition to other considerations—social, religious, and ethical—which clog or prevent the growth of purely Indian enterprise; (b) that it dismisses with perfunctory and half-hearted acknowledgments the achievements of British merchants, who, by their own exertions and frequently in the absence of encouragement from the Indian Government, have built up India's external trade and internal prosperity; (c) that while dilating upon the views and policy of Indian politicians who publicly confess their hostility to British rule and British commerce, the report fails to remark the excellent relations subsisting between British merchants and the hereditary trading classes in India, who take little or no part in politics; and, finally (d), that by the character of the constitutional machinery which it is proposed to introduce as well as by its express opposition to the just and adequate representation of the British non-official community in India, the report provides no safeguards for the defence of important commercial interests against the theories of doctrinaire economists and the attacks of irresponsible antagonists of British enterprise.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

The market has not yet recovered from holiday influences, and throughout the week buyers and sellers have not been in the mood to tackle business seriously. A feature of interest has been the visit of President Wilson to the Exchange, and last Monday he was most enthusiastically received by the members. It is believed that at no distant date the operatives will demand a reduction in the working hours in the mills. Nothing new can be said with regard to the Egyptian cotton crop. Prices being controlled remain steady. Fluctuations have occurred in American cotton rates, but the outlook for supplies shows no change. Egyptian yarns have been purchased sparingly. Fine counts remain stronger than coarse numbers. Very little business has been offering in piece-goods for Egypt. The slump in values appears to be checked. Some inquiry has been dealt with in cloth for India, but very little has been done. There are hopes of increased activity for certain Near Eastern markets before very long. American yarns have moved off slowly at irregular rates. In export yarns the best market continues to be France.

REMOVAL OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

The Minister of Blockade announces that a notice is being sent to bankers relieving them of the formalities required before financing exports from this country to neutral European countries. All restrictions and returns rendered necessary by the war are being reviewed by the finance section of the Ministry of Blockade with a view to further simplification.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended December 19 were:—Cattle markets, £836; general markets, £509; total, £1,345; total for year, £52,565. The figures for the corresponding week in 1917 ended December 20 were:—Cattle markets, £338; general markets, £465; total, £853; total for year, £53,651.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—December 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25, 4,110,000 francs, against 2,200,000 francs; December 26, 27, and 28, 370,000 francs, against 850,000 francs.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Cyprus Carob Crop.

(From a Correspondent.)

The carob crop has been a good one, and, all things considered, there is little cause for grumbling on the part of producers and merchants; although it is probable that a large part of the yield will be requisitioned for military purposes. In that case, the beans must be delivered at such places, and at such times as may be specified. Payment will be at prices to be agreed upon between the Provost Marshal, Major Bolton, and the owners; or, in default of agreement, at prices to be fixed by a Board appointed by the officer administering the Government. The members of the Board, as at present constituted, are the President of the District Court of Limassol, Major Sisman, and Mr. Spyros Araouses, Mayor of Limassol.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in November:—

Rice (*Nili*).—The weather has been on the whole favourable, though occasional storms of wind and rain did some damage to the crop in Daqahliya Province. Water supply ample. No enemies are reported. Harvesting is well forward. Much difficulty is experienced in finding adequate labour for carrying on the harvest.

Rice (*Nili*).—Harvesting is in progress and the yield is generally satisfactory.

Maize (*Nili*).—The wind and rainstorms at the beginning of the month laid down stalks of maize in most provinces, but the prevailing warm weather helped the crop to recover rapidly from this set-back and hastened the ripening of late maize. Water supply plentiful. Slight attacks of stalk borer and rust are reported in some provinces. Harvesting of early-sown maize is general, while late maize is still being watered. Notwithstanding the shortage of manures, the yield is generally satisfactory.

Millet (*Nili*).—Weather favourable and water supply ample. The crop is free from pests and is progressing well. Harvesting of early crop has begun in Faiyûm.

Sugar Cane.—Weather favourable but rather too hot. Water supply sufficient. The attack from stalk borer is general but no serious damage is reported. The crop is in good condition.

Earth Nuts.—Harvesting is proceeding. The early crop has been somewhat damaged by the rainstorms in the early part of the month, but a satisfactory yield is expected.

Wheat, Barley and Beans.—A general endeavour among farmers to prepare the land for early sowing was noticeable, but the heavy rains which have fallen at intervals during the month have considerably impeded the progress of this preparation, with the consequence that sowing generally is rather late. The bulk of the seed in the perennially-irrigated lands is now however in the ground, and in Upper Egypt, where the discharging of basins has just taken place, sowing on a small scale has directly followed. Germination appears to be very satisfactory and the plants look healthy, but the wheat continues to be much too thickly sown.

Onions.—The weather has been congenial for the growth of the crop, but water supply insufficient owing to this year's low flood. Large areas in Sahels and Geziras, where this crop is usually grown, have had to be artificially watered. Transplanting is being carried on and planting is timed to begin soon. The general impression in all onion-growing districts is that the area under the crop this year will be a good deal smaller than last year.

Bersim.—Weather on the whole favourable, but the occasional rains which occurred during the month did some damage to the crop in the northern parts of the Delta. Water supply adequate. Sowing under the standing crops is almost completed. Cutworm is reported in some provinces but no damage is recorded. Cotton-worm is also prevalent, and has necessitated some considerable resowing in certain districts of Sharqiya and Qalyûbiya. The crop is in good condition. The first cutting of the early sown *bersim* has been taken in all provinces and the second is in progress in Beheira Province. An average crop is expected.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Piccadilly Rubber and Tea.

The report of the Piccadilly (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Estate for the year ended June 30 shows a net profit of £967, which, added to the amount brought forward, £1,859, makes £2,726, which the directors propose to allocate as follows:—Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., £1,294; balance to be carried forward, £1,432.

Eastern Telegraph.

Dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the preference stock for the quarter to December 31, and the third quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of income-tax, in respect of profits for the year to December 31, payable on January 15.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Brahmapootra Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. (5s. per share), less tax, paid 18th inst. Last year, dividend same.

Isa Bheel Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. (2s. per share), less tax, on Ordinary shares, payable 31st ult. Last year there were no interim dividends.

Badulipar Tea.—Interim of 5s. per cent. (1s. per share), less tax, on ordinary shares, payable 31st ult. Last year, dividend same.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock. On January 6 a final dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares (namely, 3s. per share), less income-tax at the rate of 5s. 3d. in the £, in respect of the year ended June 30, 1918, will be paid by Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co. and the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria. Holders of ordinary share warrants to bearer should present coupon No. 13. Ordinary transfer books will be closed until January 6.

Assam Dooars Tea.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, same as a year ago.

During the three months ended September 30 the imports of the United States from Algeria amounted to £40,381, more than half of which was made up of crude argols and more than one-fourth of cork waste, the remainder being briar wood and sausage casings.

Bulgaria's production of dairy products, such as butter, white and yellow cheese, etc., amounted in 1917 to 14,250,800 lb. There was a marked decrease last year, the total being estimated at little more than half the previous figures.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Tuesday.

The holidays have again interfered very much with business this week. The undertone has remained good, but transactions have been on a rather restricted scale.

In Government stocks a fair amount has been done in Unifieds round 88⅜, and there have been persistent buyers of 3½ prefs. at the current level. The sellers of the latter security are exceedingly scarce. City of Alexandria bonds are unchanged at their ex. div. price of 83.

In Bank shares Nationals have come again into demand, and have improved ⅜ to 21¼; whilst Agriculturals, after dipping to 6 9-16, close unchanged at 6 11-16. There has been a constant demand for the pref. shares at 7⅝, but there have been no sellers. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have remained a firm spot at 17.

In Railways there is no change to report.

Amongst Land descriptions Allotments have improved ⅛ to 4½, but there have been no sellers. A fair amount of business has been going on in New Egyptians, with the result that the price has stiffened 3d. to 22s. Sudan Plantations are unchanged at 3⅝ x.d.

In Miscellaneous shares there has been some business in Alexandria Waters, which are closing ⅛ up at 12. Salt and Sodas are about unaltered at their ex. div. price of 5⅜. Khedivial Mails have further appreciated to 91s. 6d.

In Greek securities there has been nothing doing, and there are no changes in prices to report.

Oil Shares.

There is little of note to record in the oil market. British Burmahs at 14s. and Anglo-Persian Prefs. at 20s. 6d. are unchanged, but Anglo-Egyptians (B) are 1-32 weaker at 2 21-32. Roumanian Consols have been steady at 15s. 6d. In Russians, Ural Caspians are slightly lower at 1 9-16, but North Caucasians are 6d. up at 24s. 6d. Bakus are 5s., and Russian Generals and Russian Petroleums are unchanged at 1⅛ and 2s. respectively.

TURKEY'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

A Reuter message from Vienna states that Markgraf von Pallavicini, former Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Constantinople, in the course of an interview, said: "The Turkish finances are in a state of utmost confusion. I think the Western Powers will have to intervene, as the restoration of Turkish credit is highly necessary to their interests, the greater part of Turkey's pre-war loans having been raised in England and France."

According to the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, the Allgemeine Depositenbank, in Vienna, has been granted permission to establish an Austrian Export and Industrial Bank with a share capital of 12 million kronen.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent says that, speaking in Berlin, the Prussian Minister of Finance, Herr Simon, stated that the circulation of German bank-notes increased during the war from 1,500,000,000 marks to 30,000,000,000 marks.

With a view to uniformity and the reasonable increase of revenues the Greek Government has submitted to the Chamber a system aiming at the abolition of existing inequities and introducing an income-tax.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Dec. 25	Dec. 31
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	83xd
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	88⅝	88⅞
Do. Pref. 5 % 1890	88	77	77
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56½	56½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75xd	75xd
Do. 5 % Funding, Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81½	81½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 1½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6½	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17	17
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	6½	6
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅞	8⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	9⅜	9⅜
Chartered Bank of India	65	89	89
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14½	14½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	8⅝	8⅝xd
Ionian Bank, Limited	5¾	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7xd	7xd
London County and Westminster	—	19¼	19¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅝	21½
National Bank of India	43	69	69
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8½	8½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	24/6	24,6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments	2⅜	4/-	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	1⅝	13⅝
Do. Pref.	4½	4½xd	4½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest	9/-	15/9	15/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/9	15/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/9	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	—	3⅜	3⅜xd
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord	1½	70/-	70/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/1½	3/1½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅞	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Be rer	⅛	76/3	3⅜xd
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	90/-	91½
Do. do. Prefs	⅜	4½	4½

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

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London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C 4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Anwaz, Baghdad, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman. Kermanshah, Meshed Mohammerah, Nasratabad. Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz an Yezd. Agency at Busreh

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

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Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principa towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

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Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,58,51,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000 | Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | Reserve - - - - - £237,500

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER - LESLIE COUPER.

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Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL .. .. £2,000,000 | Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) £1,000,000
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. £2,000,000 | Reserve Fund £1,350,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 401.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The meeting of the Allies' Preliminary Conference in Paris to discuss the terms of peace to be imposed on the enemy countries and to arrive at a general settlement of all questions arising out of the war, promises to revive some of the tense anxiety that the world has felt during the last four years. It would be idle to deny that the attitude recently adopted by some at least of the countries participating in the Conference has been signally at variance with the spirit that has actuated the close and harmonious co-operation of the Allies throughout the latter stages of the war. Much of what has been taking place, however, may be regarded as the inevitable reaction after the enforced restraint of the war period. There is a natural desire on the part of each nation, in the face of what is expected to be a permanent settlement, to establish as large a claim as possible to whatever may come up for division, not so much, perhaps, in the expectation of securing all that is claimed, but under the conviction that the final adjudication must be largely a matter of bargaining.

This belief will be held so tenaciously by the Southern nations of Europe that it would be a waste of time to combat it. We may hope, however, that in the more judicial atmosphere of the Conference the extravagant pleadings which have been uttered from the housetops during the last few weeks will be silenced. Certainly, any attempt to repeat them within the Conference chamber should be sternly discountenanced. If the procedure be adopted of having the more controversial subjects discussed first in small committees, the occasion for suppressing impassioned appeals will hardly arise. No good, however, can come of any attempt to ignore the fact that the Allies are by no means at one in regard to the details of the final settlement. It is better that the rival claims should be known and understood, so that every nation will have in some measure the opportunity of examining for itself the reasons that prompted the decisions of the Conference. The Treaty of Portsmouth was followed by serious riots in Tokio, owing to the Japanese public, necessarily, perhaps, in all the circumstances, being kept in ignorance regarding the true situation. It saw the Japanese Army victorious all along the line, but knew nothing of the extent of Japan's exhaustion and of Russia's capacity for a fresh effort, if peace were not immediately concluded.

There can hardly fail to be some bitter disappointments when the Allied Conference makes known its awards. In order that the various peoples may have something to set against the extravagant hopes of their own extremists, the reverse side of the shield should be known, and the different Governments will be well advised to give betimes the fullest publicity to the rival claims. The best that could happen would be that each country should produce its own Bissolati. The Italian Minister has given as his reasons for resigning from the Cabinet his failure "to move Baron Sonnino away from the three clauses of the Secret Treaty of London." There is always a tendency in such cases to suspect other reasons than those publicly given for the step, but in this instance—from whatever cause his action sprang—Signor Bissolati has done a service to his countrymen in calling attention to certain Italian claims which it is inconceivable that the Conference should confirm in their entirety. The claims that he fastens upon are: (1) the annexation of a large part of Dalmatia; (2) the permanent retention of the islands of the Dodecanese, with their almost exclusively Greek population; and (3) the inclusion within Italian territory of the German population of the Northern Tyrol as far as the Brenner. *Per contra*, Signor Bissolati is opposed to the allocation of Fiume to the Yugoslavs. The only point, however, that we are concerned to make here is that, in the event of the award of the Conference being largely against Italy on the three points, the Italians cannot allege partiality or prejudice, when the verdict has secured in advance the approval of a thoughtful and patriotic section of the population.

The movement in favour of as much publicity as possible for the proceedings of the Conference should win the support of the Governments which anticipate a comparatively wide margin between their claims and the eventual award. The Conference will fail in part of its purpose, if its decisions are not so worded as to command general acceptance, and, where necessary, a summary of the arguments on which a decision is based should be added. For this reason all attempts to influence the Conference by the elaborate staging of claims cannot be too strongly deprecated. As is well known, this staging has been practised in a variety of ways. In some parts of the Near East it has taken the form of presenting, or trying to present, the Conference with the *fait accompli* in regard to the occupation of territory. As a milder form of the same tendency may be cited the French-Syrian Congress at Marseilles, which seems to have been convened for the purpose of convincing the world of the closeness of

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the bonds attaching Syria to France. The world at large, it so happens, for the moment does not count in this matter, and the Paris Conference, we venture to think, will be more impressed by impartial accounts of the opinion of the people of Syria on this subject than by the views of a number of enthusiasts at Marseilles. It is derogatory to the intelligence of the Peace Conference to suppose that it will require nothing more profound than the generalisations which serve the purpose of mass propaganda.

If France fears that her claims upon Syria are to be challenged, she has the satisfaction of knowing that she will not be alone in having to justify her stewardships. There is a disposition in many parts of the world to regard the Paris Conference as Tom Tiddler's ground, and innumerable Adullamites are hastily leaving their caves for the French capital in the hope of being able to obtain grants of self-determination or even independence, which can subsequently be converted into the gold and silver emoluments of office in their own countries. It is inevitable that the majority of these self-appointed delegates should hail from British territory. Whether the Conference will open its doors to every caller remains to be seen; if it does, it will have to listen to Sinn Feiners from Ireland, to extremists from India, Herzogites from South Africa, Greeks from Cyprus, and Nationalists from Egypt. For our own part, if the Conference had the time to spare—an unlikely eventuality—we should welcome the formal submission of all the claims involved, as we believe that Great Britain has nothing to fear from a full and candid *exposé* before an enlightened tribunal of the grounds on which she feels constrained to reject the demands put forward. Home truths would be uttered on both sides, and it would be an advantage if the fullest publicity were given to them. But if the basis of the Conference's decision is to be the present and ultimate good of the bulk of the people involved, together with the safeguarding of the world's peace, there cannot be any question that the claimants would leave Paris sadder and wiser men.

No excuse should be needed for dwelling at length on this point, as it is linked up with the future peace of the world. It serves no good purpose, therefore, that discussion should be burked. Too often the claimants have been allowed to have "all the say" themselves, and have not been required to face practical considerations. As an instance we may refer to the Greek movement in Cyprus in favour of union with Greece, in connection with which a fresh mission has arrived in London. The arguments advanced are familiar to all students of Near Eastern affairs; but the difficulty of the Turkish minority on the island has never been satisfactorily met by the Greek advocates of union, and it is evident that at this particular juncture there ought to be no suggestion of leaving a body of Turkish subjects of Great Britain under the jurisdiction of local Greeks with whom they have often been in conflict in the past. On the other hand, the Greek movement does reinforce the contention of practically all those who are acquainted with Cyprus affairs that Great Britain has neglected her responsibilities in the past in regard to the economic development of Cyprus. Now that the island has been formally annexed, the subject will, doubtless, receive more sympathetic attention. A vacancy has occurred in the High Commissionership owing to the death of Sir John Clauson, and the opportunity offers of inaugurating a new era for the island with the appointment of his successor.

A stirring reception awaits the King and Queen of Roumania on their arrival in England. The British public has been moved by the tragedy of Roumania, and has a lively sense of the loyalty of King Ferdinand to his people, of the devotion of Queen Marie and of the brave and dignified bearing that both have maintained during the country's period of disaster. Moreover, Roumania has not felt obliged to indulge in imperialistic tendencies since the signing of the armistice, with a view to pegging out claims which are to be urged at the Peace Conference. The suggestions for a Greater Roumania have been advanced from the "unredeemed" territories, and there has been a statesmanlike silence on the part of the Roumanians in regard to matters that will have to be decided in Paris. If any protest was made against the presence of Serbian troops in parts of the Banat which are practically certain to become Roumanian, it was lodged with the Allied Governments without being published to the world. More recently, however, a Transylvanian official has handed a Note to the Allied Powers calling attention to the vexations to which Roumanians in the Banat are being subjected.

Another visitor who may shortly be expected in England is the Prince Regent of Yugoslavia. He will be welcome, both for his own sake—for he has played a gallant part in the war—and for the opportunity that his visit will afford for clearing up a number of misunderstandings in regard to the new State of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. In the first place, there is his attitude to the Montenegrin question. He has accepted the post of Prince Regent of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes; but it is not to be supposed for a moment that he has been party to the intrigue that brought about the meeting of a bogus Skupshtina and the alleged deposition of his grandfather, King Nicholas of Montenegro. The three branches of the Yugoslav people have probably much work ahead of them before they evolve a State machinery which runs perfectly true in every detail, and they will have to rely to no small extent on the guiding hand of their Sovereign, and the unifying influence of the Throne. It would be of the worst possible augury if Prince Alexander at the outset of his rule had appeared to condone a piece of sharp practice of which his grandfather was the victim.

These visits of the Sovereigns or heads of the Allied countries will not be complete until the King of Italy and Queen Margherita have been seen in London. No pending visit will be more popular. The British public can be relied upon to take note of the essential, and it will welcome in the person of King Victor Emmanuel the crowned Head of the Italian nation, which after many vicissitudes in the field triumphed splendidly over its hereditary foe. No special attention has been paid by the bulk of the British nation to the details of the controversy between Italians and Yugoslavs; but the ground for the rivalry is recognised, and confidence is felt in the good sense of both parties to compose their differences before they entail any real trouble. It would, however, add additional zest to the welcome accorded in this country to the King and Queen of Italy, if it were known beforehand that the statesmanship of Italy in her rôle as a Great Power had led to a satisfactory adjustment of her difficulty with the new Balkan State.

It is a matter for regret to find that the Serbian Government has formally associated itself with the recent incidents in Montenegro. Hitherto a Serbian Minister has been attached to the Montenegrin Court (at Neuilly); but it is now reported that this official has been withdrawn in virtue of "the union of Montenegro and Serbia," as determined by the meeting at Podgoritza. Whether this gratuitous affront to an Allied Sovereign has at last caused the British and French Governments to insist upon fairplay between the two countries remains to be seen; but according to the French Press the Serbian troops in Montenegro are now to be replaced by British, French, and Italian contingents. The unedifying quarrel between two kindred States can easily be terminated by a genuine plebiscite of the people; but in order that a free vote may be obtained it will be necessary to remove from Montenegro not only the Serbian troops but also the personal enemies of the dynasty whom the French Government has allowed to return to the country, while placing obstacles in the way of King Nicholas and his Government.

We have no doubt that our readers in India will join us in welcoming the announcement that the weekly mail service is to be restored immediately, and that the time

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of transit is to be reduced to twenty-one days. It is true that five years ago that period would have been regarded as intolerably long, but we have learned in the interval to moderate our demands, and seeing that we are only now receiving letters which were posted in India in the first week of November, the immediate improvement will be so great that we may be content to wait a little longer for the old fortnightly service, pending those developments of alternative methods of transport which are still perhaps a little in the air.

A less attractive incident of the gradual return to normal conditions is the warning given by a correspondent of *The Times* that by-and-by rifles and ammunition are likely to be cheap, and that the tribes on the Indian frontiers will be only too ready to re-enter a market from which they have recently been almost entirely excluded. Even the most sanguine advocates of a League of Nations cannot expect that the Borderlands will adhere to their principles from the outset, and the Indian Government will doubtless be on the alert to prevent any renewal of the trade. What is wanted, however, is action nearer the source, and we trust that the Peace Conference may be able to take effective measures to prevent the unloading of surplus war material in the danger areas of both Africa and Asia.

The meeting of the National Congress cannot, of course, be classed among the renewals of peace activities, for Indian politicians have carried on throughout the war, but the first reports of the proceedings indicate that some at least of the Extremists would not be unwilling to conclude an armistice. The choice of the President was of itself significant from this point of view, for Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya is *par excellence* the peace-maker of India, and in the glamour of his eloquence fundamental contradictions take on the appearance of trifling differences in matters of detail. We must await the full text of the address in order to see if it indicates a real change of attitude; we hope it does, and certainly some of the passages which have been cabled are in favour of this view, but the Extremists as a body are less flexible than their President, and the reports are consistent with the theory that manœuvring for position is still in progress.

One recent development of Indian political activity appears to us to be decidedly disquieting. We refer to the tendency to urge the British Government towards a policy of interference in the internal affairs of Indian States; it is being suggested that the States are hanging back in the matter of constitutional reform, and that the Paramount Power should make "recommendations" to them on the subject, and should encourage action by the offer of special "privileges." Such proposals can do nothing but harm. Indian Princes are quite rightly jealous of the position secured to them by treaty, and even the suggestion of interference in their affairs may prejudice the continuation of those cordial relations which have recently been brought into existence.

We are not urging that the subjects of the States should abstain from politics. They are, of course, perfectly justified in agitating for reform so long as they do not contravene the laws to which they are subject, and it is matter of common knowledge that in constitutional matters the great majority of the Princes are prepared to move with the times. What we object to is the attempt to drag the British Government into the arena; the modern principle of self-determination, to which the politicians so frequently appeal, is of itself decisive against any interference of the kind, and politicians who claim the benefit of that principle for themselves should be the first to recognise its application to their neighbours. The British Government has quite enough to do in remodelling its own constitution, and the States and their subjects can be safely left to settle their own internal affairs.

LETTERS FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 9.

Egypt and the War.

Among all the comments on the respective parts played by the various arms of the Services in the war considerable stress is laid, and quite rightly, too, on the remarkable manner in which the Navy has kept the seas open and the Mercantile Marine has collaborated in maintaining communications between the various outposts of the Empire. We in Egypt, technically speaking in the war zone, have seen comparatively little of the actual fighting, and we have certainly suffered far, far less from its effects than any other country in the war area. Nevertheless, looking back on the long period which has elapsed since the war was first declared, we are able to appreciate at something approaching its proper value the naval work done. There has in reality been little shortage of imported goods—be it remembered, Egypt by no means herself suffices for the needs of her population, even in cereals—and we have never had to complain of serious dearth of supply owing to the cutting off of imports except in the case, perhaps, of coal, which would, in fact, have been imported in larger quantities had the controlling authority not considered that Egypt could well reduce her requirements without injury to herself, and even meet part of those requirements from her own wood and vegetable refuse resources. Perhaps, however, the most striking proof of the efficiency of the control of the seas maintained by the Navy and of the plucky persistence of the Mercantile Marine is the manner in which our postal communications with the Home country have been kept up. We have repeatedly complained and grumbled at the long intervals which sometimes elapsed between the arrival of mails, and you at your end may also have had occasion to feel impatience at the delay. But when we examine the question closely and realise that, as far as I can remember, with but one exception the mails have reached their destination at either end in safety—in the case of this correspondence only one of your correspondent's weekly letters has failed to reach you during the four years and three months which have elapsed—then our grumblings fade into thin air. Considering how specially favoured we have been in every respect, we ought instead to join whole-heartedly with our fellow-countrymen throughout the Empire in paying our tribute of gratitude and admiration to the Navy and Mercantile Marine for the wonderful achievement executed in the face of continued danger and privations during the whole of the war period.

An Extraordinary Land Case.

A most extraordinary case is at present before the criminal courts, involving an amount of no less than fifteen million pounds. The facts are as follows:—Some time ago a certain doctor, a Tunisian, put in a claim to the Government for some land situated in Alexandria, which, he asserted, he had inherited, as the sole surviving heir of a certain princess who had died some fifty years ago in the Hejaz. This land, which is situated close to the Ramleh railway station at Alexandria, and includes some of the quay, had never been claimed by the doctor, for the reason that he only recently became aware that he was the heir. He claimed either the restitution of those lands, which are now Government property, or payment of their value, which he estimated at fifteen million pounds; and he proceeded to bring an action against the Alexandria municipality. The deeds he put in in support of his claim were duly examined by the Government experts. They were very numerous, and were drawn up in French, Arabic, and Tunisian; but the experts affirm that they are either forgeries or are documents which have been altered to support the claim. In either case the work has been done with great skill and ability. The Government at once opened a criminal inquiry, and found that the falsified documents had been given to the claimant by one of the officials in charge of land transactions; and he and the doctor and another man have been brought before the criminal courts. The former, being a French subject, has been handed over to his Consul to be dealt

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with, but the other two are about to appear before the Alexandria Assize Court, to which they have been committed. There appears no doubt whatever that this is a case of most audacious fraud; and the marvel is that there should be found men daring and ready enough to bring an action for such an important sum based on falsified documents. How they could ever have expected that the Government would allow itself to be condemned to pay the enormous amount involved without discovering the fraud it is difficult to conceive. It will be interesting to watch the development of the two cases, the one before the Egyptian and the other before the French Consular Courts, and to compare the results arrived at.

Education.

With regard to the recent report on the secondary certificate examination and the suggestions made therein for preventing a repetition of the state of affairs recorded this year, I understand that one of the difficulties in the way of any more extensive control of education in Egypt is the Capitulations. The abolition of these obstacles to reform, which is now under consideration, will enable the authorities to impose conditions on all schools in the country irrespective of nationality; and the introduction of any scheme having this object must wait for the result of the deliberations now being made by the competent authorities.

As regards the much vexed question of the linguistic medium of instruction, there would appear no doubt whatever that for scientific subjects Arabic is quite unsuitable, and that in the circumstances the instruction must be given in English. Apart from the fact that Arabic is poor in scientific terms—and no efforts can alter it in this respect—there is the very important consideration that men of science require to keep themselves abreast of the times even after they have finished their scientific education, and that all the works on research are written in a European language, more particularly English. Consequently, if an Egyptian wishes to compete with Europeans, and to extend his knowledge as much as possible, he must not only have a very good knowledge of the English language, but also be able to understand its technical terms. There would appear, therefore, to be every argument in favour of a speedy reversion to the old system of teaching science in the English language, and of giving greater opportunities in the primary and secondary schools to the learning of that language, so as to enable the students more easily to follow the courses in the higher schools.

Whilst on the subject it might be suggested to the authorities that some competitive examination might usefully be set up for admission to Government service. At present Egyptians can only enter if they hold the secondary certificate, and they cannot receive more than £E6 per month to start with. It matters little if the candidate for a Government post possesses other qualifications that are not technical but which fit him better for the post, such as a knowledge of book-keeping or of typing; under no circumstances can he obtain any higher salary than those of his comrades who have not bestirred themselves to acquire any further knowledge and equipment than that afforded by the secondary schools. I am not referring to the graduates from the higher schools, who are all treated under special conditions, but to the ordinary run of Egyptian who seeks clerical employment under Government. There is, indeed, no reason why every year a list of vacancies other than most junior clerkships should not be drawn up and a special examination held for competition between any who care to enter, and the successful men would then be entitled to the higher salaries carried by the special posts vacant. This would act as an incentive to men to work on their own account in order to obtain a better start, and would at the same time relieve Government departments which at present are hard put to it to find properly qualified staff for many of their posts.

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December 15.

A Ministerial Crisis.

For the past ten days we have been going through a ministerial crisis, caused by the Premier, Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha, and one of his colleagues, Sir Adly Yeghen Pasha, Minister for Education, tendering their resignations. Divers reasons are assigned for this unexpected action on the part of the two leading members of the Cabinet, but at the present juncture it would serve no useful purpose to recapitulate the various "authoritative" versions that are in circulation. Neither of the Ministers in question has visited his Ministry since Wednesday week, but all the other Ministers have continued to attend their offices, as the Cabinet is technically still in power so long as the resignation of the President has not been definitely accepted.

As a result of this crisis there has been much activity in Palace and Ministerial circles. The Ministers have been in constant conference with one another and with the Acting Financial Adviser, who has been in close contact with the Residency. They have paid several visits to Yeghen Pasha; and the latter, as well as Rushdi Pasha, has been received in frequent audience by the Sultan. In addition the Premier has called at the Residency, and has been visited at his private residence by several high British officials. At the moment of writing there is no indication of any solution; and for the time being, although technically speaking we have a Cabinet of Ministers, all State business that requires the sanction of the Council is held up.

The Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan was entertained at dinner at the American Agency the other evening by the American Diplomatic Agent and Mrs. Gary. The guests included members of the Palace Household, the American Agency Staff, and leading American residents. At the reception after the dinner the visitors included Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, the members of the Diplomatic Corps, and Sir Alexander Baird.

Retiring Egyptian Officials.

It has been decided to grant three months' leave to H.E. Ahmed Zaki Pasha, who at the conclusion of that period will retire on pension from the post of Secretary to the Council of Ministers, which he has held for so long. Zaki Pasha is well known as an Oriental scholar and an authority on Arab art and literature, and he has contributed much by his studies and his publications to the renaissance of both those branches of Arab intellectual activity. He has collected a very fine library of rare manuscripts and works, which will make a valuable addition to the Sultania Library, to which he has generously presented it.

Another high Egyptian official has retired this week, H.E. Neguib Ghali Pasha, who has resigned from the post of Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It is quite possible that this post will now be suppressed. Since the declaration of a British Protectorate over Egypt there has been no Minister for Foreign Affairs, as, under the altered regime, the relations of Egypt with Foreign Powers come directly under the High Commissioner. The post of Under-Secretary was in fact only retained, and Neguib Pasha left in it, for personal reasons and out of respect for the memory of his father, Boutros Ghali Pasha, who was Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as Prime Minister when he was assassinated eight years ago.

Charity Bazaar.

A very successful bazaar was held at the Continental this week in aid of the funds of the Young Women's Christian Association. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Wingate, who in a short address announced that more than half of the debt on account of the hostel had been cleared off, and that there now remained only £T.3,200 to be repaid. On the second day, when the venue was transferred to Connaught

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House, the bazaar was opened by Mrs. Hampson Gary. Very good business was done on both days at the stalls, which were held by leading ladies of the Anglo-Egyptian community, and the Association must have derived much financial benefit from the bazaar. Certainly, it does such splendid work in Egypt that it is deserving of every assistance.

The Cotton Area.

The announcement has been made that the restrictions imposed on the cotton area have been removed, but owing to the Ministerial crisis, which renders it impossible to hold a Council of Ministers, the decree rescinding the previous order has not been signed yet. The cotton area was restricted in order to provide the cereal requirements of Egypt and of the British forces based on the country; and the reason of the present removal of the prohibition is, of course, the change in the war situation and the possibility of getting cereals from India and Australia, to which countries Egypt will look henceforward, as she did in pre-war times, for the supply of that portion of her foodstuff requirements which she does not normally meet from her own production. Already a shipment of flour has arrived at Alexandria from Australia. Whether the cotton area will return next summer to its normal size cannot yet be said; for the raising of the embargo has been pronounced somewhat late in the season, and a certain number of cultivators will already have prepared their land for and sown it with winter cereals. In any case, the area will certainly be larger than this year.

The Influenza Epidemic.

The influenza epidemic is still raging in the country, and the Government has found it necessary to suspend the sittings of the Cantonal Courts in order to reduce the danger of the spread of infection. The extension of this malady is imposing a great strain on the local medical profession, who have been much reduced in number during the war, and who are barely able to deal with the cases now falling to them. The last day or so it is reported that in certain districts the epidemic has begun to show signs of abating.

ARTS AND INDUSTRIES IN INDIA.

A meeting of the Education Section of the Board of Industries was held at Lucknow on Thursday, October 31, 1918.

In response to a suggestion of the local Government, the Board approved of the establishment of an experimental class for training in carpentry at Allahabad. An estimate of cost is under preparation. The Board considered the prize scheme formulated for the School of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow, and suggested that a few silver medals should annually be awarded to students who stood first in the subjects taught there; and also recommended that passed students might be allowed an advance for the purchase of requisite tools required by them when entering trade after completing their school career. It was also suggested that the peripatetic weaving school at Maw might now be made permanent, as recommended by the Principal, Mr. Ormerod.

The Board noted with appreciation a letter from Messrs. Martin and Co., of Calcutta, offering to accept two young Indian students annually for practical training in their factory in the manufacture of light railway equipment such as is used in collieries, quarries, and Public Works Departments, etc.

Consideration of the proposals for starting a School of Brassware at Benares was postponed, owing to the difficulty in procuring sheet metal.

Proposals are being matured for the establishment in Cawnpore of a class for the training of electric wiremen; and plans for a suitable building are already in preparation.

The Indian mail is again being sent overland, beginning on the 9th inst. The mail will close at the G.P.O. at 6 p.m. each Thursday, and will be due at Bombay in 21 days. In the homeward direction there will be regular weekly arrivals beginning about January 24.

It is reported from Deirout, Egypt, that the Omdeh, hearing that a notable of Deirout was cultivating hashish in his garden, informed the Markaz of the matter, and the Parquet substitute, accompanied by a policeman, went to the garden, where they found two kirats of land planted with hashish. The plantation was seized and the cultivator referred for trial.

A Delhi telegram says that at the second day's sitting of the Indian National Congress, which took place on December 29 in a disturbed atmosphere owing to the suggested nomination of Mr. Tilak as delegate to the Peace Conference to claim the right of self-determination for India and full provincial autonomy, a motion in favour of full provincial autonomy and against special European electorates was carried by acclamation.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, December 7.

H.E. the Acting Governor-General entertained a number of N.C.O.s and men of the Northumberland Fusiliers at the Palace on December 5.

The Sudan Club has started fortnightly dinners and dances for members with their feminine friends. The first was held on the 6th instant, and they will be continued till further notice.

A movement is on foot to celebrate the armistice by entertaining the N.C.O.s and men of the Northumberland Fusiliers and the R.G.A. stationed at Khartoum, and also by means of a more general entertainment for the British community of Khartoum. It is understood that the latter function will take the form of a dance, but it is difficult to know where so large a number can be accommodated with dancing room.

A meeting of the Racing Club was held at the Sudan Club, and the dates of the first two meetings were fixed and the officers of the club elected. The first meeting is to be on December 20, and the second on January 24.

Mr. Hewins, the Director of Commercial Intelligence, returned to Khartoum on the 6th, after a prolonged stay in England.

Mr. C. E. Lyall, the Governor of Kassala Province, is visiting Khartoum on his way back from leave before returning to his province. He spent his leave in Alexandria.

Colonel Bernard, the Financial Secretary, is expected shortly from the North, where he has divided his time between Cairo and Alexandria.

It is rumoured that there is a large party of ladies coming to the Sudan to rejoin their husbands, numbering about fifty in all. They are expected to arrive in the course of January. The question of their accommodation in Khartoum has brought into prominence the shortage of suitable houses in the city. Apart from those built and maintained by the Government, there are very few houses of a size and plan suitable for an English family. Where the houses exist, the other amenities are indifferent, *e.g.*, the servants' quarters are too small or non-existent, and the stabling poor. Few, too, have any garden worthy of the name, and notwithstanding these drawbacks rents are very high. Naturally, during the war there has been little or no new building done, owing to the shortage of materials, and this is likely to continue for some little time. In the past nearly all woodwork for houses, such as doors and windows, was imported, whilst the bulk of the cement and similar materials were also brought in from outside. The force of circumstances has, however, demonstrated that there is a quantity of excellent wood in the country if it can be obtained at reasonable rates in a sufficient amount. Cement, too, can be made, and there is a scheme to open up the making of cement on a large scale.

December 23.

A Tennis Tournament was held at the Sudan Club, which terminated on Tuesday, when Mr. and Mrs. King secured the Doubles (Mixed), and Dr. Bousfield and Mr. Winter won from Mr. Davidson and Mr. Corbyn in the Men's Doubles.

The first race meeting of the season was held on Friday, the 20th, and was very successful. There were six events, and a large number of people attended.

On Monday, the 24th, the Sudan Club entertains the British community to celebrate the Armistice. A very large gathering is expected.

Lord Kitchener left Khartoum on the 21st with the Hon. E. Napier for Rejaf, whence he goes on foot to Nimule, and so on to British East Africa. The object of his journey is said to be the establishment of farms for British officers who have been wounded in the war. During his visit Lord Kitchener inspected the Gordon College and made a speech to the students.

The influenza appears to have largely passed away, and its effect in the Sudan seems to have been milder than in many places. It is possible that this is due to the hot spell that occurred in the first half of December. A certain number of cases continue to appear, but the mortality is not high, and the natives regard the epidemic as over.



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LETTER FROM PORT SAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, December 26.

One of the most obvious reminders that the war is over is that the ships passing through are now resuming their natural colours, and do not look like a private view day at an impressionist academy. Passengers once more wander aimlessly round the streets, and Port Said is rapidly returning to normal. Even the price of coal seems inclined to come down somewhat, as well as the cost of sugar, eggs, and other commodities in the eating line.

News is coming through from Constantinople as to the conditions there, and the distress prevailing amongst practically all classes; a new suit of clothes costing from seventy to eighty pounds, and even a cabbage cannot be obtained for less than ten shillings. I was informed that the tariff price of bread was a shilling a pound, but that only a soldier with a bayonet in one hand and the shilling in the other could obtain it at that price, anyone else having to pay at least three times as much. Germans are, as might be expected, not in favour, and it is said that they have had orders not to appear in uniform; the more inconspicuous they are, the more it conduces to public tranquillity and their own longevity.

Travellers are now coming from Beyrout and Damascus, and bringing back reports as to things there It is a very curious situation, but it may be broadly summed up, that the rich have become richer and the poor poorer, though large numbers of the latter are in a place where this world's goods do not matter. I am not far out in saying that in the villages of the Lebanon district and including Damascus, fully a third of the population is gone, carried off by starvation and disease. In Beyrout itself things were not so bad; for while the rich food producers have made large fortunes, it has gone hard with others who had to begin to sell their goods to buy food. A few days before our occupation a large and valuable house was offered for sale for three hundred Turkish pounds, and found no buyers; to-day it is worth at least £5,000. One anomalous thing is that ironmongery, lamps, stoves, electrical gear, etc., are cheaper now in Beyrout than they are in Egypt! The Germans attempted to flood the country with their own trade ware, no doubt thinking they were going to have a big hold there when the Kaiser came to drop another wreath on Saladin's grave.

Christmas festivities in Port Said were more or less confined to the various canteens, and as in previous years, everything was done to bring a touch of home to the men who are longing to get there.

THE ELSIE INGLIS UNIT.

The Elsie Inglis Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals has once more gone forward, this time in the wake of the victorious Serbian Army. The Serbians have placed a large building at the disposal of the unit at Serajevo, where there are large numbers of sick soldiers to be tended.

The large transport column attached to the unit followed the offensive of last autumn as far as cars could go, and did almost incredible work in conveying wounded from the front to the hospitals, up and down the appalling mountainous roads. Miss Geraldine Hedges, the Chief Transport Officer, and some of her intrepid drivers have been invalided home, owing to malaria.

ASSYRIAN REFUGEES.

In a letter to the Press, the Archbishop of Canterbury writes:—"On Wednesday, December 4, a public meeting was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on behalf of Assyrian refugees from Persia and Asiatic Turkey, the victims of Turkish cruelty and brutality, who, having survived the horrors of massacre ruthlessly carried on during the last three years, have appealed for British protection. The remnants of this ancient Christian nation are now being collected at various centres in Mesopotamia, where they must remain until the Peace Conference has provided for their return and for their settlement, once again, in their old homes in North-West Persia and Kurdistan.

"General Marshall telegraphed on November 16 that he had collected 40,000 Assyrians at Baqubah. A large number are at Hamadan; others have reached Baghdad. Probably not less than one-half of the people have been massacred or done to death, and the fate of others, especially the young women and girls, is beyond description. It is said that some 60,000 have survived, but this number will be greatly diminished by sickness and starvation, unless help is forthcoming without delay. Relief will be administered by our British Consuls and other responsible officers. In the name of humanity and of Christian duty, we appeal to the generosity of the British people. Contributions may be sent to Mr. F. W. Pittman, Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund (Special Appeal for Persia), 96, Victoria Street, S.W.1, by whom they will be acknowledged."

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, Dec. 23.

The Island and the Armistice.

Malta has suffered little during the past four years of war, but the departure of fighting craft is bringing home to the people that the Hun is well beaten. The fleet of trawlers which was sent here immediately after the U-pirates made their undesired appearance in the Mediterranean has just left Malta *en route* for England. As the smart-looking vessels steamed out of the harbours from their bases they were accorded the heartiest send-off by the warhips, merchantmen, and other craft lying at anchor. The blowing of the sirens, accompanied by the hooting of the "puffers," drew large crowds to the bastions overlooking the harbour mouth, who joined in the farewell demonstrations. For three long years these small craft, which were improvised for war duty, assisted by destroyers, and later by motor launches, have kept the seas in all weather and maintained the closest vigilance, patrolling, mine-sweeping, mine-laying, and hunting down the sea pests unrelentingly.

It is astonishing how quickly the island has assumed an air approaching the normal. There is now a blaze of light on the Strada Reale and the revolving lighthouses at the entrance to the Grand Harbour are again in full swing. The armistice celebrations passed off splendidly, notably some which were impromptu. These were followed by a solemn Memorial Service; and those who know of the fervently religious nature of the inhabitants of the island will appreciate what that means.

Despite the many calls which have been made on the purses of the people here, no time has been lost in setting afoot a scheme to raise a war memorial, and a very influential and efficient committee has been formed comprised as follows:—Patron, Mrs. Hunter-Blair; president, Lady Frendo Azopardi; members, Mrs. W. C. F. Robertson, Lady Micallef, Marchesa Apap Testaferrata, Mrs. Bonavia, M.B.E., Mrs. Young, Mrs. Barwell, Mr. G. Ashfield, Mr. V. Rizzo, hon. treasurer, and Dr. A. Bartolo, hon. secretary.

Return of the Governor.

His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Lord Methuen, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.M.G., has returned to the island after a month's absence.

With her customary and kindly interest in everything appertaining to the welfare of Malta and its inhabitants, Lady Methuen has kindly extended her patronage to the Badge Day to be held on January 6 in aid of the Malta War Memorial Fund.

Death of Lady Strickland.

The deepest regret has been awakened throughout the community by the announcement of the death of Lady Edeline Strickland, Lady of Justice of the Sovereign Order of Malta, wife of Count Sir Gerald Strickland, G.C.M.G., LL.B., and eldest daughter of the seventh Earl de la Warr, and of Constance Cochrane Baillie, daughter of the first Baron of Lamington, who passed peacefully away at her residence in Villa Bologna, Casal Attard.

The deceased lady, who had been in failing health for a long time, was in her forty-ninth year. Lady Edeline was well known and widely respected in this island, where her husband was Chief Secretary to the Government from 1889 to 1902, as well as in the Leeward Islands, Tasmania, Western Australia, and New South Wales, where Sir Gerald successfully held Governorships.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* says that the islands of the Dodecanese are suffering much from a great scarcity of foodstuffs. Wheat has been lacking in the islands for months.

Many pieces of stolen Greek furniture have been found in the houses of Bulgarian State officials at Varna. A number of pianos were also discovered in the Bulgarian arsenal there.

Reuter's Agency learns that on New Year's Eve Turkish police invaded the offices of the journal *Neologos*, the oldest Greek newspaper in Constantinople, turned out the staff, seized the printing press, and stopped the further publication of the paper.

Greek comment on the General Election results congratulates the British people on their correct judgment and their fairplay towards the Government which was responsible for the victorious conduct of the war, and which has repeatedly urged the just claims of the smaller nations.

Under date of November 16, the Simla correspondent of the *Pioneer* reports:—"It has been decided to allow officials and ex-officials who have rendered exceptional services in connection with the war to participate to a limited extent in the distribution of waste colony land in the Punjab. Eight Indian names are published of persons to whom the Punjab Government have awarded from 100 to 150 acres apiece under these orders on certain conditions. Similar grants are to be made next year and the year after.

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RELIEF IN SYRIA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 6.

The rapidity of General Allenby's victorious advance in Northern Palestine and Syria not only gave no time to the enemy to destroy the land and deport the population, as he was wont to do in an orderly retreat, but, after entirely crushing his military power, the conquerors were free to employ their vast military organisation for the relief of the people on such a scale and with such rapidity as no relief society, however powerful and well organised, could do. An officer who was with the first troops to enter Damascus and Homs told me that famine in its true sense ceased forty-eight hours after the arrival of the troops. Even now in Beyrout and the Lebanon the native relief organisations are working under the control and with the help of the military authorities, who alone possess the means of supply and sea and land transport. With the raising of the blockade, which is said to be imminent, the repair of railroads and bridges, and the release of large numbers of camels, horses, donkeys, and cattle by the military authorities for distribution, where needed, among the people, all traces of distress should soon disappear.

French Relief Work.

The French authorities, in their appointed sphere on the coast and in the Lebanon, are not lagging behind in the race of philanthropic endeavour. On October 24 a Messageries steamer arrived at Beyrout with 550 tons of foodstuffs and 1,500 tons of coal, and another steamer was expected to arrive a fortnight later with a large quantity of foodstuffs. To the destitute the foodstuffs are given free; to the impoverished middle class they are sold at half-price; while to the remainder of the population they are sold at cost price. According to a report presented by the Lebanese Supplies Committee, it is estimated that there are 100,000 destitute, who need daily 45,000 kilog. of corn; and 25,000 persons of limited means, whose daily needs amount to about 12,000 kilog. It is now proposed to form two Supplies Committees: one for the immediate relief of the destitute, under the presidency of the Rector of the Jesuit University and of the Principal of the Lazarist College of Antoura, and the other, under the presidency of a high Lebanese official, for the general control of supplies in the country until the present crisis is tided over. Both committees are under the patronage of the military governor. There is already an orphanage in Beyrout, where about 3,000 children, mostly from the deserted villages of the Lebanon, are cared for by a committee of ladies. This orphanage is under the patronage of M. Picot, the French High Commissioner.

Reconstruction in the Lebanon.

With the help of the military authorities, the Administrative Council of the Lebanon hopes to be able soon to get large quantities of grain from the Hauran and Homs and Hama, and to sell it at cost price to the inhabitants. The Lebanon Government is also arranging for the purchase of 30,000 boxes of silkworm eggs from France, for sale to the proprietors of mulberry plantations at cost price, with the facilities for payment at the gathering of the cocoon crop. It is further proposed to exempt the people for the first year after the war from the payment of the capital tax. The Council has lately decided to contract a loan of £100,000 for works of public utility, and to ask the French Government to advance this amount. The Administrative Council has also under consideration the question of raising another loan for distribution, in the shape of advances, among agriculturists for the purchase of seed corn.

One of the great and vital problems that are expected to challenge the serious attention of the Lebanese Government is the enormous number of sales of property at iniquitously low prices to which the owners were forced by famine. What made these transactions more iniquitous was payment in paper money, which at the time of the occupation stood at one-tenth of its par value. The validity of these deeds of sale could well be questioned on many legal and moral grounds, and it can hardly be supposed that the Lebanon Government will not seek to invalidate these sales, especially when it is known that a good part of Lebanese property has been taken over during the war by a few profiteers from Beyrout and Damascus.

Improved Communications.

It has just been announced that telegraphic communication between Egypt and Palestine and Syria is re-established, and that offices are already established in various towns of Palestine, including Jaffa and Caiffa. This is the forerunner of free commercial intercourse, without which Syria will continue to suffer economically.

All new measures and imposts imposed by the Turkish Government in the Lebanon have been abolished, while in both Syria and the Lebanon the staffs of the different Ottoman Government departments—as constituted before the war—have been recognised—temporarily no doubt—by the occupation authorities. Those who have been dismissed during the war have, as a rule, been reinstated. This explains the fact of the composition of these staffs in the vilayets being almost entirely Moslem, according to official lists recently published.

THE EMIR FEISUL.

The Emir Feisul left London on Tuesday for France, accompanied by General Nuri Faieh and his suite. Mr. R. F. Synge, of the Foreign Office, travelled with him to Folkestone, his port of embarkation.

The Prince expressed his gratification at his visit to this country and his reception by the King and the Government, and added that he hoped to return to England ere long.

During his visit—on December 20—the Emir received deputations from the London and Manchester Syrian communities, who presented addresses of welcome and congratulation. His Royal Highness received his visitors cordially; and in his reply laid stress on the necessity of Syria being granted independence, and at the same time receiving assistance from the Allies in the way of men of science and skilled administrators.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A Senussi mission, headed by Saied el Mahdi, brother of the chief, has arrived in Italy to pay homage to King Victor Emmanuel.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports an announcement made by the *Temps* regarding the forthcoming inauguration of an express train service placing Paris and London in direct communication with Athens, via Milan, Venice, Trieste, Agram, Nish, Uskub, and Larissa. "It is," remarks the *Temps*, "important from the political point of view to note that this new line will be able to link up the west with a point in South-Eastern Europe without traversing an inch of Germanic or germanophil territory."

A French vessel has just returned 350 Jewish exiles to Palestine. It sailed under the Jewish flag.

Members of the Greek Military Mission in Bulgaria are engaged in tracing the Greek girls who were outraged and kidnapped during the invasion of Eastern Macedonia. These young girls are now kept as slaves in Bulgarian houses.

All Zionist organisations in the Allied and neutral countries, including the newly-created States of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, have been invited to send delegates to a conference in London on February 11, 12, and 13, to determine the Zionist policy at the Peace Conference.

It is officially computed that 41,000 people have died in Egypt as a result of the influenza epidemic, exclusive of deaths in Cairo and Alexandria.

The *Morning Post's* Paris correspondent reports (January 5):—Stephan Bey, the Roumanian Minister for National Defence, Transylvania, has handed a Note to the Great Allied Powers in which he draws attention to the conduct of the Serbians towards Roumanians in the country occupied by Serb troops. These people, he states, are subjected to all sorts of vexations. The Note specially protests against the detention and deportation to Belgrade of several Roumanian notables.

A minesweeper struck a mine and sank off Smyrna on December 19. There were eleven survivors, twenty-seven of the crew being missing.

On the occasion of the New Year a number of Greek ladies belonging to the "Soldiers' Sisters' League" visited the British and French military hospitals at Salonika and distributed gifts in the name of their Greek comrades.

As the result of a "war-talk" given by Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. Woolrych Perowne in Philadelphia last November (the Bishop of Philadelphia presiding), a cheque for £147 11s. 1d. in aid of the fund for rebuilding the British Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, belonging to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, has been handed to the Right Hon. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., Chairman of the Hospital Committee. Miss K. Robertson, of the British Relief Emergency Aid, was responsible for organising the meeting, which was under the auspices of a committee of leading citizens of Philadelphia.

King Alexander of Greece received on Sunday Commander Canzantian, Armenian ex-officer of the Turkish Navy, who conveyed the gratitude of the Armenian people for the warm sympathy displayed by the Greek Chamber, Government, and Army for Armenia's independence.

It is reported that the Turkish Government has decided to exile members of the Committee of Union and Progress.

The French steamer Evangeline, which was requisitioned for the Navy, and which ran aground near Salonika, has been refloated by the British.

The Sultan of Egypt has appointed M. George Foucard, Director of the French Oriental Archæological Institute, as President to the Sultania Geographical Society, in succession to Ismail Sidky Pasha.

The Municipality of Athens has conferred the Freedom of the City on Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson.

A Salonika message announces that the neutral region of Koritza and Northern Epirus which has been occupied by the French for the past two years has now been handed over to the Greek authorities.

The Conference of Indian Princes and Ruling Chiefs which was postponed on account of the influenza epidemic will be held at Delhi from January 20 to 25.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN ASIATIC CONQUEROR.*

We welcome these lectures on the life of the Emperor Babur, partly for their own interest and partly as evidence that the spirit of historical inquiry is at last abroad in India, where the universities for so long did little to foster the extension of knowledge in this or any other branch of study. The Professor of Modern Indian History at Allahabad is setting an example which will, we trust, be widely followed by Indian scholars, and the lectures before us are a sound and scholarly piece of work. They are not likely to supersede Babur's classical "Memoirs," but on the contrary they will probably send many readers to that delightful book, equipped with just that knowledge of the environment which is necessary for its full appreciation. The author has succeeded in giving a clear and readable sketch of the intricate politics of Central Asia, and of the course of events which ultimately drove Babur to seek an Empire in the plains of India; he brings out the advances in strategy, tactics and munitions which rendered possible the conquests of an army which in numbers was almost ridiculously inadequate to the task, and he enables his readers to form an idea of the Emperor's commanding personality as well as of the social aptitudes which made him such a delightful companion.

We have noticed very few inaccuracies in the book. The Chambal flows into the Jumna, not into the Ganges, as suggested on page 163, and Etawah does not lie on the route from Kabul to Agra (page 172); but such slips are of slight importance. The interest of the book is increased by the illustrations reproduced, on the whole successfully, from the Alwar and Agra manuscripts of the "Memoirs."

A TRAGEDY OF TALK.

It is the accepted theory of philosophers that speech is the faculty which marks most clearly the acknowledged superiority of man above the animal creation. An intelligent cat which happened to listen to some of the endless debates of the Russian Soviets might reasonably have inquired during the last eighteen months whether the alleged inferiority of the dumb animals was in reality incontestable. The specimens of talk which M. Claude Anet, the brilliant journalist, who now describes from personal experience in the second volume of "La Revolution Russe" (Payot et Cie, Paris, 4 frs. 50 c.) has preserved in these pages, can only be described as pathetic. At one of the innumerable congresses, for instance, a delegate mounted the tribune and made the following speech:—

"The unanimous decision of the Congress of Nationalities assembled at Kieff, which has appointed me as their representative, is that it is impossible for Russia to continue the war." (Applause from the Extremists.) "The unanimous decision of the Congress of Nationalities assembled at Kieff, which I have the honour to represent, is that it is impossible for Russia to make peace." (General laughter.) "I do not understand your laughter, citizens and comrades; it is the unanimous decision of the Congress of Nationalities assembled at Kieff which I have reported to you."

That was the kind of political debate, with its contradictory and impotent conclusions, of which Russia never tired. M. Anet enumerates thirty-seven committees of the Northern Army, which talked endlessly; the very patients in the hospitals formed a committee to discuss whether the surgeons should operate or prescribe. Truly, democracy was a tragi-comedy in Russia during the first six months of the revolution; if Aristophanes, that old and pitiless enemy of democracy, had ever put such a caricature on the stage as the actual Soviet rule in Russia, it would have been laughed off the boards.

Kerenski was the greatest of all the debaters. Whenever the situation became troubled, he made a great speech; when things became serious, he made a wonderful speech; when they became desperate, he surpassed himself by the brilliance of his speeches. Unfortunately, when they became critical and oratory no longer availed, he merely fled like a coward, flinging a proclamation at the enemies he had attempted to placate. It was probably a wonderful proclamation, full of resounding phrases and nobility of appeal—but the Bolsheviks, who had no taste for oratory, unkindly suppressed it. Perhaps the world has not lost very much.

The democratic revolution clearly failed because its leaders thought oratory was sufficient to rule the world. The Bolsheviks succeeded because they had no use for talk, and while Kerenski was orating, they were preparing. They have stayed in power because they have not troubled to talk, but have preferred action. Their programme was simplicity itself—bread, peace, land; it will be noticed that they ousted the one small item of liberty, which most revolutionaries have put in the forefront. But the Bolshevik has no more use for liberty than for oratory; and Russia was so captivated by the promise of peace—which was achieved at the cost of war within her own frontiers—that she accepted the programme without noticing the significant omission. One of the first acts of the Bolsheviks was to suppress the liberty of the press, as "a capitalist organisation."

M. Claude Anet watched these things, and the ruin of Russia, with a sore heart as a Frenchman, but with a detached and occasionally amused air as a chronicler, for which we cannot be sufficiently thankful. He promises a third volume on the Russian Revolution, bringing the history down to date; if he maintains as excellent a quality and as vivid a style in the sequel, he will have produced the classic contemporary record of the great experiment in class warfare for the sake of universal brotherhood.

A. W. T.

* "An Empire Builder of the Sixteenth Century." By Professor Rushbrook Williams. (Published for the Allahabad University by Longmans, Green and Co. Price, 7s. 6d. net.)

A PRINCESS OF PEACE.*

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."

A masterpiece; in the form of an autobiography of the heroine up to the age of fifteen, flowered and scented with a rare imagination and French philosophic irony. In a critical preface M. Jules Lemaître tells us something of "Siona" (Myriam Harry) which she does not tell us, and says she reminds him of another wonderful Eastern damsel, the friend of Lord Bolingbroke—"Aissé"—"who (purchased by the French Ambassador in Constantinople) became so thoroughly French that she wrote some of the prettiest letters that were ever penned in that language in the eighteenth century." It is a very wonderful "Siona," this little daughter of Jerusalem! Out of her mastery of languages, extensive travel, analytic and observant mind, and amazing memory, having abandoned the writing of tales, in German, for the *Berliner Tageblatt*, she acquires, with intensive industry, the very soul of French literary culture, produces many notable tales and poems, and here using the skeleton framework of her babyhood and girlhood in Jerusalem, as her *raison d'être*, sets out to jangle all religions by the ears, to ridicule the prejudices of nations and races, to paint the Judea of the fourth quarter of the last century with intimate, undressed fidelity, and to turn defiantly to scoffer and to sceptic, in a carnival of passion, asseverating, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."

Surely "Siona" has been dowered with the cunning of the master Psalmist! Surely she has a message to kings and peoples, priests, presidents, and philosophers, her fellow-man and fellow-woman! But, to the *οἱ πολλοί*, to whom messages are dull things, let us hasten to say that "Siona's" story (although terminating, in this volume, at fifteen) is full of the spices and pomegranate-juices of the East; and that this *capo d'opera*, so happily translated into English, shows a knowledge of the virtues and vanities of British Levant-born and touring folk which, if possible, increases our admiration for "Siona." We now wonder what she thinks of the British conquest of the Holy Land; whether she is regretting the "civilization" and the sanitation that must now intrude; whether she is itching to write the apocalyptic punishment of General Allenby for venturing to disturb the filth-focus of Omar's "seventy thousand jarring sects;" or will she lend her delicate hand, bring her inimitable broom, and help to keep the pretty colours, and mercilessly sweep away the shoddy and the shabby?

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A History of Education in Ancient India." By N. N. Mazumder, M.A. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 2s. net.)

"Indian Studies." By General Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 16s. net.)

* "The Little Daughter of Jerusalem." By Myriam Harry. Transl. from the French by Phœbe Allen. (J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., London and Toronto. 6s. net.)

INDIA'S OPPORTUNITY
Considered Apart from Its Political Aspects.
By Major E. A. TANDY, R.E. (*Survey of India*).
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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. January	1918. December.		1337. Rabia II.	5679. Shebat
10	28	Friday	9	9
11	29	Saturday.....	10	10
12	30	Sunday	11	11
13	31	Monday	12	12
	1919. January.			
14	1	Tuesday	13	13
15	2	Wednesday	14	14
16	3	Thursday	15	15

M. E. N. Lahovary, Roumanian Senator, arrived in London from Bucharest last week.

Colonel Sir Roper and Lady Parkington have returned to Claridge's Hotel from Bath.

Dr. Mishitch, Deputy President of the Jugo-Slav Committee, left London for Paris last Friday.

H.H. the Maharana of Udaipur has generously contributed three lakhs towards the expenses of the war.

Captain Sophocles Venizelos, the son of the Greek Prime Minister, arrived in London last Friday from Paris.

Cardinal Bourne is at present in Cairo on a short visit. He will proceed thence to Palestine and Constantinople.

M. Polychroniades, formerly Chargé d'Affaires of the Greek Legation at The Hague, arrived in London on Friday from the Continent.

H.H. the Nawab of Palanpur, on the occasion of his succession, generously offered Rs.25,000 for war purposes. The offer was gratefully accepted.

Major-General the Maharaja of Bikanir and Maharaj-Kumar Lieutenant Sadul Singhji were received by Queen Alexandra on Monday afternoon at Marlborough House.

Sir Reginald Wingate held an investiture at the Residency, Cairo, on December 30, when he presented the insignia of the recent British decorations to British and Egyptian officials.

December 28, St. Eleutherio's Day and M. Venizelos' name-day, was celebrated enthusiastically in Athens. Hundreds of people of all classes called upon the Prime Minister at his house.

The Hon. Sir John Wood, Secretary in the Political Department of the Government of India, will probably proceed on furlough in February. Mr. R. E. Holland, I.C.S., will again officiate.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant Eustace J. Guinness, R.N., elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Guinness, Dar-es-Salaam, East Africa, late of Allahabad, India, and Alison, eldest daughter of Mr. Ian MacIntyre, 36, Murrayfield Road, Edinburgh.

Admiral Sir Arthur Limpus, K.C.M.G., C.B., has just been placed on the retired list at his own request. He was Naval Adviser to the Turkish Government from 1912 to 1914. During the recent war he was in charge at Malta, where he was very popular.

The engagement is announced of Second Lieutenant Richard Henry Dalbiac, 52nd Light Infantry, son of Colonel Dalbiac, C.B., and Mrs. Dalbiac, of The Elms, Seal, Kent, and Kathleen René, younger daughter of the late Mr. F. M. Simpson and Mrs. Simpson, of Colombo, Ceylon.

Colonel Boyle, of the Canadian Army, in charge of Roumanian relief since the spring of 1917, has arrived in London from Bucharest. He has received an offer from Sir Robert Borden on behalf of Canada to advance £5,000,000 to be expended on Canadian products for relief in Roumania.

The engagement is announced between Captain Arthur Miller-Stirling, Indian Army, only surviving son of Captain Miller-Stirling (R.N., retired) and Mrs. Miller-Stirling, of Craigbarnet, Campsie Glen, Stirlingshire, and Elizabeth Gordon, only daughter of Sir John Fleetwood Cumming, The Dowans, Aberlour, Banffshire.

Major-General Sir A. W. Money, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chief Administrator of the Occupied Territory of Palestine, has left Jerusalem on short leave. Colonel R. Storrs, C.M.G., is officiating for him in his absence.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Humphrey William Codrington, lieutenant, R.A.O.C., Ceylon Civil Service, eldest son of the late Rear-Admiral W. Codrington, C.B., and the Hon. Mrs. Codrington, of Ilmington, Shipston-on-Stour, and Joyce Mary, third daughter of the late Rev. W. H. Bleaden, and Mrs. Bleaden, of 41, Brunswick Gardens, Kensington, W.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on February 12, between Mr. A. J. Mavrogordato, fourth son of the late John Mavrogordato, Letton Lodge, Broughton Park, Manchester, and of Mrs. Mavrogordato, 6, Palmeira Court, Hove, and Mrs. Rowan-Robinson, widow of Major W. J. Rowan-Robinson, King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and elder daughter of the late Mr. W. E. M. Hulton-Harrop, Lythwood Hall, Shrewsbury, and of Mrs. Hulton-Harrop, Mayfield, Shrewsbury.

Lord and Lady Willingdon arrived in London on Monday for a short holiday in this country before Lord Willingdon goes to Madras as Governor. Among those present to meet them at Victoria Station were Mr. Montagu, M.P., Sir S. P. Sinha, Major Hanson (representing the Maharaja of Bikanir), Lord Brassey, Sir William Duke, Sir Charles Bayley, Mr. W. D. Sheppard, Sir Malcolm Seton, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gourlay, Mr. C. H. Kisch, Mr. Parsons, and Mr. L. Robertson, of the Bombay Civil Service.

Mr. H. Charles Woods, who went to America in November, 1917, to lecture upon the Near East and the war before the Lowell Institute, Boston, and who since then has been lecturing in the United States and Canada, has returned to 171, Victoria Street, S.W.1. We understand that, in addition to the fulfilling his numerous lecture engagements, during his absence from England Mr. Woods completed his new book, "The Cradle of the War: The Near East and Pan-Germanism." The English edition of this volume, which has a foreword by Mr. A. Lawrence Lowell, president of Harvard University, will be published by Mr. John Murray during the present month.

Excellent work is being done by the American Red Cross in the island of Mytilene, where there are 52,000 Greek refugees from various places.

A lecture entitled "Mohammed's Way to Allah" will be given this evening at 6.30, by Mr. M. A. Ismail, at the Anjuman Islam, 86, Ladbroke Road.

At a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, to be held at 22, Albemarle Street, next Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Mr. F. E. Pargiter will read a paper on "The Haihayas and King Sagara." Lord Reay will preside.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that the recommendations of the General Officers Commanding-in-Chief in Mesopotamia in connection with the New Year *Gazette* did not reach the War Office in time for inclusion in the lists which have been published. The recommendations for rewards for services rendered in that theatre of operations are now under consideration, and such rewards as may be approved by the King will be notified in due course.

The Emir Feisul entertained to luncheon at the Carlton Hotel a deputation from the Arab Horse Society, represented by Messrs. S. G. Hough (vice-president), G. R. Calthrop, R. A. Willis, and Rev. D. B. Montefiore. The Emir graciously consented to be a patron of the society. Brig.-General Nuri Said and Colonel T. E. Lawrence also accepted the invitation to become honorary members of the society.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Mr. P. Ball, 2nd Inspector, Dongola Province, Sudan, has been transferred to Kassala Province.

Bimbashi S. E. Gregory, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed 2nd Inspector, Kordofan Province.

M. Milissar Raitchevitch, a member of the Directory of Montenegro, has been appointed Minister without portfolio in the Cabinet of the newly-established kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

At Jaffa, on December 20, Mr. Nahum Sokolow and Dr. Weismann were unanimously chosen as the Jewish representatives at the Peace Conference.

The promotion of Lewa Shehata Kamel Pasha, C.M.G., Chief A.D.C. to the Sultan of Egypt, to the rank of Ferik (General) is officially announced.

Bimbashi R. F. B. Knox, 2nd Inspector, Sennar Province, Sudan, has been made Magistrate of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure, temporarily.

Captain W. E. G. Ord-Statter, Royal Lancaster Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the 10th Sudanese for duty.

According to a Kieff telegram, the principal members of the new Ukrainian Cabinet are :—Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Tchechavsky; Minister of the Interior, M. Misijuk; and Minister of War, M. Grekoff.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. William Strachan Coutts, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, in succession to Mr. Edmund Pelly Chapman, I.C.S., who retired in October last.

OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN CLAUSON,

Sir John Clauson, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Cyprus, died on December 31, at Nicosia, aged 52.

The eldest son of the late Charles Clauson, of Naples and London, and of Mrs. Clauson, of 8, Essex Villas, Kensington, W., he was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, Clifton College, and the R.M.A., Woolwich, and entered the Royal Engineers in 1885. Four years later he designed an Army pontoon that is still in use, and in 1893 he passed the Staff College (first place). In 1897 he was admitted to the Inner Temple. In that year he was secretary to the Army Railway Council; in 1898 secretary to the Mobilisation Committee; and from 1900 to 1906 secretary to the Colonial Defence Committee. From 1906 to 1911 he was Chief Secretary to the Government of Cyprus, and from 1911 to 1914 was Lieutenant-Governor of Malta. In August of 1914 he returned to Cyprus as High Commissioner; and, though his health was very bad, he administered the island successfully through the difficult period of the war. He married, in 1890, a daughter of the late Sir William Makins, and leaves three sons.

GENERAL HILL-JOHNES, V.C.

We regret to announce that Lieut.-General Sir James Hills-Johnes, V.C., died on January 3, at his home in Carmarthenshire, from the effects of influenza. He was born in 1833, and entered the Bengal Artillery twenty years later; and from then onward he may be said to have taken part in most of the fighting that was going in India, until in 1881 he returned to England. In 1888 he retired. He served through the Indian Mutiny, the Abyssinian campaign, and the Afghan War, to mention but a few of his experiences; and among other important positions held by him at one time or another were A.D.C. to Lord Canning, the Viceroy (1859-62); Assistant Adjutant General (1875); and Military Governor of Kabul. He was an old and close friend of Lord Roberts. He won the V.C. in the Mutiny for saving his guns by a single-handed charge against a body of cavalry that surprised them.

Brigadier-General Hamilton, who has died at Weymouth, aged fifty-eight, was for five years D.A.A.G. in Egypt, and served in the Nile Expedition of 1898.

The Rev. William Edward Scott, formerly Archdeacon of Bombay, died at Vevey on December 29, aged 67. He first went to India, in 1885, as chaplain at Nasirabad. Afterwards he was at Deolali, Byculla, and other places, until in 1894 he was appointed chaplain to the Bishop of Bombay, and three years later Archdeacon of Bombay. In 1907 he resigned the appointment, and returned to England, and in 1915 he was appointed chaplain at Geneva.

Mrs. Sophie Hicks, widow of Hicks Pasha, the famous soldier, died suddenly on January 3 at Bath. Hicks Pasha was a British officer who, after serving with distinction throughout the Indian Mutiny and in the Abyssinian war, entered the Khedive's army, and was killed in the Sudan.

Mr. George Francis Mytton Grant, late of the Indian Civil Service, died at Vevey last week in his seventy-fifth year. In 1885 he became Junior Collector and Magistrate and Political Agent, Thana, and in 1886 Senior Collector. He was appointed Commissioner, Northern Division, in April, 1890, and retired in the following November.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Meredith Mangin, R.A.M.C., died at Meerut, India, on New Year's Day, aged fifty-one. He served on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-8, and received the medal and clasp for Malakand, and later took part in the South African War, in 1902, and for his services received the Queen's medal with two clasps.

Dr. Thomas Buzzard, the distinguished physician, who has died in London in his eighty-ninth year, served in the Crimea and in Asia Minor. He was at the siege of Sebastopol and other affairs, and after the fall of Sebastopol he accompanied the Turkish Army to the Caucasus and helped to organise and conduct a base hospital at Trebizond. For these services he had the Crimean medal (with the bar for Sebastopol), the Order of the Medjidieh, and the Turkish War Medal.

General Charles Terrington Aitchison died on Sunday at Redcliffe Gardens, Kensington. He entered the Indian Army in 1842. In 1844-5 he served in the South Mahratta country as field engineer, and for his services obtained a "mention." In 1856-7 he was brigade major with the Persian Expeditionary Force, and was again mentioned in despatches, being thanked by the Government of India, and awarded the medal with clasp and the brevet of major. During the suppression of the Indian Mutiny he was employed in the Southern Mahratta country. He was created a C.B. in 1875, and from 1877 till 1884 was in command of the Bombay District, being placed on the Unemployed Supernumerary List in 1887, and advanced to the full rank of general in 1889.

Dr. Alfred George Lefroy, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, died in Calcutta on New Year's Day in his sixty-fifth year. He was a son of the Very Rev. Jeffrey Lefroy, Dean of Dromore, and was educated at Marlborough and Trinity College, Cambridge. He spent the whole of his ministerial life in India, going out in the year of his ordination to work with the Cambridge University Mission in Delhi. He was appointed head of the United S.P.G. and Cambridge Mission in Delhi in 1891, and after some eight years' strenuous work in charge of that mission he was consecrated Bishop of Lahore, and in 1913 he went to Calcutta. Two years ago he visited the troops in Lower Mesopotamia, and was warmly welcomed by them. He was a great linguist, and had a wide knowledge of the religions of India, and the Moslems of that country especially held him in regard.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1919.

EGYPT AFTER THE WAR.

Several weeks have passed since the report that the Prime Minister of Egypt had resigned reached this country. In the letter which we publish in this issue our Cairo Correspondent, writing ten days after Rushdi Pasha had tendered his resignation, refers to the Ministerial crisis as still unsolved, and in the absence of further news on the subject it has to be inferred that the Sultan remains unwilling to agree to any change in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. His reluctance is not unnatural. Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha has been Prime Minister throughout the war, and as he has combined with that office the portfolio of the Interior, he has added to his major responsibility the burden of a difficult administrative post. Writing in the latter part of 1917 our Cairo Correspondent bore witness to the fact that he had acquitted himself of his task in a manner which evoked on all hands the liveliest admiration. "The past three years," our correspondent added, "have been years of acute stress and anxiety. It cannot always have been easy to conciliate the various interests concerned, meet the requirements of the military regime and content all parties, yet under the able direction of its President the Cabinet has always contrived with dignity to strike the happy medium, and at no time has there been any friction or any trouble of any description. Rushdi Pasha has served Egypt and Great Britain so well, and has displayed such unique qualities, that it is sincerely to be hoped that some means will speedily be found of lightening his task, which under existing conditions is stupendous for one man, so that he may be enabled as long as possible to devote to the service of the State the unflagging energy, courageous initiative, and sound judgment of which he has given proof." It will be easily understood that neither the Sultan nor the British Government desire a change in the premiership at this particular stage. Egypt has had a wonderful record during the war, and just at a time when notable developments are pending, in the economic as well as in the political sphere, it is most desirable that the country should have at the head of its affairs a man of the calibre and prestige of Rushdi Pasha.

No official statement of the reasons which have prompted the resignation appears to have been issued in Egypt. Rushdi Pasha's loyalty and the courage with which he has faced all the problems with which he has been confronted during his tenure of office are guarantees that he has taken the step under the genuine conviction that he is doing the right thing. From the frequent consultations that have been held since the resignation and from the delay on the part of the Sultan to accept it we may infer that neither side despaired at once of being able to adjust what must have been at worst a misunderstanding. The war has not only imposed a great physical strain upon statesmen and administrators: it has also raised expectations in the hearts of most people who, now that peace is within sight, are impatient to see them realised at once. The British Government can hardly have failed to appreciate Egypt's peculiar position. Two forces have been at work to determine her attitude during the last four years—the phenomenal prosperity of the country and the efficient manner in which the two Sultans and Rushdi Pasha's Cabinet have played their parts, loyal to the British connection, and recognising that the interests of Egypt were being defended alike in France and in Palestine. At the same time, it would be idle to suppose that the spirit that has stirred the nations of Europe had not also permeated to the banks of the Nile. Hopes have, no doubt, been formed in Egypt, and have even battened on a silence that was fortuitous, but which may have been regarded as giving consent. In the midst of a sudden crop of small States to which no one seems to dream of denying the fullest autonomy, some of the wisest heads among the Egyptians may have been attracted by the idea that with this general lowering, as it were, of the standard of constitutional development of independent nations there must be a proportionate change in the constitutional history of Egypt. To what extent such opinions have taken hold of individual Ministers has not been revealed, but we can imagine that in the absence of a perfectly frank exchange of views between the Cabinet and the British authorities—the "heart-to-heart talks" that President Wilson is finding so useful—the ground will have been prepared for misunderstandings. It was not to be expected that the British point of view should be perfectly understood in Egypt without any explanation. The necessity for bringing to England the Prime Ministers of the self-governing Dominions in order that both the Home and the Overseas Governments might have the advantage of frank discussion has been appreciated, and on all sides testimony has been borne to the valuable results. It would have been a graceful tribute to the services rendered by Rushdi Pasha if an invitation had been issued to him to come to England, in order that the British Government might take him into its confidence with regard to the proposed constitutional development of Egypt.

From India, from Ireland, and, perhaps, from Egypt, the attempt may be made to suggest to the Allied Conference some incongruity between the principles to which the Allies stand committed and Great Britain's attitude towards the three countries. But Britons have nothing to fear from the challenge when it is submitted to an informed and impartial tribunal. For rhetorical purposes it is the fashion in some quarters to point to Egypt as enjoying in the past complete autonomy under the suzerainty of Turkey, and to adduce as a retrograde step the tutelage in which she is now held by Great Britain. The false analogy ignores the servitude of the people that masqueraded under the name of autonomy and the personal liberty that they now enjoy, thanks to the presence of the British in Egypt. The very form of government in regard to which the critics claim the right to determine the exact gradation under which the country shall come is a British institution unknown to the Egyptians in the days of their so-called autonomy. They ignore, too, the evidence of history, which has proved how disastrous to the people have been the efforts of Egypt at self-government, however lucrative the process may have been to the governing classes. If the war has taught the nations anything, it should be to distrust shibboleths. Self-government is a worthy goal, but it loses all its merit, if it is to be synonymous with reaction, disorder, and economic retrogression. As the term is understood by some Egyptians, it means complete freedom to legislate without responsibility for the results, and without bearing any of the burdens that fall on self-governing States. Their whole political horizon is bounded by the Legislature; they give no thought to all the other things that are required to bring a country self-respect and prosperity, and have little patience with the conscientious efforts of Great Britain to pilot them along the road of real statecraft. Rushdi Pasha, we may feel confident, has no thought of associating himself with these extremists. But he may realise what expectations have been formed in the country, and may be disappointed at the pace at which Great Britain is setting out to meet them. If this should be the case, there can be little doubt that the misunderstanding can be satisfactorily adjusted, if sufficient care is exercised in explaining the British point of view, which is, after all, the one to which the judgment of the Allied Conference must subscribe.

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LABOURS OF HERCULES.

"Progress of Education in India, 1912-1917." By H. Sharp, C.S.I., C.I.E., Educational Commissioner with the Government of India. (Calcutta: Superintendent of Government Printing. Price Rs. 3-10, or 5s. 6d.)

In this volume Mr. Sharp summarises the results and the experience gained during five years in what is probably the most arduous task ever consciously undertaken in the history of the world, the development of an educational system which shall give the Indian millions a reasonable prospect of realising their latent capacities. The organisation he describes is vast and complex: it does not move swiftly or easily towards the goal; it rumbles, and creaks, and groans, and every now and then it seems to be hopelessly jammed, but when the experience of even so short a period as five years is studied as a whole the verdict must be that it moves. Such a study is made almost easy as the result of Mr. Sharp's labours; he handles the mass of repulsive, and sometimes sordid, detail in a workmanlike manner; his summary is eminently sane and fair, and his treatment of each successive topic inspires confidence in the reader. We have not the space to follow him through all the branches of the subject, and we shall confine our remarks to what appear to us to be the central problems of secondary and primary education.

The Indian Government began by providing the kind of education which was in demand, not the kind of which the country stood most in need. The demand was for a literary education, equipping the youth of the upper and middle classes for the law and for Government service, and as everyone knows it has been met with very fair success; the best of the Indian graduates are very good indeed, the rank and file are by no means to be despised, and the result is seen in the great improvement which has been effected in the work of the law courts and throughout the upper ranks of the administration. But this initial success has brought its Nemesis. The universities, moulded originally on a bad model, are not yet what the country needs: the colleges are clogged with hopeless aspirants for a degree, and the secondary schools are cramped and blighted by the excessive domination of the university courses. Despotism could cut the knot by restricting matriculation, but despotism has long been dead in India, and the practicable lines of improvement consist of university reform, development of vocational education, and establishment of the independence of the schools. In each of these lines Mr. Sharp is able to record an advance. During the last five years new types of universities have been worked out, and two of them have actually come into existence; they are certainly more promising than the old, but they are still experiments. The remaining universities are marking time pending the report of the Commission which is sitting in Calcutta, and from which so much is expected. As to vocational education the outlook is definitely hopeful: agricultural colleges are still in the stage of trial and error, but many mistakes have been rectified, and they are beginning to win their way; commercial education has made real progress, and in regard to some technical and industrial institutions Mr. Sharp's language is almost enthusiastic, while further progress may be looked for in this branch as the result of the labours of the Industrial Commission. The great hope for the schools is the substitution of a leaving examination for the ordinary university test; this reform still meets with strenuous opposition, but it is definitely if slowly gaining ground, and while there are difficulties at every step we may now look forward to a gradual approach to the ideal—secondary schools giving a sound education complete in itself, but also opening a door to further effort, whether at the universities or at institutions providing the much-needed training for industrial, agricultural, and commercial life.

In regard, then, to secondary education, the machine is moving, though slowly, on the right lines. The position of primary education is less satisfactory. At first there was no demand for anything of the kind, and the courses were shaped as introductions to the higher classes; the country is now beginning to feel the need for courses which shall be complete in themselves, and shall produce better peasants in the next generation, but of such courses there is as yet very little sign. Mr. Sharp says definitely that no solution is yet in sight; the curriculum depends on the quality of the teachers, the staff can barely cope with the present courses, inadequate though they are, and so primary education resolves itself largely into a system of day-nurseries, where young children are sent to school to be kept out of mischief, and from which they are taken away before they can learn anything worth learning. Most of the effort is undoubtedly wasted, and while political pressure may cause much money to be spent on large programmes of "expansion" the country is not getting appreciably nearer to the goal. As Mr. Sharp says, "it is impossible to rest content with an expansion of mass education on present lines, or with a system under which a large proportion of the pupils are infants stagnating in a crêche; the remainder glean only an acquaintance with the three R's, and only a small residue continue to the stages where some of the fruits of this labour can be reaped." That diagnosis may be accepted as accurate, and the only speedy remedy would be expenditure on improving the quality of the teaching on a scale which India is simply unable to afford. To quote Mr. Sharp again: "It is on economic progress that the future rests" India is poor because she is uneducated: she is uneducated because she is poor; and until adequate teaching is available the talk of compulsion is mere fustian. Here we stand on the solid ground of fact, and here we may fitly take leave of the subject, for neither statesmen nor politicians will do any good until they have learned that lesson and realised all that it implies.

THE KHALIFS DURING FOUR CENTURIES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Discussing certain developments that are likely to take place in the Near East in the immediate future, an Englishman recently expressed some interesting views regarding the Khalifate and the attitude towards its retention by Turkey assumed by certain Moslems. He spoke from a long experience of Turkey and the Turks, and as his opinions will probably be of interest to not a few readers of The Near East, they are here reproduced.

It will be remembered that, after the conquest of Egypt, Sultan Selim induced Mohammed, the twelfth Khalif of the family of Abbas, solemnly to transfer the Khalifate to the Ottoman Sultan and his successors. With the transfer, the insignia of that high office, the Sacred Standard, the Sword and Mantle of the Prophet, were taken possession of by Selim, who by right of conquest alone became Khalif, Vicar of the Prophet of God, Commander of the Faithful, and Supreme Imam of Islam. But from that time no less than sixteen of his successors in the Khalifate have been strangled or otherwise done to death. Within the last fifty years one Khalif has been murdered and two have been deposed, and quite recently, the Heir Apparent, Yussuf Izzedin, was murdered. One report says that he was strangled—and that would be quite in keeping with the old tradition: Amurath had no less than nineteen of his sons thus killed!

In all cases these Khalifs have been deposed or murdered by rabble mobs of Janissaries or discontented, rebellious Ottoman Turks. Had they been deposed by Christians, Moslems everywhere would have been up in arms. But when the Turks see fit to act thus Moslems in India, or elsewhere, have no objection; there is not a single instance of any protest. Onlookers may at least feel surprise at this quiescence.

The selection of the Khalif, the supreme Imam, Commander of the Faithful, has, in practice, ever been in the hands of a discontented people. Even the late Sultan was practically the nominee of the C.U.P. There is no evidence of the Moslems of India—or elsewhere—ever being consulted; no evidence that they have ever united to protest against the cruelties of a Khalif, or the irregularities of his ministers; no evidence of a protest on their part against the murder of the Vicar of God; no evidence of a protest against the domination of the Turk at Mecca or Medina; no protest against the attempts to suppress the Shereefs


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HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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of Mecca, the descendants of the Prophet. All this cannot appear otherwise than strange to the outsider.

Has not the time come for Indian and other Moslems to have some voice in the selection of the Commander of the Faithful? Would it not be in the best interest of the Sultan of Turkey that he should be relieved of the responsibility of a lordship over people who, though they may possibly have some sympathy with him personally, have none at all with his race? It would certainly be to the interest of Islam.

These questions are admittedly for Moslems alone to answer. But if the Moslem world should decide that the Khalifate must still continue at Stamboul it might bear in mind the excellent example provided by the case of the Vatican as the supreme head of the Roman Church. As to temporal rule at Constantinople, although that city may continue to be the City of Islam, its rule and government must be in the hands of some Power that can—and will—afford protection to the unfortunate peoples of Turkey, Christians and Moslems alike. For it is those people who will, in all probability, be called upon to protect not only the insignia of the Khalifate, but the Khalif himself.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CHAOS IN THE INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Is it not high time that postal communications with India should return to normal conditions? Our last mails, posted in Calcutta November 25, reached London January 3, after a hiatus of three weeks. An Indian correspondent of mine quotes a Reuter's cable to the effect that "the resumption of a weekly service was under discussion"; but no decision has yet been arrived at. The official list of sailings, which appeared on January 3, gives the dates of outward mails to most of our Colonies, while those of India were "not fixed"; and the P. and O. sailings are conspicuous by their absence. Apart from the huge volume of commercial transactions between Great Britain and India, there is scarcely a family in this country which is not inconvenienced or kept in suspense by the chaotic communication with India and the Far East.—I am, etc.,

January 5. SIGMA.

[An announcement regarding the Indian mails—made since our correspondent wrote—will be found on page 25.—ED.]

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I ask your indulgence for the following few words, written in answer to Miss M. E. Durham's letter in your issue of November 8? Miss Durham evidently is misinformed when she makes such statements regarding the population of Northern Epirus (Miss Durham calls it Southern Albania), their character, and the representation of Mehmed Bey.

First, Miss Durham ought to know the Turkish statistics of 1908 (See "La Questione Rumeliote," by Amadori Virgili, 1908), which gives the following numbers for the population of Northern Epirus: Greeks, 125,000; Mussulmans, 100,000. If we subtract the many thousands of Turks that are naturally included with the Mussulmans, we readily see that the Greeks form two-thirds of the population of Northern Epirus.

Secondly, Miss Durham does not take into consideration the very latest developments in the history of the Epirotic question—namely, the fact that 1,800 pupils have been registered in the Greek schools of Koritza within two days of their opening. Is not such a fact a true sign of the purely Hellenic aspirations of the Koritzans? And how about the statement of an Italian official, published in the *Tribuna*, of Rome? He says, from experience, that "the Greeks despise the Albanian language, while the Albanians do not care for it." Does Miss Durham want any more proof of the national sentiments of Northern Epirotes?

Thirdly, Miss Durham tries to evade the whole argument by calling the Northern Epirotes renegades. There cannot be the least doubt in the mind of any disinterested person that the Northern Epirotes who support one Greek college and 270 Greek schools, with 386 teachers and 13,982 pupils, of whom many are the sons of the Albanian beys and aghas, are the purest part of the Hellenic race, when, furthermore, we take into account their sacrifices for the Hellenic ideals and institutions during, especially, the last centuries.

As to the 60,000 Albanians being in America, Miss Durham is again misinformed. There is an Albanian Anoristion here in America, with about 1,000 members, while, on the other hand, there is also a Pan-Epirotic Union, with about forty branches, and representing 30,000 Epirotes in America, most of whom come from that disputed territory—namely, Northern Epirus.—I remain, etc.,

EVANGELOS C. DESPOTES,
Secretary of the Pan-Epirotic Union.

7, Water Street, Boston, Mass., U.S.A., December 16.

[The correspondence on this subject was closed to correspondents in this country two months ago, but we feel constrained to admit the above letter, from the United States, as time had not been allowed to the Pan-Epirotic Union to express its views.—ED.]

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

OMAR KHAYYAM.

One evening last week at a London terminus I ran across a party of soldiers who were obviously in the best of spirits. They had Union Jacks in their caps, and they were all beaming with happiness, so that it did one good to look at them. And presently I found myself in conversation with a couple of them, and learned that they were just home from Turkey. They had been captured in the south of Palestine, and had been held prisoners at Aleppo; and when they found that I knew the country they spoke out freely about it. Soon I learned that out of a batch of over 120 of them only 22 had survived the imprisonment. Naturally I seized the opportunity to ask whether they had been treated badly by the Turks. "No," one replied. "They didn't treat us badly—not from ill-will. They treated us just as they treated their own men. But they are an ignorant lot, and didn't know how to treat men at all." Then another man struck in. "That is so," he said. "And malarial fever killed us off and gave us a right down bad time. But the Turks had it, too." That struck me as a decent, manly way to speak of one's enemies—which, of course, is just what one would expect of our own men of the right type, such as these men were. I don't wish to whitewash the Turk. To tell the truth, I am pretty well disgusted with him. But I do want to get at the truth about him—if that be possible! And such evidence seems to me valuable.

***

This reminds me of some remarks made by another ex-prisoner of the Turk, an officer this time. He was in durance vile at one of the "best" camps in Asia Minor, and seems to have had comparatively good luck in most ways; so that he was able to see the humorous side of his captivity. And, he assured me, it was "quite reminiscent of comic opera at times." The guards were typical of the country in its old days: venerable gentlemen in still more venerable garments and carrying "rifles" of a positively astonishing antiquity. My informant described the changing of sentries as an intensely funny ceremony. One old Pistol would slouch up to the post of observation, and the other, whom he was about to relieve, would detach a ragged belt from his middle, and draw from some obscure pocket, or fold, of his nether garments a cotton bag containing one or two cartridges, and hand them over to the "relief." These things constituted his badges of office, as it were; and, having made them over, Pistol Number Two would then withdraw, presumably to the sanctity of his harem. The old gentlemen appear to have inspired a feeling of humorous liking in some of their "prisoners." My friend told me with great enjoyment of seeing one of the veterans calmly tilt his rifle upside down and shake from the barrel the tobacco which he kept stored there. It all sounded so like the *old* Turkey that I found myself cursing the Envers, Talaats, and the rest of the "Young Turks" who have done the country to death.

***

An officer writing from Persia complains bitterly of the heartless and revolting cruelty shown by natives of that country and of Mesopotamia to animals. "I have often," he writes, "had to shoot donkeys and camels left on the roadside in a pitiable condition, their flesh ripped open.

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the bones bare to the light." Most travellers in the East could bear witness that this statement is no exaggeration of what one may see along any much-used caravan route; and most of us have felt our blood boil at the sight of the poor dumb brutes' sufferings. Yet it would be unfair to condemn the owners of these poor animals for failing to put them out of their misery. For, as I was told by an experienced traveller when I protested indignantly against leaving a wretched donkey to die in the mud—my first sight of the kind—the Moslem regards it as sinful to take life in such circumstances; so that in declining to do so he is only acting up to his lights. My friend told me that on one occasion, soon after his arrival in the East, he shot a mule that had been left to die by the roadside and was being tortured by vultures. The result was that he was mobbed and very nearly killed himself as a "wicked" man. And never again, he assured me, would he care to risk such an experience.

***

The callousness of the Oriental in the matter of his hard-working beasts is, however, an ugly feature in his character. Probably by reason of the rough time that he himself has, the muleteer is the worst offender; and he is at his very worst, I think, in his apprentice stage. The ship's boy, we are told, lets off his temper on the ship's cat, being himself the recipient of all the ship's company's kicks and abuse. Similarly, the muleteer's boy behaves like a little fiend to the poor mules and donkeys in his caravan; and if any particular donkey is unfortunate enough to be told off as his particular property, words fail me to describe his treatment of the wretched little beast. To see the youthful *munkari* sitting far back on the diminutive animal, prodding it incessantly—literally incessantly, mark you!—with a stout needle, or else with a piece of sharpened wood, is a sight to make your gorge rise. The animal's rump always shows raw and bleeding patches from such treatment. I still remember with satisfaction certain transactions in which young muleteers and an English riding whip made acquaintance, on my introduction. This cruelty to the animals robs caravan travel of much of its pleasure, and it is hard to save the dumb creatures, try how one may. The muleteers seem to be constitutionally incapable of realising that a mule, let alone a donkey, has any feelings at all.

***

A football headline in the "Sudan Times" reads:—

ARTILLERY 0, CAMELS 4.

All I can say is that if camels have taken to playing football, I trust I may never form one of the opposing team. Imagine camels in a "scrum." I am not surprised to read that the "camels asserted their superiority." It was plucky of the Artillery to face them!

CORSAIR.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The "Problem" of Syria—

Writing in the *Observer* (January 5) on the subject of "Syria: A Problem of the Near East," M. Philippe Millet declares that there is little doubt that the provisional arrangement made between France and England in 1916 "would be unsatisfactory to all the parties concerned, not excepting the inhabitants of Syria, were they carried out without some important alterations." He continues:—

Take Syria first. According to what is known of the 1916 arrangement, Syria was to be divided into two parts, one (the Lebanon and the coast) to be placed under a sort of French control, the other (Damascus, Aleppo) to be made an entirely different State attached to the Hedjaz Confederacy, and still under some remote French influence the nature of which remained undefined. A somewhat artificial boundary had been traced in the south in order to divide the French from the British zone. Now Syria consists, of course, of very heterogeneous peoples, as the Maronites have disagreed for centuries with the Mohammedans of Damascus, with the Druses of the Hauran, or with the Ansahries, not to mention other sects of an even more curious nature. These peoples are plainly quite unable to give up murdering each other unless some civilised Power acts as an umpire between them and undertakes to train them until they are ripe for self-government. Still, there is an unmistakable desire among them to preserve the unity of Syria. History, geographical conditions, community of language and of civilisation, have created a link between them of which they will grow more and more conscious as time will pass. It would be a fatal mistake to treat Syria as a territory of Central Africa and divide it in such a way that its future political unity became impossible.

The cutting up of Syria would be equally unsatisfactory from a purely French standpoint, says M. Millet. He proceeds to cite France's interests in that region, including the "moral protectorate . . . . over the Maronites," and continues:—

But it is only too obvious that if Damascus and Aleppo were made a sort of dependency of the Hedjaz instead of remaining politically a part of Syria, France might find herself shut out from the very part of Syria where French railways were the most important before the war, and where French is the most commonly spoken of all European languages. She would remain at the door instead of being allowed to enter the building. Suppose she were to send some technical advisers to the Syrian Government: these would be unable to frame a general programme of public works for the whole country. The task of developing Syria would become an impossible one.

M. Millet is of opinion that "the arrangements in question" do not appear any better from a British standpoint.

If France has a vital interest in not being expelled from the Eastern Mediterranean, the interests of the British Empire in the Near East are perhaps even more vital, as Egypt and Arabia are now more and more the very bulwark of India. No other influence than the British must therefore be allowed to penetrate the Hedjaz, which is the kernel of the Arabic world. Moreover, Britain must be in a position safely to connect Egypt with Mesopotamia by means of a strategic railway, over which she must exert a complete control. Finally, it is doubtful whether Mosul, which under the 1916 arrangement was to be attached to the French zone, ought to be separated from Baghdad. For all these reasons it seems that the strategical defence of the British Empire makes it necessary to come to some more definite understanding concerning the Hedjaz, Palestine, and Mosul, instead of leaving these points in the dark, as appears to have been done in 1916.

Fortunately, it is not too late to correct past mistakes.

In the first place, the borders of Syria must be traced according to history and geography, so that at no future moment the Syrians may complain that France and Britain have disregarded their true interests. Then a clear delimitation must be made between what is to be under French influence and what is to be in the British zone. Though neither France nor Britain contemplate establishing colonies or protectorates in that part of the world, it is clearly vital to both of them that their local agents should have no opportunity of fighting each other, as local agents are so fond of doing. This would certainly happen if Damascus, for instance, while being included in a so-called French zone, should at the same time keep certain links with the Hedjaz, a kingdom placed under British influence. It would be much the same if the future British strategical railway going from Egypt to Baghdad were to cross a territory placed under French influence. Grievances would have no end. Apart from empty diplomatic formulas, nothing is certainly more menacing to the future of Franco-British happiness than the existence throughout the world of worthy local agents of both countries who try to be zealous.

M. Millet concludes:—"On the contrary, a fair and clear settlement of the Near Eastern question would conduce more than anything else to bring both countries closer to each other. It is in the Near East that the local Franco-British co-operation which ought to take place in all parts of the world could best be started."

—And the Future of Palestine.

The future of Palestine is dealt with in a couple of notes in the *Zionist Review*. The first refers in complimentary terms to the visit of Prince Feisul, and goes on to say:—

In the course of an interview given to a Reuter correspondent the Prince explained his attitude and that of the Arab kingdom to the question of Palestine. He emphasised the complete solidarity of Arab and Jewish interests, and made it clear that from the point of view of the new Arab kingdom a Jewish Palestine will be very welcome. It is in the highest degree satisfactory to know that a Judæo-Arab entente has been established. The two national claims will strengthen each other at the Peace Conference. Both are equally threatened by the iniquities of the secret treaties of 1915 and by any attempt to solve Near Eastern problems on lines which take no account of the rights of renascent nationalities. A Jewish Palestine assured of the friendship of its Arab neighbours will have the best guarantee of the possibility of peaceful development; and the new Arabia will stand to gain much from the assistance that Jewish energy and resource can afford it. Nor is a Judæo-Arab entente a purely mechanical or material arrangement, for there are great spiritual possibilities in the closer contact of two civilisations of kindred origin which have in the past contributed jointly to human progress.

The second note deals with the highly important subject of the boundaries of Palestine. It runs:—

One question which demands adjustment between Jews and Arabs is that of the boundaries of Palestine. There is here no inherent divergence of interests, and on the basis of the satisfactory general agreement which has been established a proper settlement of this particular question should present no difficulty. The interests which stand in the way of such a delimitation of the frontiers of Palestine as will afford adequate room and security for Jewish development are precisely those which are inimical to legitimate Arab demands. In this matter, as in others, Jews and Arabs must agree among themselves and stand together against the common foe. From the Jewish point of view the aim must be to secure those boundaries which are dictated by history and by economic considerations. We note that this demand was put forward at a recent Jewish meeting in Rome, at which the American Ambassador was present and the British Ambassador was represented.

Article to Note.

"Constantinople Under the Armistice," in *The Times*, January 10.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

News from India regarding the condition of the various piece goods markets has been much more reassuring during the past few weeks. Private advices received by telegram intimate that the sensational slump which took place on the cessation of hostilities has been followed by a reaction. In many lines of regular imports a recovery has been recorded of 15 to 20 per cent., and this, it should be noted, has taken place in the middle of the slack season. Prices are still far below Manchester levels, and it is not likely, therefore, that fresh contracts will be made until a readjustment of values comes in sight. Reports indicate that the fall in prices may squeeze out weak holders, but the stronger houses are holding on for an upward movement.

***

Should the winter rainfall be satisfactory there is every reason to expect a considerable improvement, because stocks are not excessive. Distribution has been slow, and this is, no doubt, due chiefly to the disinclination on the part of consumers to accept the higher level of prices which has been established. The sudden fall was largely due to sentiment aroused by the end of the war, but it was also the natural result of reckless speculation in all kinds of piece goods. Markets should gradually become steadier, and, while the outlook for the moment is not without anxiety, there is no reason to anticipate a state of panic.

***

The suggestion was made when the members of the Greek Commercial Mission were in this country that it would be an excellent thing for the development of Anglo-Greek trade relations if a British Manufacturers' Exhibition were to be held in Athens in the spring or autumn of the present year. This plan has been approved by the Overseas Trade Committee of the Federation of British Industries, and steps are now being taken to organise the exhibition. I understand that M. Venizelos has offered the Federation the free use of the Zappeion Exhibition building, and as much land at Phaleron as may be required. It is suggested that the exhibits of British finished articles should be shown in the Zappeion building, and that the land at Phaleron should be utilised for showing machinery at work, agricultural tractors, for instance. The probable date of the exhibition will be some time in the autumn.

***

I need scarcely say that I am in entire agreement with the idea of an exhibition. There is nothing like seeing things for oneself, and, provided the exhibition contains as good a selection of British manufactures as we may reasonably expect, its influence on Anglo-Greek trade relations should be very great. Thanks to the Mission, many of the most important Greek business men are quite well aware of the wide field covered by British manufacturers, and also, let us hope, of the superiority of British articles over similar products from other countries; and the good work done by the visit of the Greek delegates should be completed by the exhibition, through which British manufacturers will be able to come into contact with practically every Greek importer.

***

The arranging of such an exhibition is naturally a long and expensive business, and it would be more than a pity, once a really representative collection of British goods was in the Near East, if the occasion were not seized to exhibit it in other countries in that part of the world. I understand that there is no intention of letting the opportunity pass, and that, after the exhibition has been on view at Athens, it may be moved to another important centre in the Near East. Bucharest would seem to suggest itself in this connection. I am sure, at any rate, that the Federation could select no centre in the Near East where their enterprise would be more likely to be pre-eminently successful.

***

It is greatly to be hoped that the Government in relaxing its control of commerce will avoid pitfalls similar to those which have caused difficulties in connection with military demobilisation. There is very little doubt that feeling in business circles is as pronounced as it seems to be among some of the soldiers, though it naturally would not show itself in the same way. What the Government must bear in mind is that expert advice, while admirable for war purposes, carries with it disadvantages, if only that it may breed the suspicion that those who are called in to advise cannot help bearing their own businesses in mind.

***

By way of illustration, let us suppose there was a Controller of Peg Tops, a business in which he himself was interested, and that in due course he took control of all peg tops in the country. After State requirements have been satisfied, there must always be the danger that the surplus will be dealt with in a way that may be more advantageous, say, to a single business than to the community as a whole. At least, the undue retention of Peg Top Control will cause some people to think so.

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I am glad to hear that Mr. Robert Naville, Director-General of the Banque Franco-Serbe, has arrived safely at Salonika with the staffs of the Serbian offices, en route for Belgrade, where it is hoped to reopen the Bank in the very near future.

Another welcome item of news is that Mr. Arthur Nias and Mr. Steeg have arrived safely in Constantinople.

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The interesting announcement is made that the International Sleeping Car Company propose to re-establish the Orient express from Paris to Constantinople immediately conditions render it possible. It is hoped that the service will be started by the summer—if not earlier. Before the war the route from Paris lay through Strassburg, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, and Sofia; but when the service is resumed it will not touch German territory. The Orient express will run to Milan from Paris by the Mont Cenis or Simplon route, and then through Venice, Trieste, Agram, Nish, and Sofia to Constantinople. From Nish a section will run to Uskub, Salonika, and Larissa, to Athens.

***

The re-establishment of the Orient express to Constantinople will be only the first step in the development of communications with the East. It is proposed to extend the service to permit of direct connection between France and the Holy Land, and it is thought that by the end of this year there will be a direct service between Paris and Jerusalem. The final stage will, of course, be reached when the Baghdad Railway has been completed, and if and when London, by a Channel tunnel is in direct communication with Paris. It will then be practicable to travel direct from London to the terminus of the Baghdad line near the Persian Gulf. In this connection it may be noted that while the general manager of the Baghdad Railway Company recently stated that the line might possibly be completed within less than two years, the view has been expressed elsewhere that it will be finished much earlier, so that the day may not be far distant when it will only be necessary to proceed to Paris to travel straight to Baghdad without a change.

***

While on the subject of a route to the East, it may be pointed out that the war has been responsible for interesting developments in another direction, for, owing to the submarine campaign, it was found desirable to shorten our lines of communication along the Mediterranean, and a new way overland to the Near East was adopted from Cherbourg to Taranto, where a new port was constructed.

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I learn that while Greece is short of most commodities, there are exceptions, notably inferior cotton shirtings, imported from Spain, and glass. These commodities are held to such an extent that attempts are being made to re-export them. It is said that there is enough glass in Greece for glazing purposes to supply the requirements of the country for over a year, but despite this there is such a shortage of glass on the market that people have had to take glass from picture-frames to repair their windows. Rather a piquant situation, is it not?

COMMENTATOR.

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SUDAN TRADE NOTES.

The Gum Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, December 7.

There are only two main sources of the supply of gum, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and Senegal. The qualities of gum found in the two colonies are slightly different, and they are used for different purposes. The French colony exports almost entirely to France alone, and it is believed that the gum is largely used for the preparation of silk. It has no doubt uses similar to the Sudan gum, as for instance for sweets and medicines, but the two gums find on the whole distinct markets. The greater part of the Sudan gum was before the war exported to Hamburg, whence it was sent all over the world. The reason why it went to Hamburg was that the trade in the Sudan was chiefly in the hands of German and Austrian merchants who paid off their debts to the banks in Germany by consignments of gum, or found that they could obtain advantageous shipping terms from their compatriots at Hamburg under the subsidy system. The result was that the trade which had previously gone to Hull was transferred to Hamburg, and the control of the market was in German hands. A recent note by the Sudan Chamber of Commerce draws attention to the methods of the German agents, and the inference is that the so-called agent was frequently a principal acting on his own behalf as against his client whose money he used to enable him to "rig" the market. For instance it is alleged that it was the custom for such and such an agent to quote a "price of the day" to his clients, when as a matter of fact no such price existed, and the price was an arbitrary one fixed by the agent for the purpose of doing business, and that he would then sell to his clients at a price that he had himself fixed.

The outbreak of war compelled the firms who deal in this commodity to find new agents, and the result has been that two firms have established their own agents at Khartoum to buy for them. These two, Messrs. Laing and Sons and Messrs. A. G. Kingston and Co., take about 25 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively of the crop, and there is a Greek firm, Messrs. Caraponyoti, which has an office in London and deals largely with London that has perhaps another quarter of the total crop. This leaves but a small amount for the few other merchants who deal in gum.

The new season has barely begun and it is too early to venture to say how the gum market may run. It is said that the stocks in Great Britain are considerable, but as trade opens up with greater shipping facilities it is not unreasonable to suppose that the stocks will be taken up by countries that have been unable to obtain their requirements recently. Certainly the demand from America seems to indicate that the supply of chewing gum can be augmented. It will be to a great degree the question of shipping that will affect the future of this commodity, and if the conditions of subsidised shipping be continued by the Germans as before there is still some risk that this trade, a small one, no doubt, but at present one that can be kept entirely in British hands, may lapse to the Germans again. It is to be hoped that the efforts of British firms, and the conditions of shipping after the war, will combine to keep the business in British hands.

The Millet Harvest.

The price of millet during the end of October and in November rose very considerably, so much so indeed that the poor were beginning to suffer, and it seemed possible that measures might have to be taken to control the price with greater precision than had hitherto been necessary. Gradually, however, when it became known that there would be no great demand for export, as the army in Palestine would not require any supply, prices fell, but still remained much higher than the circumstances seem to justify. There is said to be a very large quantity stored in the villages where the millet is grown, but it is not being put upon the market. As the new crop is gathered, and confidence increases, the price will be further reduced, and it is hoped that it will have a favourable effect on the cost of labour, which is at present very high, and disproportionately so to the value of it.

It is said that there is still a considerable dearth in Eretria, and if this is repeated in Abyssinia or in the northern parts of it, some local discontent may arise. In any case the population in the latter country is so great that assistance would be required on a scale far larger than the Sudan could meet, and the import would no doubt be controlled from the sea. Recent reports from the south give the impression that the local supply may suffice to feed the people though it may be necessary to distribute in some districts. The rain has fallen in some parts and the resultant harvest, if the rain continues long enough, will be of the greatest assistance, as without it the relief may extend to a considerable area, and the difficulty of transport in "fly" areas makes carriage of any large quantities extremely serious.

On the whole, as far as the Northern Sudan is concerned, there is little to apprehend, provided that the market is limited to the supply of local needs only. In the south it remains to be seen what the situation will be, but with care there should be no serious famine.

Trade Improving.

Khartoum, December 23.

After a considerable slump in trade the position has improved, and although there is not a brisk movement in the market, there is a great improvement on the stagnation of the last few weeks. It appears that the natives are beginning to understand that it will be impossible for pre-war conditions to return at once and they are resuming business.

Some apprehension has been felt over the supply of wheat flour in the larger towns of the Sudan. The price of the loaf in Khartoum has advanced very considerably, but the quality is better, and it is to be supposed that this will limit the consumption of wheat bread to those to whom it is a necessity as opposed to the natives who prefer to eat bread mixed with a very large quantity of millet. The prices of other locally grown comestibles have gone down, and meat is a great deal cheaper. This is due to a smaller demand from Egypt.

The price of millet continues to rule very high although it is not so excessive as it was. The new crop will be soon on the market and that should tend to reduce the price, but there seems to be a strong tendency on the part of the natives to store their crop against eventualities.

The London Chamber of Commerce has sent the following reply to a telegram from the Salonika Chamber of Commerce, which asked for its support with a view to the realisation of Greek ideals in Thrace and Asia Minor: "The London Chamber of Commerce sympathises with the tenor of your despatch, and has already come to an understanding on this subject with competent authorities."

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR YUGOSLAVIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

An interesting series of articles appeared recently in *L'Esplorazione Commerciale*, of Milan, over the signature of Signor A. M. Annoni, entitled "Economic Yugoslavia." One fact appears prominently from this able review, namely the vast potential wealth of the prospective Yugoslavia. Bosnia and Herzegovina alone had a population in 1912 of 1,898,000 inhabitants, of which 85 per cent. were engaged in agriculture. Forty-six per cent. of the area of the two provinces is forest land, and yet they reared the following live-stock: horses, 222,000; cattle, 1,309,000; goats, 1,393,000; sheep, 2,500,000; pigs, 527,000—that is a greater number per head and per acre than any other country in Europe. Four-fifths of the rich forest lands was the property of the Austro-Hungarian Crown, and automatically comes as a legacy to the Southern Slav exchequer. Tre following are the chief towns of Bosnia and Herzegovina with their population in 1910:—Serajevo, 51,919; Mostar, 16,392; Banjaluka, 14,800; Tuzla, 11,333; Bijelina, 10,061; Senica, 7,315; Bihac, 6,200; Travnik, 6,200; Breko, 6,047; Dervent, 5,365; and Prijedor, 5184. Croatia-Slovenia had in 1913 an estimated population of 2,622,000, and Agram, the capital of Croatia, 79,000 inhabitants. Economic statistics are difficult to obtain, as they are all lumped under the rubric "Kingdom of Hungary." Esseg, the capital of Slovenia, had a population of 31,000.

To the foregoing must be added Dalmatia, a bone of contention between Italy and Yugoslavia. It had in 1913 a population of 667,648, or 52 persons per square kilometre, compared with Austria's 97, Hungary's 66, and Bosnia-Herzegovina's 37. Spalato (31,449), Zara (35,000), Obrovazzo (14,000), Sebenico (9,000), Ragusa (7,140), and Cattaro (5,450) are the chief centres of population. According to Signor Annoni, 90 per cent. of the people of Dalmatia are Serbo-Croats, and the remainder Italian.

TRADE WITH PALESTINE AND SYRIA

The Board of Trade have issued a general licence authorising the resumption of trade with Palestine and Syria as far north as a line from Alexandretta to Aleppo inclusive, and as far east as the Hejaz Railway inclusive.

An Order in Council has also been made the effect of which will be to allow the exportation to these territories without a War Trade Department licence of all articles other than those on lists "A" and "B" of prohibited exports, *i.e.*, of all articles except those the exportation of which to all foreign destinations requires a licence. It will still be necessary for an import licence to be obtained from the Department of Import Restrictions before arrangements are made to import from the territories any goods covered by the Prohibition of Import Proclamations.

The general licence, while permitting the resumption of trade, does not remove certain existing restrictions in respect of the payment of pre-war debts and the remittance of money for the purpose of subscriptions to a loan or capital issue or for the purchase of securities.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the ten days ended December 10 amounted to £E12,991, making the total for the year £E245,412. The corresponding figures for 1917 were £E,10,866 and £E179,920.

Messrs. Lionda and Co., Ltd., have opened a branch office at Liverpool.

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INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Effects of the War.

When the history of this war comes to be written at a time when it is possible to view the events of the past four and a half years from an unbiassed standpoint, it is certain that the remarkable stimulus given to India's industries by the exigencies of the struggle will be given high rank among the economic results of the war. Not to mince words, the past four and a half years have been to India on a small scale what the industrial revolution was to this country In 1914 she was in the main an agricultural community, with here and there important industries which mostly owed their origin to the initiative of British business men. Few people would have ventured then to predict a great future for India away from the land, for conditions in the widest sense of the word seemed unfitted for industrialism. Then the war broke out, and the circumstances that followed in its train changed everything for India, with the result that to-day the country, while only on the threshold of her development, has at any rate a firm foundation on which to build industrial progress. And it is this fact which makes it possible to look forward with something akin to optimism to the working out of the plans of the Industrial Commission. Had a similar attempt been made to develop the country before the war it is difficult to see how anything but failure could have attended it. At the best success would have been achieved only after a long period of waiting. It needed the spur of a great emergency to bring forth India's latent powers, and as it is, in consequence of the developments caused by the war, it may be anticipated that the adoption of the recommendations of the Commission will not be long in bearing results in the form of a rapid economic advance.

Causes of Progress.

Of the factors responsible for the progress made by Indian industries during the war one was, of course, the shortage of shipping, which necessitated strict economy in tonnage, and led the Indian Government to take steps to prevent the importation of commodities which were being, or could be, manufactured in the country by the diversion by means of the priority system and its control over home indents of all orders for articles from the United Kingdom and elsewhere to manufacturers in India and by the giving of assistance to individuals and firms desiring to import plant or to engage experts and skilled labour from home or elsewhere to establish new industries or develop old ones. Another was India's growing share in the war in the Eastern theatres which rendered desirable a great increase in India's output of war supplies in order to conserve the resources of the Allies. The work of co-ordination thus entailed imposed a heavy additional burden on the administration, and, eventually, early in 1917, it was felt necessary to set up a separate control with a view to the full development of India's war activities, and the Indian Munitions Board was accordingly established "to control and develop Indian resources with special reference to the needs created by the war." The success of the Board has been very remarkable, and when it is borne in mind that the Board's power to further the industrial development of the country has been limited to directions which would support war activities, a phase which, of course, covers encouragement to manufacturers by the diversion of orders from the United Kingdom and elsewhere to manufacturers in India, it must be admitted that the outlook is most promising.

In surveying India's war time progress it is necessary to divide what has been done under two heads—namely, the development of existing industries and the creation of new industries. As regards the former the position may aptly be illustrated by a few comparisons of purchases of certain manufactures with the figures for the year before the war. In 1918, for instance, 21,000,000 yards of Indian made khaki drill was purchased by the Government, against the small total of 260,000 yards taken for Army purposes in 1913-14. Purchases of grey and bleached cloths amounted to 9,000,000 yards, against 350,000 yards; of webbing and tapes, which were formerly mainly imported, to 49,000,000 yards; of flannel to 850,000 yards, against 32,000 yards; and of puttees to 1,500,000 pairs, against 37,000 pairs. Then the manufacture of boots for Government has increased to 2,000,000 pairs a year, against a total of less than 100,000 in 1913-14. This list might be greatly extended, but the examples given will suffice to show what has been achieved in the direction of utilising India's raw materials in India. In one case in particular this development has been specially gratifying, and that is in connection with Indian hides, which, as our readers know well, were mainly exported before the war to the enemy countries. In 1913 the exports of raw hides amounted to 1,132,384 cwt. while the exports of tanned hides only totalled 194,763 cwt. The military requirements for boots, referred to above, for harness, saddlery, and other things naturally led to a great increase in tanning in India, with the result that while the export of raw hides in 1917-18 was about a third of the 1913 level, the exports of tanned hides had risen to 361,674 cwt.

New Industries.

The policy that has been pursued with regard to new industries was explained at length by Sir George Barnes in a recent statement submitted to the Imperial Legislative Council in the course of which he said that the Board had paid special attention to the development of chemical industries in India, on the existence of which depended the possibility of the sound growth of indigenous industries, and to the development of what might be called "key" industries. Thus among the new industries are the manufacture of caustic soda, magnesium chloride, thymol, sandalwood oil, copperas, zinc chloride, and refined nitre. Ferro-manganese is now being produced in large quantities; micanite is being manufactured by two companies, and great progress has been made in the production of accessories for the textile and tea industries, and of silicate bricks for lining furnaces. Finally, every encouragement has been given to the building of wooden ships.

This brief sketch of Indian development under the stern necessities of war may fitly be closed by a reference to a notable speech made by Lord Ronaldshay recently in which he reviewed the industrial position in Bengal, and pointed out how the great demands for certain commodities had reacted in the direction of furthering the growth of other enterprises. A case in point is provided by the jute industry. Calcutta's export of bags increased from 367 million bags in 1913-14 to 803 million in 1916-17, and the industry's growth, he pointed out, had led to the establishment of subsidiary industries for the manufacture of articles required in the jute mills such as machinery, bobbins, plane tree rollers, etc., which were imported before the war. This process has been going on in connection with many other industries such as the tea trade, for instance, whose requirements of a million to a million and a half of tea chests will, it is hoped, henceforth be forthcoming from Bengal and Assam instead of being imported from Russia and Japan. For this production of tea chests it is necessary to have various subsidiary industries such as lead mills, and nail and rivet factories, and the progress in this direction may be gathered from Lord Ronaldshay's statement that the last gap in this chain is being filled in so that everything necessary for the construction of a tea chest will be produced in the country. It may be added that a feature of the progress in Bengal has been the encouragement given to cottage industries. Possibly this is a passing phase; it is to be hoped not, since its continuance would help to safeguard India from the industrial troubles that have been the lot of more advanced countries.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated January 2, 1919.

Slight beneficial rains in parts of Bombay. Local rain in parts Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Rajputana. Light rains also in South-East of Madras.

Bombay Cotton Market continues irregular. Fully good Broach April-May delivery quoted 638 Rupees a candy.

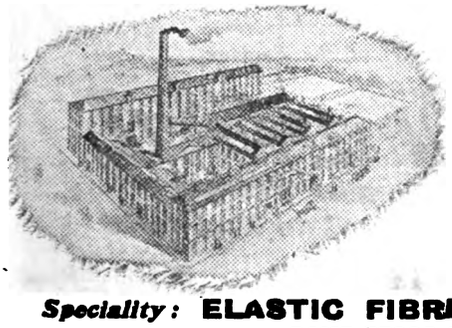
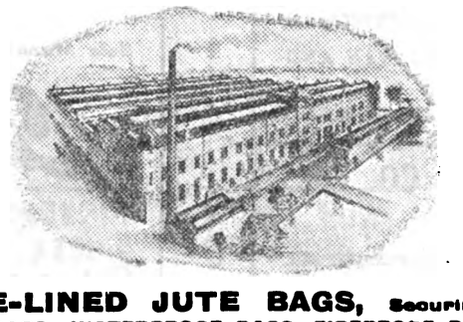
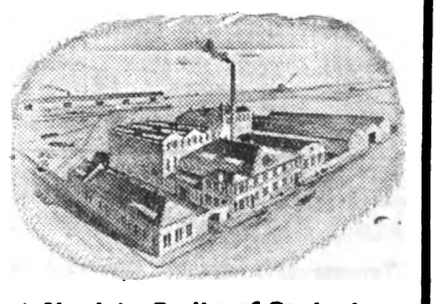
Railway reconnaissance surveys have been sanctioned. Parbatipur Bonarpara Chord 50 miles (East Bengal Railway); Nowgong to Chhatarpur 17 miles and branches thence to Rajgarh 24 miles and to Bijwar 20 miles. This is probably the Great Indian Peninsular Railway.

Government of Bombay has sanctioned the formation of Pioneer Magnesia Company for making trial on large commercial scale for manufacture of magnesium chloride and sulphate from bitterns found at the Pritchard Salt Works, Kharaghoda.

A telegram has been received from the Government of India stating that a notification was issued on December 28, transferring to Indian prohibition list "D" capsicum, pepper, corundum including rubies and sapphires, carbonado, carborundum, garnets, casings, diamonds, hemp, rubber and silk noils and waste.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Montenegro's Natural Wealth.

From the aspect of the country and the habits of the people Montenegro has often been called the Switzerland of the East. As in that country the surface forms a series of elevated ridges with lofty mountain peaks, many of which are covered with excellent forests; whilst considerable areas of arable land adjacent to streams and rivers occur in the lower regions. However, notwithstanding these natural resources, Montenegro hitherto, like other States in the Balkan Peninsula, has been doomed to industrial stagnation. The prevailing political conditions in the past discouraged any attempt in the direction of industrial development or the exploitation of the country's natural resources. Hence, with a population greatly diminished by emigration, Montenegro was confined to ordinary agricultural pursuits, the chief products of the land being maize, potatoes, sumac, cattle, castradina (smoked mutton), hides, and tobacco (the latter on a small scale); whilst the country's exports were on the average about one-fifth of the total imports. Yet if the country was properly developed it might be for its size one of the most productive states in the Balkan Peninsula.

Land Reclamation.

In previous engineering notes we pointed out the great economic advantages that would accrue to Montenegro by the diversion of the Drin River to its original bed and by the dredging of the Boyana River. By the first operation some 150,000 acres of very fertile land would be reclaimed, half of which, in the vicinity of the Boyana and Lake Scutari, is within the present Montenegrin territory; whilst by the second operation the Boyana River would be navigable for coasting vessels right up to Scutari from Palai, a small town at the mouth of the Boyana, which, as we suggested, might become the little Liverpool of Montenegro in the Adriatic. Thus the State would become an important commercial country.

Mineral Resources.

Apart from the benefits to be derived from the development of the above scheme, it is evident that Montenegro possesses considerable mineral wealth; for according to recent observations it seems likely, that an examination by experts will also disclose large mineral deposits in the country. A prolific vein of iron, which may well contain millions of tons, it is asserted, runs from Southern Dalmatia via the Sutorman Pass, into Montenegrin territory. Coal has also been found at Berane, mineral oil at Virpazar, and quicksilver near Ulcinj. It is said that during the war the prospects of this mineral wealth have much improved owing to the development of the roads.

Openings for Machinery.

In dealing with the trade prospects in the Near East, a leading technical contemporary stated that "all authorities on after-war trade are agreed that the Near East is a field of operations that must be cultivated by British manufacturers." This has repeatedly been emphasised in these columns before as well as during the war. But unfortunately there is an apparent apathy on the part of manufacturers which evidently no arguments can alter. In the meantime French, Italian, American, Indian and even Japanese engineering firms are doing their best to introduce their products, and establish business in those markets, especially in Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia, where modern agriculture is being developed at a rapid rate and agricultural machinery is much wanted. What has often been stated in these columns our contemporary reiterates by asserting that "the extensive agricultural plains of the Aleppo, Damascus Hama, and Hausan district, as far afield as Gaza, offer immense possibilities for development," but in the absence of adequate energy on the part of British manufacturers to secure these markets it is obvious that the buyers will accept what is offered to them by others; and once business is established it will be very difficult for late comers to enter the market.

The Germans, with their singular capacity for trade development, gauged the prospects of these markets before the war, and any trade in implements that was done was nearly all theirs. There is no fear, of course, of the Germans reappearing there at present, but there are other countries with a marked capacity for trade development who will certainly not allow these markets to be neglected.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA

An extraordinary meeting of the National Bank of India will be held on Jan. 21 for the purpose of passing resolutions increasing the capital from £2,000,000 to £4,000,000 by the creation of 80,000 shares of £25 each, and authorising the directors to offer 40,000 of these shares to existing members in proportion to their respective holdings at a premium of £7 10s. per share, on the terms that the premium and £2 10s. per share be made payable on application, and £10 per share on May 31, 1919. the new shares to participate pari passu with the existing shares in the final (but not the interim) dividend to be declared in respect of operations for the twelve months ending December 31, 1919.

British India trade returns for November show that imports decreased by £3,540,000, and exports decreased by £2,234,000, compared with the figures for the same month in 1917.

The Madras Pencil Company was the successful tenderer for the Madras Government's pencil factory at Washermanpet.

The *Syren and Shipping* has just published a mercantile "War Loss Book," containing an alphabetical list of steamships destroyed during the war, together with a list of the losses of the world's principal steamship companies. The publication is priced at 2s. 6d.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Products.

The C.E.B. report for October states that during the month 126 tons of talk gum were exported from Sennar Province. 6,144 kantars were sold in El Obeid market, as against 4,767 kantars last year. The average price was £E1.470 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). 1,283 kantars arrived from Nahud, as against 6,073 kantars last year.

Cotton.

As regards the cotton outlook in Berber Province it is stated that at Gendetu (Shendi) on October 20, cotton (270 feddans) could hardly have looked better at this stage, except for a limited area where it had been flooded by rain-water, and occasional patches of high ground.

In Kassala Province the cotton crop on the Gash Delta was progressing well in September.

Dura and Dukhn.

The price of dura rose to PT247 per ardeb in Berber Province in October. Fifteen ardebs of dukhn were sold in El Obeid market during the month, the average price being PT220 per ardeb of 420 rottles (189 kilos).

Four hundred and fifteen tons of dura were exported by rail from Sennar Province during September, and 474 tons during October.

Eleven ardebs of dura were exported from Kassala to Eritrea in September, and 4 ardebs of dura were exported from Gedaref to Wad Medani.

Wheat, Barley, &c.

In Berber Province wheat again rose to PT400 per ardeb. Barley remained at PT150 per ardeb. Maize continued its upward course to PT220 per ardeb.

Twenty-two tons of sesame were exported from Sennar Province. Sesame shows a marked tendency to fall. The market opened at about £E4.5 per ardeb, but rapidly fell to £E3.

The Halfa Province report on the date market states that prices are reported high and rising. Merchants have bought at PT320 to PT345 per sack barakawi, with corresponding prices for other varieties.

The tobacco crop of Nuba Mountains Province, which looks well, is in process of being harvested.

Cattle.

Cattle are very dear in Dongola Province. A calf averages £6, and an ox £15. Riding camels are almost unobtainable; an ordinary riding camel costs from £20 and upwards. Sheep average from PT150 to PT200, and a goat from PT100 to PT120.

From Berber Province it is reported that 437 cattle and 9,309 sheep and goats were sold in Damer market during the month. Prices are falling owing to the general shortage of grazing, which is forcing sales and renders it difficult to take animals away if unsold, but one bunch of fat sheep in the last market fetched an average of PT305.

Greek Tobacco Crop.

Information at hand supplementing the advance report relative to the Greek tobacco crop for 1918 shows production (says an American Consular report) to be from 49 to 50 per cent. less this year than in 1917, dry weather causing the actual crop to fall short of early predictions based upon an average yield for the area planted. There are left in Old Greece from former crops 31,036,560 lb. of tobacco, of which 11,551,825 lb. are in the hands of manufacturers and about the same amount still in the open market. Added to this there are 50,787,000 lb. from the new crop. So that there are in all in Old Greece 82,000,000 lb. of tobacco. Advices from Asia Minor, Russia, and European Turkey place the stocks in these three sections together at 87,466,500 lb. So that the sum total of Near Eastern tobacco available for foreign trade comes to about 169,290,000 lb.

Greek Olive Oil Production.

Estimates of the olive oil production in Greece for the past season place the quantity at 31,702,800 gallons, or about 30 per cent. more than the output last year. The yield from the Ionian Islands is 1,675,500 gallons; from Crete, 12,495,500 gallons; from Mitylene and Sporades Islands, 7,833,000 gallons; from Epirus, 1,305,500 gallons; from the Peloponnesus and Pelion, 6,714,800 gallons; and from the mainland of Greece, 1,678,500 gallons.

ALEXANDRIA'S MERCHANT SEAMEN'S HOME.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2, announces that it has been authorised to receive donations for the Alexandria Merchant Seamen's Home, which as readers of THE NEAR EAST know is a most deserving institution. The committee of the home have recently made an urgent appeal for financial support for their "Extensions and Improvements Fund." Additional accommodation is required for seamen, apprentices, under-stewards, and cooks, as well as for officers. The home started in a small way as a "Sailors' Rest" in 1881, and the existing home was opened in 1900. The claims of merchant seamen on the kindly and generous help of the public in view of the hardships and perils of their life are well-known. It is also hoped that all ship-owners will come forward generously in view of the fine part played by all ranks of the British merchant service during the war.

The Banque Générale de Roumanie, established at Bucharest by the Berlin Disconto Gesellschaft and the Banque de Crédit Roumain, which is a branch of the Länderbank of Vienna, have, according to a report published in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, been closed and sealed up by the Roumanian authorities, says the Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post*.

FOOD PRICES IN SYRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 12.

Reverting to the question of foodstuffs, the figures in the attached list represent present prices in Syria in Egyptian piastres, official quotations being now made in Egyptian currency:—Flour, first quality, 6 piastres an oke, second quality, 5½ piastres; bread, 6 piastres; barley, 3½ piastres; lentils, first quality, 5 piastres; second quality, 4 piastres; chickpeas, first quality, 4 piastres; second quality, 3 piastres; beans, 4 piastres; haricot beans, first quality, 6 piastres; second quality, 5 piastres; rice, 7½ piastres; salt, 2 piastres; mutton, 18 piastres; veal, 15 piastres; fish, first quality, 20 piastres; second quality, 15 piastres; third quality, 10 piastres; coffee, 20 piastres; sugar, 25 piastres; milk, 2½ piastres; butter (melted), 26½ piastres. Petroleum costs 25 piastres an oke, and charcoal (oak), 1½ piastres.

Since the publication of the above list measures have been taken for the reduction of the prices of sugar, coffee, and rice to 10, 14, and 6 piastres respectively per oke, and it was decided to open forty shops for the sale of these commodities. The ration of sugar has been fixed at 1 oke per head per month, and that of coffee at half an oke, which, in the circumstances, is not unsatisfactory. A commission of notables has been formed for the control of the supplies of these foodstuffs and their sales at the above-mentioned shops.

AN ITALIAN TRANS-BALKAN RAILWAY

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Italian newspaper *La Perseveranza* revives an old project, in the shape of a Valona-Monastir-Constantinople railway, and advocates the advantages of its early construction. There is already a line connecting Constantinople with Monastir, 230 miles in length; the additional link with Valona, a further 516 miles, would give through transit. By linking the Italian port of Otranto by train-ferry with Valona (a distance of sixty miles) through traffic might be had with Rome from Constantinople (1,210 miles) without breaking bulk, and in forty-eight hours. At present the journey from Rome to Constantinople, via Vienna, occupies four days. The project would bring within easy distance of Italian markets the live stock of Serbia, Roumanian petroleum, and Bulgarian timber and coal, besides facilitating the export of Italian manufactures. The war on the Western front has shown the world the incalculable value of the trans-channel train-ferry where the nations on either side were allies, and it is to be hoped that this Italo-Albano-Serb railway may obtain the blessing of the coming Peace Conference.

During the past year fifteen factories in Bulgaria have been occupied in turning out pickled vegetables.

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STEAM & OIL ENGINES for Agriculture, Pumping, etc.
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LEE, HOWL & CO., LTD.
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Limassol. Famagusta.
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(Over 80 Branches in the Near East).

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Business Still Restricted.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Although a rather improved tone has shown itself in the market no particular increase can be recorded in the amount of actual business done. The inquiry in several quarters, however, has been more encouraging than for some time back. Egyptian cotton merchants continue to be hampered by the difficulties in getting hold of certain types, and it is hoped that Government control will be abandoned as quickly as possible. It is thought in some quarters that the crop will be rather larger than was at one time expected. In Egyptian yarns prices have tended to favour buyers and business has been at a low ebb. A few more requests have been made for prices of piece goods for Egypt, but advices from Cairo remain disappointing. It is feared it will be some time before the situation is of such a character that trade of weight can be done for that part of the world. There are signs of increased activity for certain Near Eastern outlets such as Greece. India has sent a larger inquiry in a variety of goods, but only small transactions have been arranged. Some special sales have taken place for China in a well known make of grey shirtings and sheetings. Printing cloths have been offered at low figures. Burnley manufacturers are in urgent need of fresh orders. Rather more business has been offering in home American yarns, but prices have given way in sympathy with the decline in the raw material. Very little has been done in export numbers.

BRITISH FILMS AND THE GREEK MARKET.

An agent at Athens for certain well-known British film producers states that British films have not yet reached the high standard of the artistic films manufactured in Italy, France and even Denmark, says the *Board of Trade Journal*. British manufacturers, he adds, do not seem keen to secure the exclusive services of well-known stage actresses and beauties in order to make films that can compete with those made by the Continental manufacturers. The one exception is the British comic film, photographed in England, with a really good comic man as chief actor. In dramas the British are behind the Italian and French films—in scenic effects, in the acting and dress of the actors, and also as regards the plots of their dramas. British manufacturers, if they produced well-mounted films out of the exceedingly rich British literature, with good actors and actresses, would have captivated the world. All the lettering and explanations of the films, or rather of the copies that are to go to the Continent, should be made in the French language.

For the above-stated reasons British films are not at all in demand in the Greek cinema business, and can only be placed at small provincial cinemas where high rates of hiring demanded by the people importing the Italian and French artistic films cannot be paid. Another question which hinders the hiring of British films in the Greek markets is the British tendency to manufacture one or two reel dramas. In these it is not possible to put the finish and the plot necessary for a four or five reel drama. The opinion of this agent is that British cinema manufacturers have every opportunity and everything necessary to compete with the films of the whole world, but they require much more scenic and artistic effect in order to produce films to compete with those of Italian and French producers.

OUR TRADE AMBASSADORS.

Now is the time, says the British Empire Producers' Organisation, to arm our "commercial ambassadors" with that extra knowledge which would give them greater confidence in themselves and render them capable of defeating any rival methods. With this object in view the organisation is arranging a number of meetings, at which business talks will be given by leading men of ripe business experience and full knowledge of certain foreign countries. When arrangements are completed invitation will be extended to representatives of large firms throughout the country—young men in particular.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Anglo-Czecho-Slovak Trading Co

The Anglo-Czecho-Slovak Trading Company, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £100,000, in 95,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 100,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, to create and foster mutual trading between Great Britain and her Colonies and Dependencies and the Czecho-Slovak Republic and their respective commercial houses and traders, etc., and to carry on the business of carriers by land, sea and air, general store keepers, motor and flying-machine manufacturers, suppliers of couriers, agents and interpreters, food producers, boot dealers, clothiers, wine and spirit merchants, tobacconists, mineral water manufacturers, timber merchants, corn, flour, rye and maize importers and exporters, newspaper proprietors, etc. The subscribers (each with one ordinary share) are:—F. P. Woodcock, 5, Holborn, E.C.1, solicitor; A. H. Freeman, 5, Holborn E.C.1, secretary. The first directors are not named.

Mediterranean Co. for General Trade.

The Mediterranean Company for General Trade, Ltd., was registered as a private company on January 1, with a capital of £200,000, in £5 shares, to carry on the business of merchants, shipowners, importers, exporters, shipbuilders, and charterers, owners of mines, forests, factories, winners and transporters of oil, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are Captain W. O'Brien, 16, Charing Cross, S.W.1; H. S. Salter, 16, Charing Cross, S.W.1, company secretary. The subscribers are to appoint the directors.

Paper Pulp Company in Algiers.

Further information with regard to the formation of a new paper pulp company in Algiers is given in the *Board of Trade Journal*. The company is called the "Société des Celluloses de l'Afrique du Nord," with a capital of three million francs, and it has been formed by the Société Nord Africain d'Etudes, 23bis, Boulevard Carnot. The object of the company is to manufacture paper pulp, paper, cardboard, etc., from esparto grass and other raw materials obtainable in the colony.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Ellerman Lines.

The report of the Ellerman Lines for the year 1917 states that £550,000 has been placed to reserve, making the total of all reserve and guarantee funds £5.729,887. A final dividend of 150 per cent. has been paid on the deferred shares. The destroyed steamers' replacement reserve now totals £3,280,000. The company has suffered very severely by the loss of steamers due to enemy action, and the number of steamers available for the carrying on of the various services has been materially reduced. It will not be possible with the money received for compensation or insurance to replace the whole of the tonnage which has been lost, nor will it be possible over a long period of years to earn a fair return on the present abnormal cost of building; but, in order to maintain the various services, and believing it in the national interest to replace the British mercantile marine as speedily as possible, contracts have been entered into to replace a large proportion of the steamers.

Bank of Bombay.

The directors of the Bank of Bombay announce a dividend for the past half-year of 15 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 4 per cent. They have transferred to reserve fund Rs4,00,000, to pension fund Rs50,000, and carried forward Rs3,220,606.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

The directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company have declared a participating dividend at the rate of 2 per cent per annum on the Cumulative 6 per cent. participating preference shares in respect of the year ended March 31 last, payable 31st instant, together with the usual half-yearly dividend of 3 per cent. for the period ended September 30 last. The issue of 1909-1911 will therefore receive a dividend of 5 per cent. and the new issue of 1918 a dividend of 4 per cent.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

National Bank of India.—Transfer books will be closed from January 14 to January 21 inclusive. An extraordinary meeting will be held at the Wesleyan Centenary Hall, Bishopsgate, E.C. (next door to the bank), on Tuesday, 21st inst., at noon, for the purpose of passing resolutions increasing the capital.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week 36 tons, previous week 23 tons; Hurgada 3,700 tons, against 2,797.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, for the week ended December 26 were:—Cattle markets, £990; general markets, £523; total, £1,513; total for year, £54,078. The figures for the corresponding week in 1917, ended December 27, were:—Cattle markets, £488; general markets, £440; total, £928; total for year, £54,579.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON DECEMBER 14.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20¾
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	111
" " Div.	Frs.	165
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅞
Soc. Anonyme de Béhéra	L.E	12½
" priv.	L.E.	4 7/32d
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	244
Bons de Panama	Frs.	169
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	93
" Priv.	Frs.	112
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	105
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 3/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 3/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 1/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 3/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5/32
Bonded Stores	L.E.	10¼
Unifiée	L.E.	89 1/32d
Privilégiée		78 1/32d
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7 7/32
Nungovich Hotels	£	6 3/32
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
" Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4½
" Ord		71/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	10⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7 1/32d
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	180
Egyptian Markets		26/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	405 1/32d
" Div.	Frs.	350 1/32d
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	275
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 3/32-7/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		61/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	744
" Fondateur	Frs.	990
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	420
" 1903 "	Frs.	306
" 1911 "	Frs.	286
United Lands	P.T.	12⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅜

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Tuesday.

The market has remained, on the whole, firm this week, but there has not been much business.

In Government stocks some transactions have taken place in Egyptian Unifieds round 88¼, a decline of ¼ since last week. A small transaction took place in City of Alexandria bonds round the current level. In the 3½ per cent. Prefs. there still continues to be a scarcity of sellers.

Amongst Bank shares, some business has been done in Nationals without altering the price; and a local demand here for Agriculturals has led to a fractional improvement of 1-32 to 6 23-32. In Agricultural Prefs. there are still only buyers.

Amongst Railways, Delta Lights are ⅛ lower at 8⅜.

In Land shares there has been some business in Aboukirs and Béhéras round the current level. Allotments have improved 1-16 to 4 9-16, and Béhéra Prefs. are ⅛ up at 4⅜; at which price, however, there are only buyers. Some fairly large transactions took place in Delta Lands at 15s. 7½d., a decline of 1½d. since last week. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts, on the other hand, are 9d. up at 16s. 6d. A few Gharbiehs were done at 2⅜. In New Egyptians there has been a fair amount of business, and all the shares offering round the current level have found willing buyers. The price closes fractionally harder at 22s. 1½d. In Sudan Plantations there has again been some business doing at the current level, and United Egyptian Lands are fractionally firmer at 3s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters are a firm spot with buyers at 12; but there are no shares offering at present. Egyptian Markets have improved 3d. to 27s. 9d., but, on the other hand, Salts and Sodas are again ¼ lower at 3½. Khedivial Mails, after dropping to 90s., are closing unchanged at 91s. 6d. There is some demand for Khedivial Prefs. at 4⅛.

In Greek stocks there has been a certain amount of business, but there is not much change to record in prices. Monopolies are 60½ xd., a decline of about ½. The 1881 Loan has recovered the full dividend at 75 xd. The 1884 Loan is somewhat lower at 74 xd., and the 1890 Loan has dropped one point to 74. Greek Rails have changed hands at 66 xd., which represents a rise of half a point. In the other Greek loans there is no change to report. Bank of Athens shares are still in demand at 81s.

Oil Shares.

There has been a somewhat better tendency in the market. British Burmahs are 1s. 6d. up at 15s. 6d. Anglo-Persian Prefs. are 1s. better at 26s. 6d., and Anglo-Egyptians "B" are 3-16 up at 2 27-32. Burmahs are fairly firm at 8 9-16.

Roumanians are in better demand. Roumanian Consols are 6d. better at 16s. Anglo-Roumanians are 8s. 10½d., and Premier Roumanians are 10s.

In Russians, Ural Caspians are weaker at 1 17-32. Bakus are 3d. down at 4s. 9d., and Russian Generals are slightly lower at 1 1-16.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares are weak at 5,364 frs. Other prices are:—Egyptian Unifieds 93.25, Serbian 1895's 60.75, Turkish Unifieds 70.75, Banque d'Athenes 106, Crédit Foncier Egyptiens 784, Land Bank of Egypts 188, and Ottoman Banks 550.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Dec. 31	Jan. 7
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	83xd	83xd
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	88¾	88¼
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	77	77
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75xd
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	74xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	61½	60½xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56½	56½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75xd	74
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	67	66xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81½	82½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 1/16	6 3/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7 3/32	7 3/8	7 3/8
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17	17
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	6	6½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8 3/32	8 3/32
British Trade Corporation	—	9 9/32	9 9/32
Chartered Bank of India	65	89	89
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14½	14½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7 3/32	8 3/32xd	8 1/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	3 3/4	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7xd	7xd
London County and Westminster	—	19½	19½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21½	21½
National Bank of India	43	69	72
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8½	8 3/8
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17 3/4	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/6	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2 1/16	4½	4 9/16
Béhéra Co.	8½	13 3/8	13 3/8
Do. Pref.	4 3/8	4 1/32xd	4 3/8
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/9	15/7½
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/9	16/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1 3/8	2 3/8	2 3/8
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	22/1½
Sidi Salem Co.	2/ 1/8	2 3/16	2 3/16
Sudan Plantations	—	3 3/32xd	3 3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	70/-	70/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/4½	3/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/6	27/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/4	3 3/32	3 1/8
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5/8	91/6	91/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3 3/32	4 1/8	4 1/8

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

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Reserve Fund Rs.1,58,50,000
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Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | Reserve - - - - - £237,500

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital (80,000 shares at £25 each) .. £2,000,000 | Reserve Fund £1,350,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 402.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The past week has been devoted in Paris to the preliminaries to the Inter-Allied Conference, which is to begin its formal session on Saturday. Every stage of the proceedings is the subject of much Press annotation, and from this, as well as from other indications, it may be inferred that most of the fears which the violence of propagandist campaigns has evoked will be dissipated by the actual course of events. In other words, the emphasis laid at the last moment on the various treaties which set out to anticipate the settlement after the war represented a despairing effort to bolster up a cause that was known to be lost. Thus the Conference is not likely to be greatly handicapped by the pact with Italy, by the Sykes-Picot agreement, or by the Roumanian Convention of 1916. These documents have served their purpose, contributed their quota of mischief among the Allies, and may now be relegated to the museum of diplomatic horrors. But from the scrapping of these instruments of secret diplomacy to a conscientious effort to approach the subjects with which they dealt from a new angle and in the spirit of the declared ideals of the Allies may not prove an easy step, unless the deliberations of the Conference are guided by a strong hand and a master mind.

It is now essential that the tacit abandonment by the Governments concerned of the rights assigned to them by the treaties should be followed by the effective muzzling of the propagandists who have been in the forefront of the war of words. The curtain can at last be rung down on their activities and the stage prepared for the final act in its Paris setting. A continuance of the controversy might easily provoke serious trouble in the present state of affairs in Europe. The peoples concerned require time to realise that their case has been properly presented and powerfully supported, and that nothing further remains than to await the verdict, against which there is to be no appeal. Especially is this course to be recommended in regard to the Italian-Yugoslav dispute, which has been fanned to a dangerous heat during the last few weeks. For far too long a time the extremists on both sides have had their innings, not only on paper, but also in the disputed territory. It is now the duty of the Inter-Allied Conference to introduce the judicial atmosphere and to secure fair play and no favour in the Adriatic. It will have to decide to what extent, if any, a footing in Dalmatia is indispensable to the completion of Italian national unity; it will also give due heed to the value of the Austrian statistics of population so freely quoted by one side, and to the practical significance as a political or national factor of the evidences supplied by civilisation, customs, and possibly language in the debated regions.

It is clearly no exaggeration to say, as President Wilson has declared in a recent message to Congress, that food relief is now the key to the whole European situation and to the solution of peace. Bolshevism, he points out, is steadily advancing westward, poisoning Germany; it cannot be stopped by force, but it can be stopped by food. This point requires to be burnt into the minds of those who are only concerned with establishing territorial claims; for any agitation which tends to hinder the revictualling of the countries of Central Europe and the Balkans is facilitating the spread of Bolshevism. No nation, least of all one that is racially allied to the Russians, can be sure of immunity, if it fails to provide food for the people. In these circumstances the five Great Powers have done well to insist upon the urgency of food relief. No Allied money is to be spent on food for Germany, as the latter is in a position to buy its own food, although, possibly, facilities of supply may have to be granted; but the food for the collection of which the Allies are making themselves responsible is intended primarily for distribution in Poland, among the people of the liberated units of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and to our associates in the Balkans.

No less important than the provision of food is the safeguarding of its proper distribution. In this matter the Allies cannot afford to run any risks, and they must be prepared to keep the whole machinery of distribution, if not entirely in their hands, at least well under their supervision throughout all the different stages. The war does not appear to have brought the Near East any relief from its old curse of politics, and it need not surprise the Allied Governments if attempts are made to gain political capital out of the measures taken for the relief of the people. This proceeding cannot be countenanced. To prevent it the most elaborate precautions may have to be adopted. Already it has been found necessary to draft troops of disinterested countries into disputed localities to prevent disturbances of the peace, and this principle might with advantage be extended to tide over the period until the different districts or countries become self-supporting.

M. Venizelos has made a full statement to a correspondent of *The Times* of the claims that Greece will

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submit to the Paris Conference. As might be expected, the Greek statesman avoids the sledge-hammer "must have" and "insists upon" that so often disfigure similar declarations, and elaborates his views in a characteristically persuasive manner. The most interesting point in the statement is the abandonment of the attitude that prompted M. Venizelos in 1915 to consider the cession of Kavalla to Bulgaria. He was subjected at the time, he points out, to "great pressure from pro-Bulgar opinion in Europe and America," and he made the offer with the hope of bringing Bulgaria into the war on the side of the Allies. Now, however, "Bulgaria had shown herself to be a greedy and dangerous neighbour, and he could not for a moment sacrifice the interests of the Greek populations in Thrace to mawkish sentiment."

Considerable sympathy will be felt in wide circles with this point of view. On the other hand, it is certain that the Conference will be reminded that it has to legislate not so much in relation to the unregenerate past as for a hopeful future. M. Venizelos would be the last to admit that in 1915 he proposed to do violence to Greece's unassailable rights; in other words, that for an adequate *quid pro quo* he would have offered Thessaly or Crete with as much readiness as he entertained the cession of Kavalla. The thing is unthinkable. It may probably be assumed that four years ago he recognized that there was enough justification in the Bulgarian aspiration for Kavalla to make it politic for Greece to negotiate upon the subject. Now, however, Bulgaria is considered to have put herself entirely out of court. The Allied Conference will, no doubt, have before it the necessary information to enable it to decide whether the joint interests of the two countries as units in the group of Balkan States will be better served by allowing Bulgaria access to the Ægean Sea or by relegating her exclusively to the Black Sea. M. Venizelos realized the need for anticipating criticism on this point, and added that to deprive Bulgaria of any outlet on the Ægean "is by no means so serious now as it would have been in the past, inasmuch as new rules of international law will have to provide for cases of that sort, and Greece is disposed to grant Bulgaria her commercial outlet on the Ægean on the same conditions as will prevail in favour of, say, the Czecho-Slovaks."

A British force is once more in the Caucasus. The withdrawal of General Dunsterville's troops from Baku after the unsuccessful attempt to hold that town left the Turks masters of the situation, and the Turkish troops in this region have shown some reluctance to withdraw in conformity with the terms of the armistice. The object of the present mission is twofold: to compel the evacuation of the country by the Turkish armies, and to stop the fighting between the Georgians, Armenians, and others which has followed the withdrawal of the Turks from various districts. In the Caucasus, as in the Balkans, the different nationalities have attempted to forestall the decisions of the Peace Conference by the time-honoured method of seizing the territory to which they lay claim. In the case of the Armenians and Georgians the fighting is reported to have assumed the proportions of pitched battles, in which victory has rested with the Georgians. The arrival of the British Mission, it is to be hoped, will not only have put a stop to these hostilities, but will also have been the means of bringing home to both sides an appreciation of the folly, or, rather, criminality, of their action. The fact that Georgians and Armenians, after having been subjected to the worst excesses during the Turkish occupation, should on the withdrawal of the Ottoman troops at once turn and rend one another is not likely to impress the Allied Governments with their capacity for regulating their own affairs in the immediate future. The two peoples have to remain neighbours and have a common interest in presenting a strong front to Bolshevism on the one hand and Turkish aggression on the other; but their first step is to engender such bad blood between them that co-operation may be rendered impossible.

In the Caucasus, as elsewhere, the Allies are responsible for a solution that affords the best possible guarantee for future peace. Clearly it will not be a solution on these lines to give complete independence to two countries which are liable at once to abuse their freedom of action by turning their arms against one another. The history of Georgia since the disintegration of Russia has not been entirely straightforward. Some allowance had to be made at the time for the readiness to throw in the country's lot with Germany on the one hand and to "kow-tow" to Turkey on the other. German and Turkish influence may now be regarded as eliminated from these regions, and the Allies are interested to learn what prospect there is of the Georgians being able to establish a State which will act as a beacon light of order and progress in a backward part of the world. No progress is likely if militarist doctrines are to be the order of the day. Universal disarmament is impossible at this stage; but the Allies will be losing a great opportunity if they do not insist upon disarmament for all minor States, and elaborate a drastic penal code for any resort to arms before the points at issue have been submitted to arbitration. It is impossible with the inadequate knowledge at our disposal to apportion blame for the occurrences in the Caucasus between Georgians and Armenians, but it is obvious that an equal responsibility rests with both to keep the peace between themselves.

It is now announced that one of the objects in view in sending a British force to Transcaspia in the early summer of 1918 was to prevent the cotton crop from falling into the hands of the Germans. The troops have since been kept there for the purpose of saving the population in rear of our lines from massacre and spoliation, and it is impossible to challenge the contention that we are bound in honour to hold our position there for the present, so that the people who have trusted in us may not be exposed to instant destruction. In view of the situation in Russia no time limit, unfortunately, can be set to this occupation. If there is no restraining power in this region, local wars may occur at any moment, and local wars are liable to spread until they endanger a world conflagration. This aspect of the situation can hardly be lost on the Paris Conference. One reason given for the presence of the British Mission in the Caucasus is the necessity of keeping open communication across the Caspian with General Malleson's forces in Transcaspia. The latter, it is stated, have been drawing their supplies from the South, by way of Herat, and have only been able to get such reinforcements from Mesopotamia as could be despatched and supplied by the very inferior Baghdad—Hamadan—Enzeli road. Their position is materially improved by the opening up of the Black Sea—Baku—Krasnovodsk route, but the situation in Transcaspia can only be put permanently on a satisfactory basis by a very marked improvement in our communications with the territory.

India, at least, has nothing to complain of in the rearrangement of the Ministry announced last week. It is obviously right that Mr. Montagu should remain at the India Office until the fate of his proposals is decided. The appointment of Sir Satyendra Sinha as Under-Secretary of State deserves approval on other grounds. It is an experiment, of course, but Sir Satyendra is accustomed to making experiments with success, and his record in the Governor-General's Council and in the Imperial Cabinet justifies the hope that he will quickly accommodate himself to administrative conditions in this country.

As far as we are aware, there has been no confirmation of the report from Greek sources that the French authorities have handed over Koritza to the Greeks. The reason for such a transfer at this stage is not apparent, as the destiny of Koritza is a matter for the Allied Conference to decide. For the French Government to seek to anticipate its verdict just now would be tantamount to an affront to the Conference, or at least would be on a par with the action of minor States that are endeavouring to present the Conference with a *fait accompli*. France is not likely to lend herself to such action with her eyes open.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 23.

Armistice Celebrations.

However regrettable it may have been that Cairo should have delayed so long celebrating the Armistice, he would be hard to satisfy who found any fault with the nature of those celebrations when they actually took place, as they did this week. For four days Cairo has been en fête, and there could be no mistake about the whole-heartedness and completeness of the rejoicing. To be quite correct, we kept holiday for five days, for Monday was the Muled En Nabi, and although that event had nothing to do with the Armistice, nevertheless custom had it that it should be celebrated as a holiday, and so that day added itself to the Tuesday and Friday decreed by General Allenby as public holidays.

An Impressive Thanksgiving Service.

The celebrations began fittingly with a thanksgiving service in the grounds of the Sporting Club at Gezira. One of the polo grounds was requisitioned for the occasion, and in its centre was erected a large daïs for the officiating clergy and the choir. In front a space was roped off for the band—the famous Welsh band—and the buglers, with seats round the edge for the more important members of the British community and distinguished guests. Beyond, another, very much larger square was roped off for the congregation, for whom chairs were provided. The whole place was gay with flags, the Union Jack being conspicuous over the centre of the daïs. The service was appointed to start at eleven o'clock, but long before that time all the seating accommodation had been taken up, and late comers had to stand wherever they could find room. Punctually at the fixed hour the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate made their way to their seats, amid the strains of the National Anthem, and then the procession of clergy came down the gangway and proceeded to take up its position on the daïs. In addition to the clergy of the local Anglican community, there were military representatives of the Anglican, Wesleyan and United Board Churches, including the Chaplain to the Forces in Egypt, Bishop Price, and at the end came the Bishop in Jerusalem, Dr. Rennie MacInnes, in full canonicals.

When the service commenced the scene presented a remarkable appearance. The congregation included the whole of the British community, the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Sultan, the Ministers and Egyptian Under-Secretaries, many of the foreign residents, the G.O.C. the troops in Egypt with his staff, practically all the officers in the garrison, and hundreds of soldiers who lined the outside in dense ranks; whilst, fittingly, a naval contingent flanked the daïs on either side. It was, as I have said, a remarkable scene, and everyone present felt the impressiveness of the occasion. The service opened with a hymn, after which the Rev. W. Allen, of the United Board, read sentences from the Psalms, which were followed by the Psalm of Thanksgiving. The first lesson was read by the senior Church of England Chaplain, and the second by the senior Wesleyan Chaplain. Next came the hymn, "All People that on Earth do Dwell," and then the Rev. C. T. Horan, Chaplain of All Saints', read the special prayers. At the end of the second prayer "The Last Post" was sounded by the buglers stationed just in front of the daïs, and at the conclusion of the sixth the National Anthem was sung, after which Bishop MacInnes pronounced the blessing. The service was brought to a conclusion by a salute of 101 guns fired by a battery stationed close at hand. I have been present at several memorial and similar services in Cairo, but never have I attended one which was more impressive and at which the whole congregation gave such unmistakable evidence of its reverence and of its recognition of the significance of the occasion.

Entertainment to the Troops.

The service over, the festivities began. The day was given up to the entertainment of the troops, and a gigantic programme had been arranged. The proceedings started off with a lunch to the men, to which they did full justice. Every conceivable form of amusement had been provided. There were cocoanut shies, concerts, bands, dancing, sports, displays of physical drill, cinematographs, the whole ending up with a grand military tattoo and fireworks. In between, tea and other refreshments were served, and nothing that could add to the enjoyment of Tommy and Jack—the senior service was also provided for—was omitted. In every respect it was a most successful day, and the men had, as one of them said, "a right top-hole time." That everything went with such a swing, and that everyone was so satisfied spoke volumes for the efficiency of those responsible for the organisation.

Simultaneously out at Luna Park another celebration took place, where thousands of Tommies spent the afternoon at the various shows which are to be found there, and where the efforts to entertain them were equally successful.

The British Community and General Allenby.

On Wednesday the British community entertained General Allenby. A tea and reception were given in the afternoon at the Semiramis Hotel, which was specially opened for the occasion. General and Lady Allenby were received by Sir Alexander Baird, Dr. MacInnes, Sir William Brunyate, and Dr. Keatinge. Sir Alexander made an amusing speech of welcome, in which, after expressing his own and the British community's admiration of the Commander-in-Chief's achievements, he paid a warm tribute to Lady Allenby for the admirable work she had done in providing entertainment and comforts for the troops of the E.E.F. General Allenby made a short and suitable reply, and then proceeded to walk through the rooms and chat to his hosts, who numbered several hundred. The arrival of the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate was the signal for a move to the tea tables, and the party broke up at about five o'clock.

In the evening General Allenby and his staff were entertained to dinner at Shepheard's Hotel. Covers were laid for 140, and the chair was taken by Sir Alexander Baird, who had Sir Edmund Allenby on his right and Sir H. G. Chauvel on his left. After the toasts of H.H. the Sultan and of H.M. the King had been drunk, Sir Alexander rose to propose the health of their guest of honour. He made, as usual, a most amusing speech, in the course of which he drew attention to the fact that whereas the Kaiser had driven into the Holy City and had a hole made in the walls to permit him to enter, General Allenby had entered on foot, as became a great leader, and added that three names will be handed down to posterity in connection with the Holy Land—Richard Cœur de Lion, Edward I., and General Allenby. He gave one interesting piece of information—viz., that one of the maps in daily use in the recent campaign had been made quite fifty years ago by the late Lord Kitchener when he (Sir Alexander) had been with him in Palestine.

General Allenby, in his reply, gave a short account of the difficulties with which he had had to contend when he first took over the command eighteen months ago, and how he had managed to deceive the Turks. He again paid a tribute to his staff and his troops, and concluded with an expression of appreciation of the unflagging encouragement and the generous and unstinted help he had received from the civilian community in Egypt and the Egyptian Civil Service, with the latter of whom he coupled the name of Sir William Brunyate. General Allenby, who declared that "this is the proudest moment of my life; I have gained the appreciation of my fellow countrymen, and I have heard it expressed in the warmest terms," then sat down, amid loud cheers.

Sir William Brunyate, in his response, made what I may perhaps be permitted to call the speech of the evening. He replied on behalf of the official and non-official civilian community, and referred most feelingly to the late Lord Edward Cecil, the news of whose death had only reached Egypt the day before. He said that if Egypt had been able to assist General Allenby in his victorious advance, it was mainly due to Lord Edward Cecil and to the measures he took during the

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time he was Financial Adviser. It was remarkable how often he had shown flashes of real statesmanship, and there was no doubt that, had he been spared, he would have been destined to take no small part in the work of reorganisation which awaits Egypt. Sir William declared that the Anglo-Egyptian officials had been proud to help in General Allenby's great work, and added that he had never had to appeal for help on his behalf to any member of the official or non-official community without receiving a ready response and every assistance and encouragement. An informal reception was afterwards held, during which General Allenby chatted to those present, and shortly before midnight the Commander-in-Chief took his leave amid hearty cheers from his hosts.

Brilliant Review and Parade.

By contrast, Thursday and Friday were given up to military ceremonial. On the first-named day there took place a review of the 10th Division on the race-course at Gezira. The troops were extended all over the club grounds as far as the eye could reach from the Grand Stand, and were first inspected by General Allenby. The latter then took up his position at the saluting point next to the small enclosure, and the division marched past. The men were in splendid condition and bore themselves admirably. Time and time again roars of cheering and rounds of applause from the spectators, who crowded every coign of vantage, greeted the passing battalions, the Indians coming in for a specially warm welcome.

Everyone agreed that the review had been one of the most brilliant seen in Cairo for many years past. The next day, Friday, the 54th Division, together with the Worcestershire Yeomanry, paraded through the city. The troops entered by way of the Mousky and the native quarters at the foot of the Citadel; they then passed on to the Opera Square, where General Allenby took the salute, and continued their route past Shepheard's out to Abbassia. In the native quarters all the shops were shut and there were very few people about owing to the narrowness of the streets, but on the Opera Square and along the rest of the route there were very large crowds, who, with the spectators up above on the balconies, cheered the troops to the echo. The parade was another fine display, quite equalling the one of the previous day. On both occasions the R.A.F. sent a "Formation of Honour," which performed the most daring evolutions overhead during the proceedings.

Thus ended a memorable four days in the war history of Cairo. Who can now say that the capital has not fittingly celebrated the armistice and shown honour to the gallant conqueror of the Turks and liberator of the Holy Land, and to his equally gallant men?

WOMEN OF INDIA TO THE QUEEN.

On behalf of the women of India, Lady Chelmsford has addressed the following reply to the message from the Queen to the women of India, which was published in THE NEAR EAST of January 3:—

In name of the women of India I beg to thank your Majesty for your gracious and sympathetic message. It has been received by them with heartfelt thanks and a profound admiration for the personal knowledge and solicitude shown by your Majesty in the particular circumstances of their lives.

The women of India are ever grateful to your Majesty for the deep interest which you take in all that concerns their welfare in matters of education and medical relief, and wish to offer you their humble congratulations on successful termination of the war in which they are proud to have had a share.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Bolshevism.

The Roumanian Government has announced officially that a Bolshevist movement has been organised in Roumania, being directed from Russia and from Hungary. In Bucharest measures of repression were taken, and "six people have been killed and fifteen wounded," says the *communiqué*.

When the Russian army in Roumania collapsed because of the Bolshevist revolt, the Roumanians fought against their former brothers-in-arms, who were provoking the disorder. Now, the conditions in Roumania being terribly bad, Bolshevism has been able to find a foothold. In Bucharest a loaf costs from four to six shillings—and this in a country which was one of the most important granaries of Europe!—and other prices are proportionately high. This means that the poor people are dying like flies. The peasants, who used to wear a kind of sandal (*opinca*) instead of boots, are now going barefooted during the terrible winter because it is absolutely impossible to get a scrap of leather. Some of them, better off, are covering their feet with pieces of old blankets or quilts. These facts are confirmed by the Allied Commission now in Roumania. Such conditions are most favourable to the spread of Bolshevism, which can be successfully met only by prompt and proper organisation and by friendly co-operation between all the States in improving the conditions of a starved and ravaged Europe.

Roumanian Intervention in Russia.

Some days ago M. Pichon declared in the French Chamber that "the Allies had sent their troops to Odessa only until the Roumanian army was completely organised," and a London paper learned, from an official source, that Roumania will send an army to the South of Russia. As announced some time ago in THE NEAR EAST, the intervention of Roumania was decided upon at a conference held at Jassy (November 19) between MM. Sazonoff, Denikin, General Berthelot and the Roumanians. The question now is whether such intervention will be effective, the Bolshevik forces being powerful and well organised.

Roumania and the Peace Conference.

The Roumanian delegates to the Peace conference announced up to the time of writing are M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister in London, and M. Salomon Rosenthal. The latter is a very prominent Roumanian Jew and an eminent lawyer. His appointment as the legal adviser to the Roumanian delegates is a sign of the democratic spirit animating the new Roumania. It is announced that M. Bratiano, the Premier, is on his way to Paris.

The most difficult question concerning Roumania to be settled by the Peace Conference is that of the Banat. The utmost good feeling always existed between Roumania and Serbia, and they offered the unique example in history of being neighbours and yet not having any war or misunderstanding; and therefore it is hoped that the dispute will be settled. The Banat is the country situated between the Danube on the south, the river Tissa on the west, the river Muresh on the north, and the Carpathian Mountains to the east. It has an area of 27,000 square kilometres, and is one of the richest countries in Europe. Its population is, ethnographically speaking, composed of 615,000 Roumanians, 357,500 Germans, 284,000 Serbs and 182,000 Magyars. The "Magyar" population in the Banat is half Jewish. A serious blunder committed by the Allies was in allowing Serbian troops to occupy the disputed territory, and thus provoke public discussions. The Roumanians have shown more reserve on the subject. They claim the Banat, saying that it is a geographical division and constitutes a unit in which the Roumanian element is in the proportion of sixty-one against twenty-eight. They put forward, also, economic arguments which, from their point of view, ought to prevent the division of the country. They offer guarantees for the minorities represented by the nationalities living in Banat, pointing out that there are more than 400,000 Roumanians in Serbia (in Macedonia and in the Timok valley), and that the Serbians could thus compel the Roumanians to respect their engagements regarding the treatment of the Serbians. The Serbs, on the other hand, insist that the Roumanians are in a majority only in the mountainous part of the Banat. They also state that Belgrade, their capital, is within 800 yards of the disputed region, so that they must have the southern part of the Banat for its protection.

The *Morning Post's* correspondent in Paris reports that despatches received there from Roumania state that, subject to ratification by Parliament, the King has signed a decree authorising a general increase in the salaries of public officials. Monthly salaries of 80 lei will be increased to 170, of 100 to 300, of 260 to 560, of 300 to 720, of 400 to 800, while those of more than 400 will be increased by 400 lei per month.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Deputation to England.

The deputation of members of the Legislative Council who are proceeding to England to urge their request for the incorporation of Cyprus in the Greek kingdom consist of eight out of the nine elected representatives of that body. The member who has denied himself the privilege of the trip is M. Evgenios Zeno, of the Limassol-Papho division, an advocate, and one of the ablest of the Greeks in the Council. The deputation is headed by the Archbishop of Cyprus. They have been fortunate enough to obtain passages as far as Port Said in a Government transport, which left Famagusta on December 5. The original intention was that three members only should go, but it was not easy to reach an agreement as to who the three should be. It is, of course, hoped that more is likely to be effected by means of personal interviews than through memorials; but as regards those whom the deputies seek to represent, there is probably little belief that their views and aspirations can be made more clear than they have been by the numerous previous deputations and petitions, especially as the members cannot speak English.

Officials' Bonus.

A further war bonus has been granted to all Government officials. Those who receive the lowest salaries of only £3 a month will be given an addition of half their pay, or £1 10s. a month. Those who receive £400 and upwards will have £72 a year. All intermediate salaries are similarly treated, different rates being given to unmarried officials and widowers with children over sixteen years.

Some of the restrictions which the war has imposed have now been removed, including that which affects lights in the towns. The limitations on fishing beyond a certain radius near coast towns are also withdrawn.

The New Metropolitan.

The visit of the Metropolitan of Athens, Méletios, to America and England has been followed with considerable interest in Cyprus, owing to his late connection with the island as Bishop of Kition, where he rendered such good service. His successor in that see is Nicodemus Mylonas, who was vicar of the Archbishop at Famagusta, and is, perhaps, the youngest prelate in the Eastern Orthodox Church; but he was regarded as well qualified by education character to hold the post. He has not been long enough in his position as successor to so able a member of the Church to make any mark, but he has already created a good impression.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SYRIA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 28.

It is satisfactory to learn from the Beyrout papers that the authorities there have formed a committee to secure the return of stolen and misappropriated articles to their rightful owners, and that this committee has already succeeded in restoring much property to such owners. It is still more satisfactory to learn that another committee has been formed, of financial and judicial experts, to deal with the more important question of debts, and to devise an equitable and easy means for their liquidation. In the meantime, a moratorium has been declared, expiring at the end of January, 1919, with a view to averting a financial crisis which would be likely to affect the smaller merchants seriously. The extraordinary fluctuations of the Turkish paper currency have subverted the whole economic fabric.

An "Echo" of the War.

A disastrous accident, caused by the explosion of a dump of hand grenades and munitions hidden by the Turks, occurred lately at Aley, leading to the loss of sixty lives. The violence of the explosion was such that all the window-glass in Aley is said to have been shattered. Thus put on the alert, the authorities have discovered in the next station, of Baabda, a similar hidden store of such explosives, which the Turks had meant to use for blowing up the culverts, bridges, and tunnels on the Beyrout-Damascus line, but which they had to leave behind in their hurried retreat.

General Allenby at Beyrout College.

The visit of General Sir Edmund Allenby to the American College at Beyrout, on the 11th instant, was the occasion of an enthusiastic reception given in his honour by the President and the teaching staff. After the singing of the college song by the students, the President delivered a stirring speech of welcome and congratulation, to which the distinguished General replied, making an appropriate allusion to the great number of former students of the college who have been doing such useful work in Egypt.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 28.

There has always been a political grievance in Malta as regards the constitution of the government in the island, and, following the talk about the self-government of small nations, the present moment has been seized upon to ventilate the local grievances again. A movement, initiated and headed by Dr. Fillippo Sceberras, has been afoot for some time with the object of convening a popular assembly, for the purpose of memorialising his Majesty's Government on the necessity of a reform in the Constitution of the Government of the island. Dr. Sceberras' appeal has met with general response from practically all the constituted bodies in both islands, including the clergy, the nobility, the professions, the Press, and the commercial community.

Dr. Sceberras has given notice of the resolution which he intends to submit, and which runs as follows:—"That the Maltese people, taking note of the principles of liberty and justice for which the British Empire has so heroically fought, and of the tribute of the King and of his Government to the people of this island, feel entitled to claim a Constitution which would ensure 'full administrative liberty' in matters of local interest, without prejudice to those rights which may eventually be granted to the colonies."

A very interesting ceremony recently took place in the Red State Room of the Palace. This was the presentation by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Lord Methuen, of the Insignia of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in the presence of the heads of the Civil, Naval, and Military Departments and several ladies.

Before proceeding with the investiture his Excellency made a short speech, in the course of which he said:—"It is true that Malta has been 'a side show,' but nothing has pleased me more than to know, by the letters I have received and from what I have heard from others coming from England, of the good name Malta has earned for itself at home. We have been one large hospital, and it has been a matter for congratulation as to the state of the cases on reaching England. To Colonel Sir Charles Ballance, Colonel Tooth, Colonel Thorburn, Colonel Gulland, Colonel Charters Symonds we are indebted, and, let me add, to Colonel Sir Archibald Garrod, who is here to-day. I hardly like to say much in the presence of Lady Methuen, but I must mention the debt of gratitude we owe to the ladies in Malta, English and Maltese alike, for the splendid help they have given from first to last. For my part I congratulate myself that during the time I have been here I believe and hope we may have a happy family in Malta."

Captain Ingham, A.D.C, then read out the names of the recipients as follows:—

To be Commanders of the Order: The Lady Methuen: Lieut.-Colonel F. Ashley, British Red Cross and Order of St. John; and Captain F. A. L. Andrews, R.N. To be Officers, Mr. Justice Alvarez, I.S.O., and Lieut. Charles H. Carpenter, R.N.V.R.

His Excellency the Governor, Lord Methuen, has had the degree of LL.D. (*honoris causa*) conferred on him by the Malta University.

The Archbishop's Bread Fund, which was established to relieve the increased cost of foodstuffs, and which closed on the 31st ult., has resulted in no less a sum than £4,828 14s. 4d. having been subscribed by all sections of the public.

Quite a gloom has been cast over the Command here by the deaths of two prominent naval officers. The death of Engineer-Captain Arthur Philip L. Dupen, R.N., took place on Wednesday at the Royal Naval Hospital, Bighi, resulting from fracture of the skull, occasioned by his being thrown from a horse at the Marsa; Lieut. William H. Hardy, R.N., died at the same hospital on the 24th inst. from the effects of pneumonia.

NEAR EASTERN WAR TROPHIES.

Major Beckles Willson, the British officer dispatched a year ago by the War Office to Palestine and Mesopotamia to collect and preserve trophies of war and battle relics for the Imperial War Museum and the various Colonial war museums, has returned to England.

The whole collection, destined for the Imperial War Museum, has been transported to Alexandria, and is temporarily housed in the Art Gallery there, where it has been viewed by over 30,000 persons. Steps are, it is understood, being taken to bring the collection to London.

A telegram from Belgrade says that the newspaper *Pravda* reports that the National Assembly of the first Jugoslav Parliament is summoned for February 15.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Omar Khayyam.

The war has taught a great many people to revise their estimates of the value both of other people and of most things. For instance, before the war would any bank manager have tolerated "back answering" on the part of a clerk, let alone a clerk of the female persuasion? Yet I am credibly informed that a young woman who flatly refused to do something she was told to do by an assistant manager, and who added to the enormity of her offence by using a big D, was actually upheld by the A.M.'s overlord—who, however, apologised privately to him. Then, again, before August, 1914, did any of us ever dream that the butcher would ever assume the importance—and the airs—of a "Bashaw" of the old type? I wot not. Yet such has been the case, and the humble customer has had to cringe and fawn, to beg on bended knees (almost!) for his (or her) bit of rump steak, or what not—and, even so, has very often been able to secure nothing better than a bit of scraggy, gristly, unappetising-looking stuff, that could only be regarded as fit for human consumption by the most persistent of optimists. And so it has been in a thousand and one other ways as well!

***

But if our ideas of values in this country have needed modification, they have not required such radical readjustment as was the case in Kut during the siege. There, I learn from an officer who went through the experience, a donkey—and a good donkey, too—was actually exchanged for a hen; and the donkey's first owner was regarded by most people as having got the best of the bargain! For one thing, the quadruped required a good deal of food, which was difficult to get and, of course, very dear; for another, the hen was actually laying two or three eggs a week. And in those days, in Kut, an egg, even a skimpy Oriental egg, was well-nigh priceless.

***

This reminds me that the gourmets of Kut made a discovery that was not uninteresting. Their investigations proved—to them, at least—that donkey meat was preferable to mule, and that mule was better than horse. This strikes me as very strange; in fact, the very reverse of what I should have expected. The only explanation of the mystery that I can offer is that beatings serve to improve the quality of an animal—for table purposes. Another discovery made by the besieged garrison was that the Mule has strongly-developed cannibal instincts. I always thought better than *that* of the Asiatic Mule; though I was prepared to believe anything bad about his American cousin.

***

I am beholden to a correspondent in Cairo for a copy of a news agency's telegram, which contains a really gorgeous "bloomer"—appropriately enough in connection with flowers! The telegram, which is printed, describes Sir Douglas Haig's reception in London last month; and having taken him safely through the cheering crowds in "Dun Cannon" Street, on "the Constitutional Hill," and elsewhere, it continues:—

> "Passing into the Palace, the party was received by the King, the Queen, and other members of the Royal Family, decorated in red, yellow and red-copper chrysanthemums," etc.

The London Press was surely remiss in failing to notice this adoption of a pretty Oriental custom by our Royal Family.

***

Women's rights have evidently one ardent supporter in Burma. A Rangoon paper of November 1 contained an advertisement inserted by a Burmese lady, who declared that she would not be responsible for any debts or transactions contracted by her husband, a paddy trader of Pyinbongigi. I expect the lady thinks that husbands have had the monopoly of that kind of advertisement long enough. Now, with her English sisters exercising the Franchise, she has struck.

***

No doubt you have already heard—or read—the story, told by Mr. Garrison the other day, when lecturing on Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Palestine in relation to the war, regarding the shipment to Egypt of a cargo of sand for filling sandbags for the trenches. No wonder that every newspaper in England seems to have got hold of the tale, and to have used it as a fresh excuse for belabouring the W.O. My only object in mentioning it now is to suggest that it offers us a pleasing variety on the "coals to Newcastle" expression, which is well-nigh worn out. We have long known "corn in Egypt." "Sand for Egypt" is a new aquaintance, but I should not be surprised if it developed into an old friend.

Corsair.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

IN BURTON'S FOOTSTEPS.*

One closes this book with the feeling that after all it is no such difficult matter to get into Mecca and Medina in disguise, and that the dangers of the undertaking must have been very much exaggerated. At least, that is probably the impression that would be left on the mind of one who knew nothing more of the subject than he is told by Major Wavell—and. surely, there could be no higher tribute to his modesty? The very real danger he passed through is made light of throughout the book, and we are afforded only a glimpse of those careful preparations for the journey which made it a brilliant success. But the story of the pilgrimage is excellently told, and he would be a dull dog indeed who could not enjoy it. The author is able to inspire us with much of the interest that he himself felt in the enterprise; and his sense of humour and his descriptions of his travelling companions, and of the acquaintances they made on the road, lend the narrative real charm. It will never supersede Burton's great work, but, if only because it is more up to date, it may usefully supplement it; and that puzzling person "the general reader" will probably prefer it to Sir Richard. It was certainly a happy thought to publish this popular edition at the present time, and we commend the book to all who wish to gain some knowledge of the Arab view of life and Moslem thought. It will help them towards both these ends. If it does not also make them feel that in the death of Major Wavell England suffered a very real loss we shall be surprised.

TWO SURGEONS IN THE WAR.†

A week or two ago we commented on the deeds of the Royal Naval Division, of immortal gallantry, as seen by a padre; here we introduce another view-point by two medicos. This book, like its predecessor, will have a large public. It covers Antwerp, Gallipoli, Salonika, and France; it is gay and pathetic; whimsically and cleverly illustrated with black-and-white drawings; wise and clear-sighted, as might be expected from a combination of five professions — medicine, literature, art, soldiering, and sailoring—and intensely graphic page by page. Which author is scribbler and which sketcher we have not discovered. We are told, what is not generally known, that the celebrated landings in Gallipoli of April 25, 1915, were not the first. "In February, parties of Royal Marines had disembarked and marched through Krithia to Achi-Baba (the fateful Achi-Baba), and other detachments had landed at Kum Kale without opposition." We have not space to quote, but are anxious to recommend a very fine apostrophe (p. 221-2) to the British soldier, especially grateful from fighting surgeons. Also the ordinary reader will find the medical facts and comments, acquired from fierce experience, of equal interest with the battle pictures. Major-General Sir Archibald Paris, K.C.B., R.M.A., writes a preface to a charming and valuable contribution to the story of the Great War, and the grand part played by the "Army and Navy, rolled into one."

A record of the advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force between July, 1917, and October 31, 1918, compiled from official sources, will be published shortly by the *Palestine News*, edited by Lieut.-Colonel H. Pirie-Gordon. The record will be issued at a moderate price, and will contain: (1) A portrait of General Allenby and full lists of all general officers and units serving under his command and (2) General Allenby's despatches covering the whole advance, illustrated by fifty coloured maps. Copies will be obtainable from Messrs. Sifton, Praed and Co., Limited, 67, St. James's Street, S.W.

* "A Modern Pilgrim in Mecca." By A. J. B. Wavell, F.R.G.S. New Edition. With an Introduction by Major Leonard Darwin. (Constable 2s. 6d. net.)

† "On Four Fronts with the Royal Naval Division." By Geoffrey Sparrow, M.C., and J. N. MacBean Ross, M.C., Surgeons R.N. (Hodder and Stoughton, 12s. net.)

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A NATURALIST'S DIARY.*

Readers of the *Daily Mail* are already familiar with those charming daily paragraphs on Nature which appeared over the signature of P. W.D. I., each well worth reading. Three hundred and sixty-five of these sketches, corresponding to the days of the year, have now been published in book form, the author's identity being divulged as Percy W. D. Izzard. Mr. Izzard is a true nature lover, and an accomplished writer—two essential qualities in the man who wishes faithfully to portray animal and plant life along our country lanes. Mr. Izzard certainly possesses both in a marked degree, and hence the popularity of his writings. In book form, illustrated by Florence Izzard and W. Gordon Mein, these essays lose none of their charm.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Calendar of the Madras Records, 1740-1744." By H. Dodwell. (Madras: Government Press. 8s. 3d. net.)

"An English Family." By Harold Begbie. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s .9d. net.)

"Secrets of the Bosphorus." By Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 8s. 6d. net)

LONDON SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

The School of Oriental Studies in Finsbury Circus began the second term of its third session last week with every prospect of substantial growth of the classes as demobilization proceeds.

The young men discharged from the Army and Navy to be selected for Civil Service appointments for India and the Colonies will be required to undergo a period of study probation, and as recruitment has dwindled to very small proportions in the last four years, there is certain to be a great reinforcement of the number of probationers taking courses at the school.

Sir Denison Ross and his staff have prepared many young Army officers in languages for Eastern service, and this work will still go on under the changed conditions. It has just been announced that the Civil Service Commissioners will hold an examination both in European and Oriental languages on April 1 next for Regular Army officers in London as a special case. A further development of peace conditions will be the preparation of mercantile assistants for careers in the East.

The recently instituted classes for Armenians and Georgians have a special interest in view of the impending reconstruction in the Near and Middle East.

A MONTENEGRIN PROTEST.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received an official communication stating:—

"The presence of Serbian troops in Montenegro has encouraged the Serbian authorities to organize, under the name of "the Great Skupshtina,' an illegal meeting, in no way justified by the constitution of the country. This meeting presumes to proclaim the re-union of Montenegro with Serbia and the downfall of the national dynasty. Far from being the expression of the will of the Montenegrin people, it is simply the ambition of certain Serbian officials; and of the five members who comprise the 'Directory' three have already been condemned for having in 1907 participated in a plot, inspired at Belgrade, against the security of the Montenegrin State.

"The Montenegrin Government has issued a Note of protestation to all the Allies, and also to neutral countries, against the various actions of the Serbian officials. The Montenegrin Government firmly believes that such an audacious attempt at annexation will meet with universal disapprobation; and, confident in the promise of the Allies, Montenegro awaits the hour when it will be in a position to discuss the great question of its union with the other countries of the Yugoslavs."

TRANSYLVANIA AND ROUMANIA.

Under date of January 11, Reuter's Berne correspondent reports:—The official Roumanian *Gazette* publishes a decree definitely attaching the territory of Transylvania to Roumania.

The decree stipulates that the attached territory shall be represented for the present in the Royal Government of Roumania by Ministers without portfolio, who will be able to propose special councillors for the different departments.

* "Homeland: A Year of Country Days." By Percy W. D. Izzard P.W.D.I.) (Richmond. 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. January	1919. January.		1337. Rabia II.	5679. Shebat
17	4	Friday	15	16
18	5	Saturday.....	16	17
19	6	Sunday	17	18
20	7	Monday	18	19
21	8	Tuesday.....	19	20
22	9	Wednesday	20	21
23	10	Thursday	21	22

Lady Elcho is proceeding to India in a week's time.

General Franchet d'Esperey left Salonika last week for France, and arrived in Paris on Sunday.

The Maharaja of Bikanir has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, has left London for Paris to attend the Peace Conference.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Counsellor to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London from Paris on Sunday.

The Albanian Convention *Vatra* has passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. J. D. Bourchier for his services to the cause of Albanian independence.

The Council of the Geological Society has this year awarded the Lyell Medal to Dr. William Fraser Hume, Director of the Geological Survey of Egypt.

Bishop Montgomery, secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, will be journeying to Palestine and Syria in the summer to take part in conferences regarding the future of missions in those countries.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania was the guest of honour at a luncheon given at the Ritz Hotel, by Sir Harry Mainwaring last Saturday. Among those present were the Roumanian Minister, Colonel Arion, head of the Roumanian Mission in London, Countess Torby, and Viscountess Curzon.

The engagement is announced of Captain Ian McEwen, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders and R.A.F., only son of John Forrester McEwen, of Villa Razzolini, Florence, and Amethe, daughter of the late Donald Smeaton, C.S.I., M.P., and of Mrs. Smeaton, of Lawbrook, Gomshall, Surrey.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain John George Smyth, V.C., 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, Brigade Major, 43rd Brigade, Lahore, eldest son of W. J. Smyth, I.C.S., and Mrs. Smyth, and Evelyn Monica, daughter of Lionel Robertson, P.W.D., and Mrs. Robertson, Lahore.

The marriage of Major Geoffrey Rawson, R.E., M.C., and Miss Ella Cane will take place at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, on Wednesday, January 22, at 2 p.m. No invitations will be issued, and no formal reception held, but relatives and friends will be welcome at the church and afterwards at 66, Elm Park Gardens, S.W.

The engagement is announced between Brevet-Major (temp. lieutenant-colonel) William H. Jelf Thornton, M.C., R.A. and Staff, only son of the late Henry Jelf Thornton and Mrs. Neal, Inglewood, Weston-super-Mare, and Dora, youngest daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. R. Capozzi, of Alexandria, Egypt, and niece of the late Admiral de Liben, Royal Italian Navy.

General Torcom, leader of the Armenian Military Mission, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Captain Melek-Shah-Nazar, arrived in England from Archangel last week. He has been received, Reuter's Agency learns, at the Foreign Office, where he presented a copy, duly counter-signed, of the Act of the Proclamation of Armenian Independence made at Garine (Erzeroum) on February 13 (January 31, O.S.), 1918.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (December 28):—Monsignor Canon Dom Giovanni Sarreo celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood at St. John's Co-Cathedral on Christmas Day. The right rev. gentleman, who is a canon of the Cathedral Church of Malta and a dignitary of the Cathedral Church of Oran (Algeria), has accomplished several missions to Tunisia and Algeria, and was for many years Archpriest in the important and populous parish of Musta, which he only relinquished on his appointment to a canonry of the Cathedral. Monsignor Canon Sarreo enjoys the affection and esteem of all classes in Malta, who heartily congratulate him on this auspicious occasion and as heartily wish him "*Ad multos annos.*"

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge have voted £500 for the production of Serbian Church literature.

Admiral Sir Albert Hastings Markham, K.C.B., of Queen's [illegible]ce, S.W., who died on October 28, aged 76, has left [illegible]erty of the value of £4,747.

Madame Bessie Také Jonescu, of Launceston Place, Kensington, W., and of Bucharest, Roumania, wife of the Roumanian statesman, who died in St. Mary's Hospital, the result of a riding accident in Hyde Park, left property in the United Kingdom valued at £8,677.

The Belgravia War Hospital Supply Depôt, of which Princess Christian is president, proposes to help in the equipment of civilian hospital centres in Serbia and to make a collection of partly worn clothing, blankets, etc., for Serbian refugees. Voluntary workers are needed. The headquarters of the depôt are at 4, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

The relief work during the war of the British Red Crescent Society covers an expenditure of £1,631, of which £275 has gone to the Indian Soldiers' Fund, £350 to the Motor Ambulance for Indian Soldiers and its upkeep, £100 to the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, £450 to Moslem sufferers in Armenia, £200 to Moslem refugees under the Russian Government, and £102 to distressed Moslems at Baghdad.

The will has been proved of Prince Victor Albert Jay Duleep Singh, who left property of the value of £67,192. He gave the sapphire ring presented to him by the Earl of Carnarvon to Lord Porchester, desiring him to treat it as an heirloom and to go with the Carnarvon estates. The Prince left all his property to his wife, absolutely, on condition that she carried out his instructions as to his cremation and wore no mourning herself on his account.

Among the public lectures to be delivered at University College during the second term are a course on "The Institutions of the British Dominions," on Thursdays at 5.30 p.m., beginning February 6; and a second course of Rhodes Lectures on "Indian Institutions," on Mondays, at the same hour, beginning February 10. Copies of the lecture programme can be had by the sending of a stamped addressed envelope to the Publication Secretary, Gower Street, W.C.1.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. de France, French Minister Plenipotentiary to Belgium, has been appointed High Commissioner at Constantinople.

Mr. John Langley, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture, Egypt, has been appointed a Commander (Civil Division) of the Order of the British Empire.

The delegates for the instruction of Indian Civil Service Probationers, Oxford University, have appointed Mr. R. P. Dewhurst, M.A., I.C.S., to be lecturer in Hindustani.

Captain (temp.) Charles A. Willis, Assistant Director of Intelgence, Sudan Government, has been appointed an Honorary Officer (Civil Division) of the Order of the British Empire.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that General Sir G. F. Milner, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Salonika Force, has been appointed Colonel Commandant Royal Artillery (November 21, 1918).

Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire; and Captain Edward C. Midwinter, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Manager Sudan Government Railways and Steamers, has been appointed a Commander of the same Order.

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS AND RELIEF FUND.

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It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the King has approved the following appointments to honorary colonelcies in the Indian Army :—

1/140th Patiala Infantry.—Major-General his Highness Maharajadhiraja Sir Bhupindar Singh Mahindar Bahadur, Maharaja of Patiala, G.C.I.E., G.B.E.

1/141st Bikanir Infantry.—Major-General his Highness Maharaja Sir Ganga Singh Bahadur, Maharaja of Bikanir, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.B.

1/143rd Narsingh (Dholpur) Infantry.—His Highness Maharajadhiraja Sri Sawai Maharaj Rana Sir Udaibhan Singh Lokindar Bahadur, Maharaj Rana of Dholpur, K.C.S.I.

1/144th Bharatpur Infantry.—Lieut. his Highness Maharaja Sri Brajinda Sawai Kishan Singh Bahadur, Maharaja of Bharatpur.

16th (1st Alwar) Lancers and 1/145th Alwar (Jay Paltan) Infantry.—Lieut.-Colonel his Highness Maharaja Sir Jey Singh Bahadur Maharaja of Alwar, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.

OBITUARY.

MAHARANI OF BHAVNAGAR.

The death is announced of H.H. Nandkunvarba, C.I., Maharani of Bhavnagar, Kathiawar. She was a daughter of the Chief of Khirasa, and married the Thakur Sahib in 1905. Progressive herself, in the best sense of the expression, she did much for the progress of the Kathiawar principality, especially in regard to improving the medical and sanitary conditions, and the extension of female education. During the war she edited a paper in Gujrati, which did excellent work in spreading the truth among the Indian troops and Indian public, and even more in counteracting German and pro-German reports and propaganda. Her literary talents were of no mean order, and she was author of a fine tribute to Lord Kitchener and another to Lord Hardinge. She also translated several of Mr. Lloyd George's speeches into Gujrati and Urdu.

Lieut.-Colonel Colwyn Vulliamy, late of the Leicestershire Regiment, has died at Cheltenham, aged 73. He saw service in the Afghan War of 1878-9, and had the medal with clasp.

Major Richard Stanley Baker, I.A.R.O., commanding 3rd Burma Company Mechanical Transport Corps, and of the public Works Department, Burma, died at Rawal Pindi on November 13 of influenza. He was 36 years old.

It is officially announced that Captain Henry Gerrard Reed, 114th Mahrattas, Indian Army, was killed in action on October 29, 1918, in the final operations against the Turks. He was the only son of Mr. John Reed, of Pali Hill, Bombay.

Mr. Francis Culling Carr-Gomm died on January 13 at his residence at Farnham Royal. Born in 1834, he was educated at Cheam School and the H.E.I.C.'s College at Haileybury. He joined the Madras Civil Service, and was for many years District Judge of Tinnevelly.

Canon Maurice Cowell, who died last week (January 9), aged 84, was a brother of Professor Edmund Byles Cowell, the Oriental scholar who first introduced Edward Fitzgerald to Persian literature. The Canon had travelled much in the Holy Land and in Greece.

Surgeon-General Sir James Howard Thornton died on January 6, in his eighty-fifth year. He entered the Indian Medical Service in 1856, and served through the Indian military campaigns, the Khasia and Jyntia Hills campaign, in which he was twice wounded, the Bhootan War, the Egyptian and Suakin expeditions, and the Hazara expedition. He was five times mentioned in despatches and received four medals with seven clasps. He also received the Khedive's Star, and (in 1885) the C.B. He was created K.C.B. in 1904.

We regret to announce the death at Ivy Glen, Rothesay, Bute, on January 9, of Mr. Laurence G. Binns, of Constantinople, in his seventieth year. Born in Constantinople in 1849, he spent the greater part of his life in that city. During the Russo-Turkish War and the two Balkan Wars he acted on relief committees, giving much time and thought to organising the distribution of funds, clothing, and food. He took a keen interest in all that affected the welfare of the British community, and gave his support to such enterprises as the Mutual Benefit Building Society, of which he was a director. He leaves a widow, four daughters, and one son.

Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., LL.D., died last Friday at Lymington, aged 77. His work on "Russia" (first published in 1877, and revised in 1905 and 1912) is too well known to require more than passing reference. Later afterwards became *The Times* special correspondent in Russia, at Berlin, Constantinople, and in the Balkan Peninsula. Later he went to Egypt, still for *The Times*; but when Lord Dufferin went to India as Viceroy he took Wallace with him as private secretary—a position which he filled with the utmost success. In 1889 he returned home by the overland route, but in 1890-91 he went to the East again as political officer in attendance on the late Tsar (then Tsarevitch) during his tour in India and Ceylon. Thereafter most of his time was spent in England. He was in 1891 appointed Director of the Foreign Department of *The Times*, and later edited the 10th edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica."

Lieut.-Colonel John Walter Inge, R.H.A., who has died at Oxford, aged 80, served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, and had the medal with two clasps.

Mr. William Perceval Gore Graham, late Director-General of the Egyptian Public Health Department, died suddenly in London on December 30, in his fifty-eighth year. He was the third son of the late Robert Gore Graham, of Southmead, Westbury, Gloucestershire, and he entered the R.A.M.C. in 1887. Three years later he joined the Egyptian Army, and in 1891 he served in the Sokar campaign (mentioned in despatches). In 1896 he volunteered his services at the time of the serious outbreak of cholera in Egypt, and was later given a permanent post in the Egyptian Civil Service. In 1902 he was selected by the Egyptian Government to reorganise the municipality of Alexandria, and for two years he acted as administrator of that town. He then returned to Cairo, where he occupied the post of Director-General of Public Health in Egypt from 1907 to 1914, during which time he provided the city with its very excellent water supply. In 1914 he retired from the Egyptian service, and was appointed to a post under the Home Office. In 1915 he went to Serbia with Lady Wimborne's Hospital, and later was sent to Egypt by the War Office. A fall from his horse resulted in his being invalided home and his retirement from the Army.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Bulgarian Chamber has adjourned until February 20, after adopting a Bill for a general amnesty, proposed by M. Todoroff, the Premier.

A resolution excluding Bulgarians and Turks from corresponding membership has been passed by the Belgian Academie Royale des Beaux Arts.

A Jewish Congress, representing all parts of the Czecho-Slovak State, was held in Prague on the 4th inst., when a resolution was passed demanding a Jewish national home in an undivided Palestine.

Prisons in Bulgaria are said to be crowded with Greeks from Western Thrace, who have been imprisoned for no other cause than because they are Greek. The Greek authorites have made arrangements for the repatriation of these Greeks and those in Eastern Macedonia.

Speaking at a meeting of the East India Association on Monday, Lady Katharine Stuart said that the Oriental idea of education did not take enough count of the practical things of life, but the Western idea placed too much emphasis on moneymaking, and did not take enough stock of the personal question—it took children, as it were, by the dozen.

According to the statement of a young Serbian, who had been recruited by force, the Bulgarians deported 5,000 Greeks of Eastern Macedonia, while 4,000 Serbs succumbed to hunger and torture. Women and children were forced to work under terrible cruelties and violations, and Greek girls who refused to yield to officers' desires were flogged to death.

Reports have been received that a great shortage of bread cereals exists in Roumania, and the Wheat Executive in London, which is the Inter-Allied organisation for the purpose of food distribution in Allied countries, has arranged for the immediate diversion of supplies which were on their way to Europe through the Suez Canal. This wheat will go through the Dardanelles to a Roumanian Black Sea port.

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THE INDIAN SERVICES AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

The position of the Administrative Service bulks so largely in current discussions on Indian constitutional reform that observers who are unfamiliar with the conditions are almost tempted to conjecture that the word Service has taken on a new meaning under Indian skies, and that the country exists only, or at least mainly, for the sake of the administrators. Such a theory could indeed be largely justified from the contentions put forward by enthusiasts on both sides. The politicians of the Extreme Left desire, beyond everything else, to get the administrative machinery of the country into their own hands, and in pursuit of this object they endeavour persistently to concentrate public attention on the real or imaginary defects of the existing agency; the result is seen in the campaign of mingled criticism and calumny which continues to develop in a section of the Indian Press, and which has already produced a certain amount of effect on public opinion. In furtherance of this campaign it has of late become the fashion to proclaim that the Services have assumed the position of masters, and to appeal to the British public, or an even wider audience, to terminate the usurpation of this oligarchy, and entrust the administration to Indians, meaning, though this is not usually explained, that narrow Indian circle which has behind it the traditions of long centuries of tyranny. The object of the Extreme Left is thus clear, but we must admit some difficulty in understanding why the Extreme Right should put forward a substantially identical view of the situation. The public is being told on this side that the proposals for reform are calculated to destroy the authority, or the prestige, or the traditions, of the great Indian Services, and the conclusion is then suggested, if it is not actually drawn, that they are deserving of rejection on that ground. In the face of such a convergence of opposed factions, the ordinary English voter may well be pardoned if he infers that the position of the Services is the most vital question among those which now call for a decision, and that a position so anomalous and so dangerous ought to be altered with the least possible delay. The inference is, however, wholly at variance with the facts, and the simplest and most direct way of refuting it is to restate the position as it actually exists.

What, then, are the traditions of the Services, concerning which so much is now being said? In our experience they are these: unselfish and unostentatious devotion to the interests of the Indian people as a whole; special regard for the interests of those sections of the people who are unable to make their voices heard; fearless criticism of all proposals affecting the public welfare, no matter from what exalted source they spring; loyal acceptance of all orders when once the stage of discussion has been left behind. These are the principles which have guided Englishmen in India for the last century, and these are the principles by which they will be guided in the years to come. It was in accordance with these principles that the Services accepted without question the declaration of policy made in August, 1917; we believe that, as a matter of fact, the terms of that declaration were welcomed by the great bulk of Service opinion, but, however that may be, opinions were recognized to be irrelevant; the order had been given, and that was enough. The position in regard to the official scheme of reforms is entirely different: the scheme has been published to elicit criticism, and we are glad to know that the Services are expressing their opinions on it without regard to the official dignity of its authors, and that, true to their traditions, they are thinking more of the silent masses, the men at the plough and at the loom, than of the classes who are so well able to take care of their own interests. The position will undergo another change when that scheme, or some other, becomes an order; then the voice of criticism will be hushed, and the Services will devote themselves to making the scheme a practical success. They may accomplish this, or they may not, but they will give their best efforts, and if the new constitution should prove a failure, the result will be due to errors of design and not to the hostility of those who have had to put the design into practice.

Such being the actual position, it seems to us particularly unfortunate that the Secretary of State and the Viceroy should have decided to deal with the recruitment and composition of the Services in their report on constitutional reforms. The reasonable and logical course was first to settle the constitution, and then decide on the staff required for its working, but the authorities found, as they tell us, that they must take account of the attitude of Indian opinion, and accordingly they have resuscitated the policy of boons and doles which, we hoped, had been finally discredited by the experience of the last decade. The Public Services Commission had proposed certain extensions of the existing practice of recruiting Indian candidates, their scheme being designed to meet the needs of India under the present constitution. Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu have taken these proposals as a basis under the new and essentially different constitution, but, at the same time, they suggest increases in the proportion of Indians recommended by the Commission, increases which they say are warranted by the changed conditions, and so we find ourselves suddenly plunged into the atmosphere of the auction mart. The Commission would take one Indian in four; the authorities now offer to take one Indian in three; and it is scarcely necessary to add that politicians have been prompt to meet this offer with a demand for one place in two, the needs of the country being wholly subordinated to the claims of a minute minority. The offer has, however, been made, and it is binding at least on the authorities who made it; all that can now be urged on those authorities is that they should take measures to ensure that within the limits so set India should get men of the type that she requires. They have admitted that a substantial element of Englishmen must remain in the Indian Services "so far in the future as any man can foresee"; they have recognized that there must be no falling off in the quality of the Englishmen recruited; they have committed themselves to the task of recruiting a certain number yearly; and with this object in view they will shortly enter a market where the conditions of supply are at the moment utterly unknown. Our plea now is that they should devote more attention to the conditions of that market, and for the time being think less of the aspirations of Indian politicians. For the moment it appears probable that the real needs of India can be met by drawing on the great reserve of young men who have served in the Army and have learned the principles of administration while still almost in their teens, and we earnestly hope that for the next year or two the recruitment of Englishmen will be limited strictly to that source, and that academical qualifications will be subordinated, if necessary, to the experience gained in a sterner school. Beyond that, the outlook is uncertain; no one can predict whether the schools and universities will offer an adequate supply of suitable recruits on the terms now proposed, and it is with the schools and the universities that the matter rests. The time is, therefore, unsuitable for the promulgation of ambitious and quasi-permanent schemes; the authorities have already committed themselves to an extent which is, in our opinion, undesirable or even dangerous; and they should now be content for a period to wait upon the market, and depend upon temporary and flexible regulations, keeping steadfastly in view the paramount object of securing an adequate supply of young Englishmen of the stamp required to bring to fruition the great experiment on which the Empire is about to enter.

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RURAL LIFE IN EASTERN MACEDONIA.

It is thought that some impressions of one who has spent nearly three years in Eastern Macedonia during the war, and has been brought much in contact with the inhabitants and seen something of their life and occupations at close quarters, may be of interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST, and may serve to fill in some details in the rather incomplete pictures of the country which are current in England. The Struma Valley, the Chalcidice, and the coastal regions from the Gulf of Orfano up as far as Kavalla are the districts where the writer spent most of his time, but he travelled also over most of the country east of the Vardar. In spite of the war, life in the villages went on much as usual, especially in 1916, before evacuation began, and we stayed so long in one district that it was possible to get to know the people fairly intimately.

Of course, there are a great many local differences in the different areas, and, above all, there is the difference of race. There are villages purely Greek, purely Turkish, and those in which Greeks and Bulgarians, Greeks and Turks, or Bulgarians and Turks live side by side, with occasional settlements of Vlachs and Tsinganes (gipsies). It should be explained that the term Bulgarian as used in Macedonia means no more than a Christian speaking a Slavonic language. He may be a Serb, or even a Greek, or, since all Christians have mixed freely together in the Balkans, of mixed blood. Language is not a conclusive criterion of race in Macedonia. You would naturally suppose that a certain village in which the vast majority of the inhabitants speak Bulgarian in their families is Bulgarian; the Greek authorities maintain that they are Bulgarophone Hellenes. It is a question almost impossible to decide definitely, and in practice it really makes comparatively little difference. Christian Macedonians all live much in the same way, and under an impartial and strong government would get on very happily together. With the Turks, of course, it is different; they are a race whose religion and customs keep them entirely apart, and who have none but business relations with the other races. The Turks in the valley on the south side of the Pangaeon mountain, where the old Via Egnatia and the new Greek military road run to Kavalla, told us that when the district became Greek, after the Balkan War, many of the families left the country, and that they would have gone too only they were convinced that Turkey would reconquer Macedonia. This was in 1916; in August of that year the Bulgarian army occupied the district, and except for a brief period, when they were relieved by a Turkish division, remained there until the armistice. It is now Greek again, and likely to continue so; but, unless the Greeks make it too uncomfortable for them, I expect the Turkish inhabitants, who are still the predominant race on the south side of the mountain, though the north side is almost entirely Greek, will decide to remain and make the best of it.

Perhaps the best way to give my readers an idea of how life goes in a Macedonian village will be to take them with me on an imaginary visit to a village we will call Platanochori, though that is not its real name. It is a nice village, well situated on the foothills which form the southern boundary of the Struma Valley, with about 300 rather exceptionally well-built houses—that is, with a population of 1,500 to 2,000—all Greek, though many of the names are distinctly "Macedonian," and indicate a mixed origin. When I first knew Platanochori you could only get there on a horse by an unpleasantly stony path, but latterly the village has made a heroic effort and widened the track, though the stones still remain, and I went there last year in a Ford van. The village streets, as always in Macedonia, are steep and narrow, and the rough *paré* is full of holes and ruts; so we will leave the car at the entrance to the village and proceed on foot to the village square, the chief features of which are three large plane-trees and a handsome stone-built spring-head, from which the water gushes into two large stone troughs. Women are washing clothes, and others are drawing water into large earthenware jars of antique shape. If you are thirsty—as you probably will be, for Macedonia is a thirsty country—ask one of the women for a drink. The water is excellent, and is brought a considerable distance from the mountain in pipes. The Macedonians, as a rule, are very particular about their water, and recognise specific qualities in different springs; they will tell you the water of one is light, another heavy. They drink enormous quantities, and when any considerable number of labourers are gathered together, it is quite a business to keep them supplied. There are a good many men about the square, and the café is full of people. You wonder if you have struck one of the innumerable Saints' days, when no work is done; but the people are not in their best clothes, as they would be if it were a holiday, and the truth is that about this time of the morning—between 11 and 12 o'clock—there are always lots of people about, for which there are several reasons. One is that it is in the streets and the cafés that all business is transacted, and, time not being money in Macedonia, business means endless talking. Then the people here start work as soon as it is light, and normally break off for the day when it is time for the midday meal. But, when all is said, plodding daily work as we know it in Western Europe is not the rule in Macedonia. At the busy seasons, such as tobacco planting or the harvest, they and their women will work hard from dawn to dusk of a summer's day, with a sleep during the hottest hours, but at ordinary times there are so many little jobs, involving so much travelling to be done, that anything like routine is scarcely possible, besides being most repugnant to the native temperament. Once a week at least the head of the family must go to the mill with his donkey laden with two sacks of wheat—it may be an hour or more away. He has to wait his turn, and also wait till his wheat is ground; altogether, with one thing and another, it is a day's journey. Then there is a frequent journey to the mountain for fuel, and if the villager is a man of any substance he will have business pretty often in the neighbouring villages, and that generally means a whole day's journey and frequently a night away from home. At present the donkey, or in rare cases the mule, is the only means of getting about. As three miles an hour is all a donkey can do, and distances are enormous, the amount of time they all consume in travelling can hardly be conceived.

We will take a walk down the street and look at the shops. The village tradesmen, the workers in iron and tin, the bootmaker and the saddler, generally work in their own houses, and not in the booths with open fronts such as you see in Salonika and other large towns. A shop is essentially a place where you buy imported articles. If you go inside, you will find it not unlike a general shop in an English village, though, as it is wartime, there is very little to buy. There is a scarcity of everything, especially of the cheap Austrian goods with which the country used to be flooded. Sugar, coffee, rice, olive oil, and paraffin are the chief things which have to be bought in a Macedonian household. Bread is invariably baked at home in the villages by everyone, and is the main article of food. Milk, cheese, and "yaourt"—sour milk; a very popular dish—you get from your own or your neighbours' sheep and goats. Cow's milk is not used, but is kept for the calves. Fish from the lakes and the river they buy from hawkers whenever they can; for the Greeks are passionately fond of it, as they always were. They also like meat occasionally on feast days, and will eat enormous quantities if they get the chance, but they are not habitual meat eaters. Eggs are very plentiful, and used to be very cheap, like everything else, in Turkish times; so in season are vegetables and fruit.

Although the people themselves produce so many of their requirements—for much of their clothing is made at home from home-grown wool and cotton—the shopkeepers seem to do very well. The polite name for the best sort of shopkeeper is "merchant." Besides his retail business he generally buys local produce and sells it wholesale in Salonika to the firm which supplies the goods for his shop. The villagers have the same weakness, which is so common in Ireland, for running up long accounts, and many of them live in complete dependence on the merchant. This does not seem to work out as badly as it sounds, as a Macedonian village is really like one large family, and there is a good deal of give and take between creditor and debtor. Still, it must be rather demoralising; and co-operative village credit banks, if they could be introduced, would be a great boon to the cultivators, as, under existing conditions, they can only borrow at very high rates, but there would be a good deal of opposition on the part of those who profit by the present state of things

W. S. COHEN.

(To be concluded.)

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Parties" in Turkey.

The following notes on political parties in Turkey are extracted from an article contributed to *The Times* by "A Returned Resident," and entitled "Constantinople Under the Armistice."

As for the party struggle—*plus ça change plus c'est la même chose*. There is no change in the old grouping—Committee and Anti-Committee. True, the Tejeddud (Renaissance) Party has expelled certain too notorious members of the C.U.P. from its ranks, and with a number of recently formed parties and leagues affects to deplore the misdeeds of Talaat and the really remarkable financial operations of Enver and his Quartermaster-General, Ismail Hakki. But it is becoming increasingly clear that all these parties are emanations of the C.U.P., which is unquestionably working hard to recover lost ground, is in possession of ample funds, and is probably still better organised than its opponents. It cannot form a Government, but it can seriously embarrass any other Government, and its past record is such as to make its opponents very nervous of its subterranean activities. Talaat may not be in hiding here, as many affirm, but Talaat's friends, Carasso, Midhat Shukri, and the rest are here, active—and wealthy—and one sometimes wonders whether a new *coup d'Etat* might not already have been attempted had not Allied warships commanded Constantinople.

The Opposition is strong, better organised, and it would seem of higher spirit than in 1912. It has numbers, and the support of some exceptionally honest men, such as Ahmed Riza, who is now the stern critic of the C.U.P. which he founded.

The "Party of the Principles of President Wilson" is simply a propagandist group, which is bidding especially for America's "disinterested" support in the regeneration of Turkey. It is composed of Dönmés (crypto-Jews) and others who till three months ago were either notorious as Germanophils or as Neo-Turanians. To judge from the articles published in its organ, *Vakit*, its chief preoccupation is to maintain Turkish domination in the Armenian vilayets. It ascribes the responsibility for the massacres to the Armenians, and by classing Kurds, Lazes, and Circassians as "Turks" can produce arguments in favour of a Turkish Armenia. A declaration by President Wilson or by the Entente Powers that massacre-made majorities shall not be taken into account at the Peace Conference seems very desirable. The Greek and Armenian political parties are chiefly concerned with their respective national interests.

The "New Spirit" and the Old.

From another article in *The Times* (January 13), on "The Old Spirit in Turkey," we take the following passages:—

It cannot honestly be said that there are many signs of the "new spirit" towards racial problems among the Turkish official and professional classes. If the Press is a safe guide, there is a marked tendency to ascribe the worst crimes and abuses of the last few years to a small group of politicians who have taken to flight, and to find extenuating circumstances for the others; to hint that the Armenians themselves are mainly to blame for the "events," though evidence is never adduced in support of this surprising contention; to burke all references to the shocking treatment of British prisoners of war; and to make claims to the retention of Northern Syria, Mesopotamia, Cilicia, and Armenian provinces, and even Macedonia. The writers who make these claims to the Arab and Armenian areas argue on the premises that the Arabs or Kurds, being Moslem, should be included among the Turkish population, and they proceed to demand that the Turks in these areas should be allowed self-determination on the basis of a racial majority secured by massacre. Nor do the Press references to the European situation inspire any confidence in the foresight and judgment of the aforesaid classes. . . .

It is possible that the arrival from Western Europe of the exiled members of the Committee parties may eventually improve matters by teaching many of the Turks what is the real state of affairs. The masses remain apathetic, save where they have profited by the expulsion of the Greeks and Armenians, and fear the necessity of disgorging the plunder.

The task of the Government is, therefore, very difficult, and it will be long before the general confusion and demoralisation now prevailing can be expected to abate.

The Future of Montenegro.

The strained situation as between Serbia and Montenegro is responsible for the following note in the *Saturday Review*:—

The Montenegrins are starving. Their land, which never contained much more than timber and stones, was devastated by the Austrian invaders. Benevolent British and Americans subscribed money for revictualling, but so soon as the work began, the French authorities persuaded our Permit Office to refuse visas to the revictuallers, and relief is accordingly at a standstill. Meanwhile the Jugoslav or Serbian cabal has gathered together a few pundits at Agram and pronounced the annexation of Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro. The Press of Europe obediently swallows the fable, though it has not been ascertained whether those countries desire to be absorbed by Serbia or subjected to her laws. Their Parliaments have not yet been summoned to decide, for the very good reason that most of their soldiers are not yet home from prison camps. Questioned about this injustice, the Foreign Office replied with brutal frankness: "We agree that Montenegro is being treated unjustly; she has our sympathy, but we are not prepared to quarrel with France for the sake of Montenegro." Can the explanation be that French financiers are floating a big loan for "greater Serbia"?

Whatever the explanation may be, it is certain that real friends of Serbia and of Montenegro alike must deplore the state of affairs that has arisen, and must earnestly hope that it will soon be terminated—by the Great Powers, if necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INDEPENDENT ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I ask for space in your esteemed paper to write a few lines for the righteous cause of my heroic and oppressed fatherland, Armenia, a cause which, I believe, can be surpassed by none for its cruel baptism of blood and fire.

Ere these meagre lines of mine touching the last and crowning phase of the Armenian Question appear the Peace Conference will, perhaps, have opened at Versailles to declare the rights of nations, strong and weak, and to do "strict justice" to them.

We are told by the wise and noble President of the United States in simple and dignified language, that "impartial justice" must reign at the peace table, and "the equal rights of the several peoples concerned must be secured."

The Armenian nation, whose political, legitimate aspirations are quite known to me, demands, in the name of the lofty principles laid down by President Wilson and upheld by all the Allies, that the destructive Turkish rule over our fair lands should cease to exist, and an independent Armenian State, embracing its historical and ethnical frontiers, should be created, helped, and backed by the victorious and chivalrous Allies, in whom we have deep confidence.

The Armenians demand their independence because (1) they have suffered terribly at the hands of the "Unspeakable Turk" for siding with the Entente. My pen cannot dwell on the sorrows of my dear country, for the agonies it has gone through are too heavy, too crushing for any conscious, palpitating Armenian heart to bear. (2) The Armenian nation, groaning under three yokes—the Turkish, Russian, and Persian—like Poland, without an army or state treasury, raised tens of thousands of brave volunteers and fought valiantly for the ideals of the Allies in all the great theatres of the war. (3) The country that stretches from Erivan, at the foot of Mount Ararat, to the port of Ayas, on the Gulf of Alexandretta, is our own fatherland, and is most sacred to us, as every inch of it is soaked with the blood of ancient and modern Armenian heroes.

We have paid an enormously heavy price for our liberty and independence, and "strict justice" should not deprive us of what we consider—and what the civilised nations will consider—to be our sacred right to unmolested, independent political existence.—I am, etc.,

R. TOKVORIAN, B.A., D.D.S.

Nicosia, Cyprus, December 5, 1918.

PALESTINE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We should be glad if you would allow us to draw attention to our appeal for help on Palestine Sunday, February 2. Nearly two years ago the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund commenced active relief work south of Gaza. Following the advance of the Allied forces, Gaza, Hebron, Jaffa, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nablus, Nazareth and other points were occupied, and our workers have not only started soup kitchens, hospitals, dispensaries, and orphanages, but have administered relief on a large scale to a stricken people. Operations have now been extended into Northern Syria from whence accounts come to hand weekly telling of terrible distress.

The Relief Fund, jointly with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, are now organising, at the request of General Sir Edmund Allenby, a British Relief Unit for Syria, which it is hoped will leave England in February fully equipped to deal with medical and industrial relief. For the support of this unit, in addition to the present work of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, we need increased financial help.

We ask therefore for generous and widespread support on Palestine Sunday, and we are sure the Christian public of Great Britain will see to it that such a work of mercy to the suffering people of Syria and Palestine will not lack for funds.—We are, Sir, yours sincerely,

A. HENRY MCMAHON,
Chairman of London Committee.
RENNIE MACINNES (Bishop),
Chairman of Administrative Committee.

Syria and Palestine Relief Fund,
110, Victoria St., Westminster, S.W.1.
January 8, 1919.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Trade in Morocco is very restricted at the moment, but there is no reason for thinking that the stagnation will be long continued. As regards the export trade, efforts are being made, I understand, to obtain the removal of restrictions on the export of Moroccan produce as speedily as possible. It is absolutely necessary that British merchants should have freedom of trade with respect to Morocco. They have suffered very largely during the war owing to the restrictions imposed by the French authorities. The position in this respect may be gathered from the fact that the restrictions covered wheat, barley, maize, and hides and skins.

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Endeavours are being made to get the restrictions on exports to Morocco removed, and they are going gradually. The position in Morocco is, however, very difficult, because the armistice was declared very much earlier than was anticipated, and trade has come to a standstill as the local merchants think that there will be a serious fall in prices, and that they will be able to buy all their requirements at pre-war prices. Of course this view is absolutely fallacious, and the sooner they realise it the better for all concerned.

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In view of the prospective re-establishment at an early date of regular communications with Roumania, the Bank of Roumania has issued a circular drawing attention to the wide field of trade activity that Roumania will present in the future, and offering its assistance to British merchants who desire to take advantage of the opportunity.

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Before the war Roumania was overrun by the Germans, who by insidious methods had contrived to obtain a remarkable influence over the country's commercial activities. The Roumanians acquiesced in this state of things mainly because they could not help themselves, but owing to the war an entirely new situation has arisen, and in the immediate future the dominating factor in Roumanian commerce is going to be the intense hatred of the people for everything German. The Roumanians will naturally look to the Allies to establish intimate trade relations with them, and to supply their needs so that it will not be necessary again for them to look to Germany or her ally for anything. This prospect opens up wide scope for increased trade for British merchants and manufacturers. France has always been extremely popular in Roumania, and our Ally will no doubt obtain a large share of the available trade; but, provided the individual British trader does his duty, there is no reason why the United Kingdom's trade with Roumania should not be increased to an equal extent.

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I hear that a deputation from Manchester visted London last week with a view to obtaining licences for the export of goods to Serbia and Roumania. This is, if I am not mistaken, the second deputation of this kind from Manchester, the previous one being in connection with trade with the Levant. Evidently the cotton people are determined to leave no stone unturned to promote the resumption of normal trade relations with the Near East. The enterprise of the Manchester merchants might possibly be followed to advantage in other quarters, as it seems to be the only way to make the machinery move.

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A position has arisen with regard to Indian imports, which seems to call for immediate official action. At the conclusion of the armistice there was a great accumulation in America of metal goods and other commodities destined for India, and American exporters who have not had to face the difficulties with which British traders have been confronted were able to begin the despatch of these goods in large quantities. They have begun to arrive while orders placed in the United Kingdom very many months ago are still not carried out, owing to shipping difficulties. But, besides that, American exporters are quoting prices for further consignments far below the war level, and these goods they will no doubt be able to deliver when British goods ordered long ago and priced at the war figure reach their destination. This has led to a strong movement among dealers in India to cancel contracts. If this were allowed the situation might become one of great difficulty, and it has been suggested that steps should be taken to institute a system of licences for imports into India by which preference would be given to the oldest contracts, and goods ordered since the armistice would not be released until earlier orders had been completed. That would solve the problem, and it may be hoped that some such device will be speedily adopted.

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I was glad to notice in the New Year's Honours List the name of Mr. Leslie Couper, general manager of the Bank of British West Africa, who has received the C.M.G. My readers will also be interested to learn that Mr. Clifford B. Edgar, a director of that bank, was among the successful candidates at the General Election.

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My readers will, I think, be interested to hear the views of a correspondent, who is specially qualified to speak on the subject, on the outlook in Syria. My correspondent was immensely enthusiastic over the prospects for that country, and looked forward to development on a scale that would never have been dreamt of before the war. He laid special stress on the possibilities of power production in the country, and he pointed out that Syria's swift-flowing streams if properly utilised would provide a matchless source of wealth. "There are a remarkable number of these streams," he added, "all of them very rapid, and the country which is so fortunate as to possess them has a limitless supply of free energy."

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I have always understood that the finest asphalt in the world comes from the West Indies, but, of course, so much depends on what the material is to be used for, and I am assured by a merchant who used to deal in this commodity that as a matter of fact asphalt from the Dead Sea is the finest for all purposes. The merchant used to sell Syrian asphalt at 30s a cwt., but the Dead Sea product brought him 65s. a cwt. The special feature about this particular asphalt is, he stated, its complete freedom from grit, a characteristic which it shared with no other variety.

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There will be an excellent opening for British traders in Egypt and the Sudan as soon as trade conditions approximate to the normal for building materials of all kinds, as, of course, there will be throughout the Near East, where new construction, whether of houses, factories, or public works has been simply in abeyance in the past four years. Probably there is greater scope in this direction for enterprise on the part of British merchants than in any other line, and this is particularly the case as regards housing accommodation. My readers are quite familiar with the comprehensive plan for new houses at Salonika, and while the shortage there is obviously mainly artificial, there is in many parts of the Near East, and notably in Egypt and the Sudan, a very real lack of houses, and obviously in these places there will be an immense demand for building materials.

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Unfortunately there is one very real obstacle which may prevent this country obtaining its proper share of this trade, and that is, needless to say, the vast demand for builders' materials in this country, to say nothing of the needs of Belgium and Northern France. No one, of course, would suggest that home requirements of an urgent nature should be shelved for ulterior considerations, but while I fully recognise the difficulty of meeting these needs and at the same time of catering for foreign markets, I strongly urge our merchants to do their best to take advantage of the openings that exist in the Near East, because it is not merely a question of satisfying a temporary need, and the country which obtains the business now may depend upon a permanent market for these commodities.

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I see that Professor Raitt, consulting cellulose expert to the Government of India, takes a very optimistic view as to the development of paper pulp manufacture in India. In a recent lecture, after pointing out that the world's annual consumption of paper was ten million tons and that the demand was growing at the rate of 25 per cent. every ten years, he expressed the opinion that India could do a very great deal to fill the gap. Bamboo and some Savannah grasses, he said, could be used to produce twenty million tons annually for India, Burma, and Ceylon, so that the country could produce pulp for the whole world.

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It is reported that the Government of Ceylon intends to take steps to promote the manufacture of salt in the Island on a much larger scale in the future. This news is very welcome, because the salt industry there is generally recognised as affording scope for considerable expansion, and its development would not only add to the Island's wealth but would also enlarge the sources of revenue, a factor which is of special importance at the present time.

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COMMERCE WITH SYRIA.

Britain's Leading Position.

Next to Mesopotamia, Syria is commonly regarded as one of the most promising fields for British trade enterprise in the widest sense in the near future, and it is interesting to note that from the commercial point of view Syria has much in common with the potential granary of the East. Thus Syria also offers vast scope for agricultural expansion, and there too one of the great openings will be for agricultural machinery, pumps, and other appliances which can assist the soil to yield its produce, and there are other similar comparisons that could be drawn. But there is the vital difference between the two regions that the pioneer work which must be done in Mesopotamia before there can be any great development is not required in Syria, at any rate in many parts of the country. The ground work has been accomplished there to the extent that the value of modern methods and machinery for agriculture and other industries is in process of being realised, and it is possible to look forward to a time in a not too distant future when Syria will be a great machinery market. The present position in this direction may be gathered from the fact that there has been a steady demand for such things as oil presses, looms, ice making machinery and pumps. Apart from machinery the Syrian market presents openings of a most varied description, and the impression could certainly not be derived from the pre-war list of imports that the country is entirely undeveloped. Caution is needed, however, in drawing any deductions in this respect, since it is the coast towns and the towns a little inland that are responsible for the range of imports, and the hinterland for the most part has still to be stirred by the finger of progress. But there need be no saving clause as regards Syria's prospects as a market, and the fact that her commerce grew as it did before the war in unfavourable circumstances is the best indication of what is likely to take place under happier auspices. Unquestionably British merchants will find in Syria a rare opportunity for enlarging their trade, and they will have themselves to blame if, through lack of enterprise, initiative, or any of the failings that handicapped British commerce in many countries before the war, they do not avail themselves of the market. It will probably be a source of encouragement to them to be reminded of a fact that is not generally realised, but which certainly should be widely known, namely, that before the war the United Kingdom was in the front rank of the countries from which Syria drew her imports. It is often assumed that France has had a large share of the Syrian trade, presumably for the reason that our Ally has always taken such a keen interest in the country, but this is not the case as regards imports, though France has been one of the chief purchasers of Syrian produce.

British and French Trade.

The pre-war position may be illustrated by the statistics for the vilayet of Aleppo. The imports of this district, through Alexandretta, were valued in 1911 at £1,145,135, in 1912 at £1,209,646, and in 1913 at £930,478. For these three years the totals for the United Kingdom were respectively £445,445, £572,777, and £364,430, in each case a very respectable proportion of the total trade. France's figures were much smaller, and were also in a descending ratio. In 1911 Syria took goods from France to the value of £120,626, in the following year the total was £87,636, and in 1913 it had fallen to £61,600. The second place in the list of imports in each of the years in question was taken by Turkey, whose figures in 1913 were £198,978. The only other point of interest is that the Central Powers took a prominent part in the trade, Austria-Hungary with £90,451 in 1913, a total which was near her average for the three years, and Germany with £76,606 in the same year, which was twice her total in 1911, and represented a substantial advance on the 1912 figures. In the list of exports valued in 1913 at £931,813 the United Kingdom's figures were only £12,645 against £235,057 for Turkey, £323,700 for Egypt, £140,855 for France, and £110,272 for the United States.

The main reason for the prominent place taken by the United Kingdom in the imports through Alexandretta was the demand for cotton yarns and cloths in the Aleppo district, the bulk of which material was supplied by this country. One of the industries of the district is the production of cotton tissues, which were exported on a considerable scale before the war to Smyrna for sale there to agents of merchants in the Balkans; hence the growing demand for cotton yarns. India and Italy took a share of this trade, and, while neither was a serious competitor, it is evident that our great Dependency will have to be taken into consideration in this market in the future. In addition the United Kingdom supplied most of the imports of woollen goods, and also found a small opening for trade in silk goods, drugs and chemicals, soda and coffee. Silk goods formed France's chief export to Syria, while in 1912 and 1913, when progress was being made with the Baghdad Railway scheme, it need scarcely be added that Germany found an excellent opening for building materials, principally for railway construction, imports of which amounted to about £40,000 in 1912 and to £56,000 in 1913.

Position at Beyrout.

In the trade of Beyrout the relative positions of the United Kingdom and France as regards imports were even more pronounced, for while the United Kingdom's share of the imports through Alexandretta was a little more than a third, or something like four times France's imports, this country supplied half the imports into Beyrout, or between six and seven times the imports from our Ally. As regards exports, however, the difference between the figures for the United Kingdom and France was greater than in the previous instance. Turning to the figures, the total imports into Beyrout in 1912 were valued at £1,497,500, and in 1913 at £2,175,500. For these years the United Kingdom's totals were respectively £748,500 and £1,014,500, against France's figures of £121,000 in 1912 and £175,000 in 1913. Turkey's exports to Beyrout were insignificant, a fact which is no doubt to be attributed to the situation prevailing at that time, but both Germany and Austria-Hungary were finding an excellent market for their products through Beyrout. The imports from Austria rose in 1913 from £134,500 to £210,000, while those from Germany increased in the same year from £121,000 to £180,000. As regards exports from Beyrout, France took goods valued at £423,800 in 1912, out of a total trade of £525,600, and the corresponding figures for 1913 were £517,000 and £630,850.

As in the case of the trade of the Aleppo district, the United Kingdom's place in the countries importing into Beyrout was due to the demand for textiles. There was competition from India and Italy, but not of a serious nature. In other lines in which this country might have been expected to take a leading place it failed to do so mainly because no adequate effort was made to cultivate the market. Thus the United Kingdom's share of the imports of iron and steel, which were on a considerable scale, was very small. Beyrout's imports of 350 tons of galvanised sheets came from this country, and the United Kingdom also had the principal share in the trade in bottomed sheets and tin plates, and further exported iron pipes and tiles to a moderate extent, but the iron and steel trade was mainly in the hands of Germany and Belgium. There was a growing demand in the Beyrout district before the war for all kinds of preserved meats, and in this trade the United Kingdom was first as regards tinned meats, fish, jam, and pickles, while France also found a good opening for sardines, tinned vegetables, and meats.

Sufficient has been said to illustrate the leading place of the United Kingdom in the trade of Syria before the war, which, as we have seen, was due almost entirely to a line of goods which has always been the speciality of this country. This trade will no doubt be maintained in the future, though not in the same easy conditions as before, but the task before British traders is not to rest content with maintaining their position. To do that would be to ignore the wonderful opportunities that will shortly be presented in Syria, and would mean giving our trade rivals an opening for which we may be sure they are looking; for it is not in this country alone that the prospects in Syria have been recognised.

TENDERS INVITED.

Egyptian State Railways.

Inquiry is being made by the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways from British firms for prices and delivery for the supply of 500,000, say 30,000 tons, pressed steel sleepers and fastenings—4 ft. 8½ in. gauge track.

Plans and specifications can be obtained on application to Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1, by whom proposals will be received up to midday January 24. Firms should state any special condition they wish to put forward.

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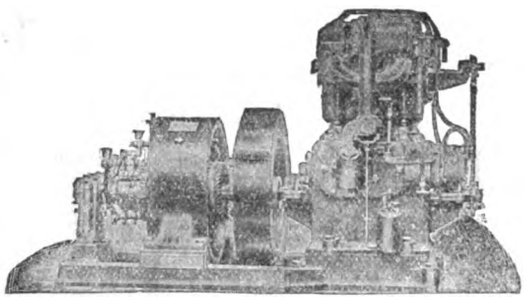
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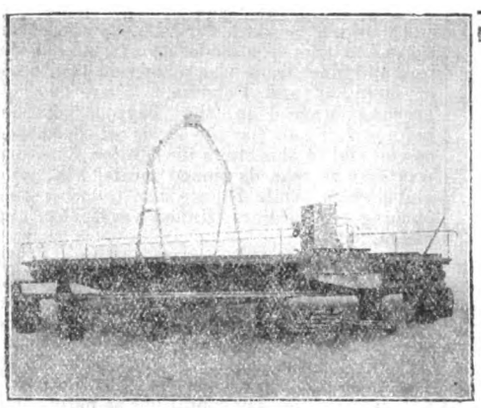
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Water Power in the Balkans.

In previous engineering notes reference has been made to the industrial and agricultural possibilities in the Balkan States by the utilisation of the water power that could be obtained from the rivers that run in all directions in the Balkan Peninsula. In particular we suggested, as expedient for the reconstruction and future development of Serbia's agriculture and other industries, the development of hydro-electric power by means of the rivers Morava, Vardar, Ibar, and Drin. From an engineer who has recently arrived from the Balkans, and who describes Serbia's condition, especially in the rural districts, as "very pitiful," we learn that the suggestion has created considerable interest there, and the technical points of the question have been favourably considered in certain quarters. The development of all possible water power is an important matter, which at present occupies the attention of the authorities in all progressive countries. In this country, where coal is cheap and plentiful, there is a Water Power Committee which has been appointed by the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies "to report on what is at present being done to ascertain the amount and distribution of water power in the British Empire." The demand for electric power is rapidly increasing. Old and new industries are in want of it; whilst agriculture is gradually becoming one of the greatest consumers of electric current. Where it can be produced cheaply it represents a great asset, and is well termed the life-blood of industrial progess. Cheap electric power can be obtained by the utilisation of water power for its production. Much of the industrial progress of America, Germany, Italy, and some of the British Dominions and Dependencies has been due to the utilisation of water power in this way. Similarly Serbia and the other Balkan States could further their reconstruction and progress by utilising their available water power.

Generators of Energy.

The utilisation of water power for industrial and other purposes is by no means unknown in the East, but in this case it is held that engineers of great experience should be employed from the very beginning. Probably different types of turbines as well as water-wheels will be used, since there is no generator of energy which is more efficient than the water-turbine properly designed; and it is likely that turbines for low falls would be required in the Balkan rivers. With regard to water-wheels, there are four types in use—the overshot wheel, the breast wheel, the undershot wheel, and the Poncelet wheel. All types consist of a large wheel, with a number of paddles or buckets attached to the periphery in such a way as to intercept the water in falling or flowing by. Water, like any other body when in motion, requires a force to stop it, or, conversely, exerts a force on any body which impedes it. It is this force which acts on the edge of the wheel and causes it to turn, driving the attached machinery. The overshot wheel is the oldest and most extensively used. The water is led to the top of the wheel through a shute. The buckets become filled, and are carried down by the weight of water. The diameter of the wheel is only a few feet less than the height through which the water falls.

African Silk.

In view of the changed position in the region hitherto known as German East Africa, special attention is being given by British manufacturers and merchants to the industrial possibilities of that colony. In particular, the president of the Silk Association has directed attention to the wild silk of the anaphe silkworm, and has suggested that when German East Africa changes hands this raw silk will afford a good opportunity for British silk manufacturers.

The anaphe silkworm occurs, as a matter of fact, in many parts of East, West, and South Africa, also in some parts of lower Syria and Southern Persia, where, in the latter regions, the natives, by a simple process in which a home-made mechanical device is employed, produce silk which compares favourably with the ordinary silk. Samples of the silk from Uganda were examined some years ago at the Imperial Institute, which introduced the product to the notice of leading silk manufacturers in this country. It is generally admitted that a new and cheap raw material for the spun silk industry would be of great importance, and it is to be hoped that energy and capital will be forthcoming for the development of this industry in Uganda, whence a certain amount of the silk is already being exported, and also in other British African colonies and certain regions in the Middle East. We believe that specimens of Uganda raw silk and of yarns and fabrics manufactured from it can be seen in the public exhibition galleries of the Imperial Institute.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 9:—

Rain is still generally needed.

Bombay Cotton Market conditions irregular. Fully good Broach April—May quoted at 667 Rupees a candy.

Piece Goods market is becoming steady.

The survey of railways has been sanctioned in the South Karanpura Coalfield. (This is at the head of the Damodar River Valley, west of the Bokara and Ramgark Field and is in rather broken country.)

The International Sleeping Car Company announces that an early resumption of the weekly Bombay Express, to carry overland Indian mail passengers to and from Marseilles, is contemplated.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

There has been no increased activity in the market during the past week, and the tone remains very dull. Spinners and manufacturers have again lost ground, and there is increasing pressure for fresh orders, as the reduced output of the machinery has not been sold for many weeks. No particular change can be recorded relating to Egyptian cotton either as regards prices or the prospects for supplies. In Egyptian yarns users have purchased from hand to mouth. Rates in carded qualities are getting somewhat easier, but fine combed descriptions are still deeply sold, and sellers are independent. In piece goods for Egypt demand still drags. Perhaps, on the whole, advices from the other side are no worse, but there are still large quantities of dear goods to be consumed. There have been hopes of a revival of buying for India, but, owing to the easier tendency in raw cotton rates, shippers have been very cautious. Workable offers in standard makes have been practically unknown. Some small lots have been put through in bleaching cloths for China. Numerous complaints have been met with from Burnley manufacturers, and in that town there are about two looms stopped to every one running. A further fall has occurred in American yarn prices.

CYPRUS TRADE NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Fishing in Cyprus is unfortunately, at the best of times, one of the most backward of industries. There is no enterprise whatever. The business in most parts is in the hands of a ring, which owns boats and nets and fixes prices. Trawling is unknown. The supply, which might be abundant and cheap, is consequently poor in quantity, and sold at absurdly high rates. The apathy of the fishermen is discreditable in an island where fish should form an important part of the food of the people. The whole trade requires a thorough change and waking up.

Martial law still remains in force, and carob merchants, who have chafed under present regulations, are amongst those who would welcome its removal. The military authorities require all the locust beans they can obtain, and those who hold stocks can only obtain the necessary licence to export one-third of their carobs after satisfying the Government that they have delivered two-thirds to the military. The price offered by the Provost-Marshal, who negotiates with merchants, is £5 a ton on delivery at town stores, and £4 16s. a ton at other "ports": i.e., more than the highest price ever reached in pre-war days. But most merchants who have not delivered the requisitioned quantity see no reason why profiteering should be confined to other branches of trade, and hold out for higher prices; and rates in all these cases will have to be determined by the recently created Board.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

AMRIA CARPETS
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Alexandria Agencies: Messrs. Roberts, Hughes & Co., Rue Sesostris. The Near Eastern Rug Stores, Rue Rosetta.
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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt.

The following is the report of the directors, with statement of accounts as at August 31, 1918, submitted to the shareholders at the thirteenth ordinary general meeting held at Alexandria on December 27 :

We have pleasure in placing before the shareholders, for their approval, our thirteenth annual report, together with the audited accounts to August 31, 1918. In our preceding report, for the year ending August 31, 1917, we called your attention to the fact that the outlook for the crop 1917-18 was encouraging, and that we were therefore justified in anticipating better results for the working of our company this year. We are pleased to say that, as the figures of our balance-sheet show, our expectations have been in a very great measure realised. The British Army employed during the year some of our factories, as they did for the two years previous.

The quantity of cotton ginned in our factories during the year 1917-18 was cantars 910.994,52, against cantars 787.981.11 in 1916-17, and steam pressed cantars 53.027,45, against cantars 19.608.89 in 1916-17. The following are the results to August 31 :—

	£E	£E
Factory profits		81.540.—
Less—War bonus to staff		5.492.—
		76.048.—
Less—Sundry repairs made in the factories		268.—
		75.780.—
Less—Expenses and management at head Office, Alexandria	3.071.—	
Interest on debentures £E5.778.—		
Less—Interest earned .. 1.675.—		
	4.103.—	
Sundry expenses	1.459.—	
Insurance premiums	2.397.—	11.030.—
		64.750.—
Less—Depreciation on buildings and machinery	20.531.—	
Debentures redeemed	3.900.—	
Expenses on debentures (balance)	4.023.—	28 453.—
		36.297.—
Less—Statutory reserve 10 %	3.610.—	
Dividend, as per statutes, of 6% to shareholders	21.060.—	24.690.—
		11.607.—
Less—10 % to the board of directors		1.161.—
Leaving a balance over of		10.446.—

We have, therefore, to deal with the following amounts :—Statutory dividend of 6 per cent., £E21.060; above-mentioned balance over of £E10,446; amount brought forward last year, £E9.036—£E40.542; of which your board proposes to distribute as dividend to the shareholders one shilling and threepence per share, making £21.938, and to carry forward £18.604. You will notice that over and above the depreciation written off buildings and machinery, we have thought fit to completely wipe out the balance of the expenses incurred for the issue of debentures, and which in last year's report figured for £E4.557,117. Besides, having found a favourable opportunity of disposing of the building materials of the ex-Zervudachi factory at Aboukir, and of some plots of land at Mansourah, these were sold. We regret to have to inform you that at the beginning of this year we were deprived of the further useful collaboration of Mr. W. R. Carruthers, he having left Egypt to fill another post in London. The remaining number of directors being sufficient for all statutory purposes, we have not proceeded to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Carruthers' resignation. You are now asked to approve and adopt the report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account, as presented for the year ending August 31, 1918. You have also to appoint auditors for the ensuing year, and to fix their fees. Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co. are eligible for re-election.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Friday, December 20, at Alexandria, and was presided over by Mr. C. J. Choremi, the chairman of the company. About fifty shareholders were present, representing one-quarter of the capital of the company.

After the copy of the *Egyptian Gazette* dated December 2, containing the notice calling the meeting, had been placed on the table, the Chairman submitted the accounts, and called upon Mr. F. H. Russell to read

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VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
Lieut.-General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
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Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
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SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

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

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

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

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the auditors' certificate. The Chairman thereafter moved the adoption of the accounts, and the motion, having been seconded by Mr. Jules Klat, was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then stated that the board considered that a dividend of 12s. per share, or 60 per cent., should be paid, leaving a sufficiently large carry-over, and he moved accordingly. The shareholders present being of the same opinion, the motion, on being seconded by Mr. Moise Hazan, was unanimously approved.

Messrs. Choremi and Debourg were the directors retiring this year, and their re-election was moved and seconded by Messrs. Lascaris and Hazan respectively, and approved by the meeting.

Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co. were re-elected the auditors of the company for the current year, at a fee of £275.

After the shareholders had been given the opportunity of expressing their views on various matters affecting the company, Mr. Hazan, on behalf of the shareholders, conveyed to the chairman and the board their thanks for the manner in which their interests had been attended to during the past year, and assured them that they had their complete confidence. Mr. Debourg, in replying on behalf of the board, stated that in very great measure the very satisfactory results shown by the accounts were brought about through the hard work of the commercial manager, Mr. A. Baerlocher. This statement was loudly applauded.

The meeting then terminated.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Russian Petroleum.

The Russian Petroleum Company has received a cable from Mr. D. A. Veramienke, the general manager in Baku, stating that the properties are only slightly damaged. "Documents intact. Work at Bibi Eibat resumed November 1, baling only three wells with correspondingly decreased staff. November production, 22,000 poods. Present stocks, 71,000 poods. Fixed price of 5 roubles will cover current expenses. Financial position difficult. During nationalisation delivered 150,000 poods for 770,000 roubles. C. D. M. Ball returned month after occupation."

Bengal and N.-W. Railway.

The directors of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company recommend a final dividend for the year ended September 30 last of 3 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent., on the ordinary stock, making with the ad interim dividend and bonus of 4 per cent. paid in July a total of 10 per cent. per annum. The dividend and bonus will be paid, less income-tax at 4s. 9d. in £, on February 10.

Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway.

The directors of the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway, subject to the receipt of final accounts from India, recommend a final dividend for the year ended September 30 last of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent., on the ordinary stock, making with the ad interim dividend and bonus of 6 per cent. paid in July a total of 13 per cent. per annum. The dividend and bonus will be paid, less income-tax at 4s. 9d. in £, about the end of February.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

East Indian Railway.—Deferred Annuity holders and holders of Annuity Class "D" are notified that the seventy-first half-yearly meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C.4, on 29th instant, at 12.30 p.m.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—The transfer books of the preference shares will be closed from January 17 to January 30 inclusive.

NEW COMPANIES.

The Burma Company, Ltd. (capital 45 lakhs), has been registered in Rangoon to carry on the business now or formerly carried on by Messrs. Steel Brothers, Ltd., on the premises of the Burma Rice and Trading Co., Ltd., Kruger and Co., Ltd., and Reis und Handels Aktien Gessellschaft, Bremen. They will also act and deal as general merchants.

RISE IN PRICES IN MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 28.

The increase in the cost of living in Malta has been extraordinarily severe. The following tabular statement shows the retail price of foodstuffs, etc., in 1914, the price in 1918 and the increase in price per cent. on each item. The price of coal is not shewn in retail, and a ratio is given in cases of clothes and house rent.

Price in 1914.	Price in 1918.	Increase per cent.
Bread, 3d. rotolo	6¾d. rotolo	125
Potatoes, 1d. rotolo	2½d. ,,	150
Vegetables, 1d. rotolo	3d. ,,	200
Rice, 4d. rotolo	7d. ,,	75
Paste, 4d. rotolo	13d. ,,	205
Tea, 20d. rotolo	40d. ,,	100
Sugar, 3d. rotolo	13½d. ,,	350
Oil, 8d. pint	32d. pint	300
Petroleum, 8d. gallon	33d. gallon	312
Clothes, 4	9	125
Fish, 12d. rotolo	48d. rotolo	300
Meat, 12d. rotolo	42d. ,,	250
Ham, 18d. rotolo	96d. ,,	443
Cheese, 12d. rotolo	72d. ,,	500
Butter, 32d. rotolo	82d. ,,	156
Eggs, 12d. dozen	36d. dozen	200
Milk, 5d. tin	15d. tin	200
Coffee, 12d. rotolo	24d. rotolo	100
Lard, 12d. rotolo	48d. ,,	300
Boots, 12s. pair	36s. pair	200
Coal, £1	£9	800
House rent, 1	1	Nil

Thus it will be seen that the average increase in the price of all these commodities amounts to 244 per cent. But as it is necessary to assign a certain relative importance to each article in accordance with the quantities consumed in order to obtain the combined effect of the increases in all the articles dealt with, and taking the first ten items as indispensable for consumption by the poor, the average increase may be roughly estimated at 200 per cent., or, in other words, the spending power of £1 has been reduced to 6s. 8d.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' APPOINTMENT.

Sir Henry P. Hurt, K.C.I.E., C.I.E., C.B.E., has joined the board of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, vice Mr. T. Stoker, C.S.I., resigned; the board of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, vice Mr. E. A. Neville, resigned; and also the board of the Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway Company, vice the late Sir F. R. Upcott, K.C.V.O., C.S.I.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Tuesday.

There has been a distinctly better feeling in our market this week, and business has been more active, with quite a lot doing in certain directions. Telegraphic communication with Egypt, which was exceedingly bad a few days ago, has since improved considerably, and it would appear that the market over there is now in a much better mood, and a good many buying orders are being sent over.

In Government stocks there has been a strong Egyptian demand, with a very fair amount of business doing, and as a result Egyptian Unifieds have jumped up 2¼ to 90½, whilst the 3½ per cent. Pref. are a full point up at 78. City of Alexandria bonds are also a point higher at 84.

In Bank shares, there has been a fairly large business in Nationals, which have risen ⅜ to 21⅝. Agriculturals are 1-32 firmer at 6¾. There are buyers for the preference shares at 7½, but there have been no sellers at all lately of this latter share. Anglo-Egyptians have remained firm at 17 and Land Banks at 7. For the latter share there are buyers about somewhere near the current price, but there is an absolute lack of sellers.

In Railways there is no change to mention.

As regards Land shares, Aboukirs have been a firm spot at 24s. 6d., and there is every indication that the company will re-enter the dividend-paying stage in respect of the past year's operations. Allotments are 1-16 firmer at 4⅝, but sellers have been absent, and no business has been possible. Delta Lands are fractionally easier at 15s. 6d., after a fair turnover. Gharbieh Lands are also somewhat weaker at 2 11-16. There has been a fairly considerable business in New Egyptians, which have been quietly picked up all through the week, and which are closing 6d. higher at 22s. 7½d. A feature has been a further rise of ⅜ in Sudan Plantations to 4. Union Foncières have been in demand, and are 1s. 6d. up at 71s. 6d., around which price there have been persistent buyers for all the shares offering.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, a very fair amount of business has been done in Alexandria Waters, which are 1-16 firmer at 12 1-16. Salts and Sodas have been rather a dull spot, and are closing 1-16 lower at 3 1-16. In Khedivial Mails, the rise has made further progress, and the shares, after changing hands at the record price of 101s. 3d., are closing 7s. higher at 98s. 6d. The Preference shares are also in demand around the current level, but there are no sellers.

In Greek securities, apart from a drop of one point in the 5 per Cent. 1881 Loan to 74, there is no change to record.

Oil Shares.

There has been a variable tendency in the market. British Burmahs are 6d. lower at 15s., but Anglo-Persian Prefs. and British Burmahs are unchanged at 26s. 6d. and 8 9-16 respectively. Anglo-Egyptians (B) are a fraction lower at 2 13-16.

Roumanians are a shade stronger. Roumanian Consols are 6d. up at 16s. 6d., and Traian Roumanians are also 6d. up at 10s. 6d.

In Russians Ural Caspians are 5-32 up at 1 11-16, and Bakus at 4½d. up at 5s. 1½d. Russian Generals are unchanged.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Jan. 7	Jan. 14
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	83xd	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	88½	90½
Do. Pref. 5% %, 1890	88	77	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75xd	74
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	74xd	74xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60½xd	60½xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56½	56½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	74	74
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66xd	66xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82½	82
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 3/32	6 3/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. War.)	7½	7½xd	7½xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17	17
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	6½	6½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8 3/32	7 3/32
British Trade Corporation	—	9 3/32	9 3/32
Chartered Bank of India	65	89	89½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14½	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7 3/32	8 5/32	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3 3/32	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7xd	7
London County and Westminster	—	19 1/32	19 3/32
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21½	21 3/32
National Bank of India	43	72	72
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8 3/32	8 3/32
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17 3/32	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/32	24/6	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2 3/32	4 5/32	4 5/32
Behéra Co.	8½	13½	13½
Do. Pref.	4½	4 3/32	4 3/32
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/7½	15/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/6	16/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1 3/32	2 3/32	2 1/32
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/1	22/7½
Sidi Salem Co.	1/32	2 3/32	2 5/32
Sudan Plantations	—	3 3/32xd	4
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	70/-	71/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/6	3/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12 1/32
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/32	27/9	27/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/32	3 1/32	3 1/32
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3/32	91/6	98/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3 3/32	4 3/32	4 3/32

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

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Authorised Capital - £2,000,000 | Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | Reserve - - - - - £237,500

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. £2,000,000
Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) £1,000,000
Reserve Fund £1,350,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 403.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Paris Conference held its inaugural sitting on January 18, the forty-eighth anniversary of the proclamation of the German Empire in the Château at Versailles, and the eve of the first elections of the German Republic. Some discussion had been evoked by the original decision to allot Belgium and Serbia two representatives apiece, in common with a number of other belligerent Powers "with particular interests," while Brazil was allowed three delegates, and the protests of the Belgians and Serbians were met by placing their missions on a par numerically with that of Brazil. The five Great Powers—"with general interests"—have each five plenipotentiary delegates, and take part in all sittings and commissions; the other States, including the British Dominions and India, who have nine delegates between them (the single representative belonging to New Zealand, while Newfoundland has no separate representative) take part only in the sittings at which questions concerning them are discussed.

It will be noticed that Serbia and not Yugoslavia figures among the twenty-nine countries represented at the Conference. The distinction was inevitable, as there has been no formal recognition on the part of the five Great Powers of the Southern Slav State. For the Yugoslavs themselves, however, it is a distinction without a difference, as the allocation of three delegates enables the three peoples to be represented. There has been little enough time for the new State to "find itself," and it will be the general wish of all those who are interested in the future of the Near East that the Yugoslav delegation, which includes M. Pashitch, should acquit itself in a manner to gain the approval and admiration of the Conference. It will not have been overlooked by the Great Powers that "Serbia" enters the council chamber with quarrels with most of her neighbours on her hands. We are far from saying that the fault is solely hers; but the fact remains that she is involved in a feud with Italy over Dalmatia; that her relations with Roumania are strained over the Banat; and she is gravely compromised in annexationist designs upon her sister State, Montenegro; while in regard to Bulgaria it will evidently be necessary for one or other of the Allied Powers to police the border between these two countries for some years to come. From the Conference, we hope and believe, will emerge a Yugoslav State at peace with its neighbours, and already displaying a political capacity that will prove the best of auguries for the future of the Balkan Peninsula.

In the official statement of the regulations governing the work of the Paris Conference there is a reference to Montenegro which is not likely to be lost on the Southern Slav delegates. Montenegro, runs the statement, shall be represented by one delegate, but the rules concerning the designation of this delegate shall not be fixed until the moment when the political situation of this country shall have been cleared up. It is to be hoped that the Southern Slav Government will feel the rebuke in these words no less than the Montenegrins themselves, for it is certainly a reflection on the federal State as a whole, of which Montenegro is a part, that there should be such an anomalous position in the latter country at the time of the meeting of the Conference. The allusion in the official document is too well known to need further comment. But in justification of the Great Powers' decision in regard to Montenegro we may quote from the statement which it is understood is circulated with the authority of the delegate of the Montenegrin Government in London. "Montenegrin territory," a Montenegrin official declares, "has been occupied solely by Serbian troops, who have supported with all their power the action of the elements imported from Serbia, in order to obtain the appearance of a vote from the Montenegrins in the sense of the policy of the Serbian Government. . . . I have escaped from my country in order to communicate to the public opinion of the Allied nations the violence made use of against the Montenegrin people, and to plead for the intervention of impartial troops from the Entente to occupy Montenegro, and to guarantee to its people their sacred liberty."

We are not here concerned with the accuracy or inaccuracy of this picture. It is enough that this conflict should exist between Montenegrins and Serbians on the very morrow of their liberation from the Austro-German yoke. If the allegations of the Montenegrin Government, which protests that it is still detained in France against its will by the action of the French authorities, are even partly true, the Serbian Government has much to answer for; even the fact that the allegations should have been made must seriously invalidate the reputation of that Government for statesmanship. It is only right, however, to point out that the incident in its inception concerned the Montenegrins and Serbians alone, as distinct from the Yugoslav State as a whole. The Great Powers are inclined to set special store on the advantages that the Yugoslav State stands to derive from the Croat and Slovene elements. In no direction can they make their influence more opportunely felt than in eliminating any suspicion of aggressive tendencies from the policy of the new State.

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Somebody, we may hope, will feel moved in the Conference to point out the incongruity of any general discussion on a League of Nations if certain of the States that are likely to claim admission are to be ready at any moment to adopt a provocative attitude towards their neighbours, or to acquiesce in an injustice that promises them an advantage. Certainly, the Allies would seem to have made little headway in exorcising the spirit of quarrelling from the Balkans, and far more drastic measures are called for in that part of the world if the settlement after the war is to introduce a lasting peace. Attention may be directed to the reports now appearing in the Press on Bulgarian outrages. According to these, the Bulgarians are still engaged in pillaging Greek houses and shops at one place, while Bulgarian authorities are terrorising the Greek inhabitants of others. From another source come disquieting accounts of the proceedings of Greek courts-martial in Thrace. Again it is not a question of the accuracy or inaccuracy of the individual report; the point is that the Allied or Associated Governments cannot pretend that the ideals for which they have borne such sacrifices in achieving victory have been established while the present state of affairs continues in the Balkans. There should be no opportunity for "Bulgarian outrages" at this stage, and there should equally be no opportunity for Bulgarians to allege that their countrymen are being exterminated under the guise of judicial procedure. The allegations, if not the acts, are familiar to all students of Balkan affairs; and if the Allies wish to see a new era dawn for the Near East as well as for Europe and the world at large, they must recognise Balkan weaknesses, and arrange that there shall be a truce to the old practices.

A correspondent in this issue, under the heading "A Plea for Sanity," makes the very pertinent point that the time has now come when Balkan disputes have to be regarded as under the judgment of the Allied Conference. Consequently, he urges, there ought to be a truce to all wrangling and a resolve on the part of the audience to keep the ring clear. The appeal is by no means belated, even after the Conference has been sitting for a week, for the great majority of those who have first-hand knowledge of the Balkans find it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to adopt an impartial view towards the rivalries and animosities of the different peoples. Nevertheless, the policy of fanning the flames of Balkan hatreds leads the whole of the Continent away from peace rather than towards it. For this reason, it seems wiser to refrain from all reference to the unregenerate past. On the lines followed by Miss Durham, in a letter in this issue, it would be quite easy for the Bulgarians to flood the Allied Press with statements of the provocation that they may have received for the outrages which they have committed during this war. But the *tu quoque* argument might take us back a whole century and more, without achieving finality, and the only hope for the future lies in the Conference recognising this fact and insisting upon a fresh start being made now, under new conditions. There is, or ought to be, at last an authority capable of saying: "Henceforth there shall be peace among you, and we are here to enforce it, if need be. But we prefer to think that you yourselves are equally aware of the necessity for peace, and are prepared to help us to maintain it."

Some concern is being expressed in India, and by certain distinguished Indian Mohammedans outside India, regarding the fate of Constantinople and the position of the Sultan as Khalif. The two questions are, of course, quite distinct. Neither Great Britain nor the Allied Governments have it in their power, nor have they the desire, to determine the validity of the Ottoman claim to the Khalifate. That is entirely a matter for Mohammedans to settle amongst themselves. There are, however, a number of people in India who are interested in trying to connect the two questions for their own political ends, and for this reason Great Britain is concerned to know that, if either subject is discussed among Mohammedans, it should be in the light of ascertainable facts, and not on the strength of misleading information. With regard to the Khalifate, for instance, those who have now raised the subject in India will, no doubt, explain how it is that hitherto Indian Moslems have ventured no protest against Constantinople's record in the history of individual Khalifs. As a correspondent pointed out in these pages a fortnight ago, since the transfer of the high office to Sultan Selim by the twelfth Khalif of the family of Abbas in 1567, no fewer than sixteen Khalifs have been violently done to death. Within the last fifty years one Khalif has been murdered and two have been deposed, and a Khalif-Elect, the Heir-Apparent to the Sultanate, Yussulf Izzedin, was also murdered quite recently. In the case of the deposition of Abdul Hamid it cannot even be said that the step was carried out by genuine Moslems, for the Committee of Union and Progress has been specifically denounced as renegades by the Shereef of Mecca, a descendant of the Prophet, whose verdict will hardly be challenged by Moslem India. A further difficulty in this connection will be the Ottoman Khalif's title as Protector of the two Holy Places, in view of the fact that he no longer plays this rôle.

Great Britain sets too much store on the loyalty of Indian Moslems, and the latter are too well aware of the Government's readiness to respect their religious scruples, for room to be left for any misunderstanding over the future of Constantinople. It is perfectly clear to any one acquainted with the facts that it will be altogether in the interests of the Turks as a people if their Government is removed from Constantinople and is left with jurisdiction over Turks only. It would be almost as rational to insist upon immunity for the ex-Emperor William, because he once proclaimed himself "the protector of the 300,000,000 Mohammedans who throughout the world serve the Sultan Abdul Hamid as their spiritual ruler," as it would be to deny the Allies the right of determining the future of Constantinople, after the misuse to which it has been put as a base for machinations against the peace of the world, and in particular for war against the very Power that has protected Turkey in the past and has a special claim on Turkish friendship in virtue of the security and freedom, within its own borders, that it guarantees a large section of the Mohammedan world. In these circumstances it will be well if immediate attention is given to Moslem protests in India regarding the expulsion of the Turkish Government from Constantinople. Representative Moslems should be invited to discuss the subject, and the reasons which prompt the Allies' action should be made clear to them, and their acknowledgment of its justice should be secured. It would not be difficult to show that a considerable body of Turkish opinion in Asia Minor would welcome the evacuation of Constantinople by the Khalif and the Ottoman Government.

True to their resolve to respect the sanctity of Medina, the Arabs of the Hejaz made no attempt to force the surrender of the city. Fakhri Pasha, the commander of the garrison, traded, with or without the connivance of Constantinople, on this reluctance, and it required a threat that the Dardanelles forts would be destroyed if Turkey did not at once comply with the terms of the Armistice to induce the Ottoman Government to order Medina to be given up. On January 10 the surrender was effected, and three days later the Emir Abdulla, the second son of the King of the Hejaz, entered Medina and offered the mid-day prayer at the Tomb of the Prophet. Thus the last step in the liberation of the Arabs from the Turkish yoke has been completed.

The apprehensions we expressed last month regarding the centralising tendency observable in the Report of the Indian Industries Commission are evidently shared by some authorities in that country. The last mail has brought various indications of what may develop into a regular outburst of hostility, and in particular we notice that Sir Harcourt Butler spoke rather strongly on the subject at a dinner given by the Chamber of Commerce at Cawnpore. Centralisation, he recognised,

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might be a temporary necessity for military purposes, but it is not the best basis for a permanent industrial advance in an Empire so large and so diversified as India; and the speaker evidently had the support of his audience when he declared that in view of the anticipated constitutional developments it is necessary to build on the "provincial patriotism," which has grown up so rapidly in recent years.

The recognition of this new and potent force in Indian affairs gains increased significance from the fact that when Sir Harcourt Butler was at Simla, he was occasionally accused of the very centralising tendency which he is now prompt to deprecate, but in any case there is no doubt about its existence, and the interplay of "national" and "provincial" sentiment bids fair to be one of the most interesting features of the development of India in the next few years. We wish some historian with the requisite gifts, and also the requisite impartiality, would take the trouble to set out clearly the story of the rise of these sentiments during the last half-century; both of them are quite new, and we confess that we feel great difficulty in estimating their future possibilities. They may harmonise, they may even coalesce, but it is also possible that they may prove to be hopelessly antagonistic, and that the unity of India may be realised only in a steady progress towards diversity.

One curious fact regarding this provincial sentiment is the extent to which its expression has been stimulated by men whose connection with a province has only been temporary. The best testimony to the worth of Indians as a whole is the way in which Englishmen stand up for the particular section of the people with which they have been most closely in contact; the military officer maintains that his own men, be they Jats, or Sikhs or Pathans, are the best material in the world, and the civilian is not less ready to extol the superiority of Oudh, or the Punjab, or the Central or any other provinces. So the Punjab has been told from the time of John Lawrence downwards that it is the bravest and wisest province in the whole of India, and the Punjab believes what it has been told, and is getting ready to act on the belief. That result is quite satisfactory so far as it goes, but other provinces are becoming equally convinced of their own superiority, and the clash of such convictions may be awkward when it comes.

An instance of this vicarious patriotism appeared last week, when a well-known Bengal civilian wrote to *The Times*, apropos of Sir Satyendra Sinha's admission to the Government, to point out that Bengalis had pioneered the road for India first to the Civil Service, then to the Privy Council, and now, amidst universal approval, to the House of Lords. A jealous neighbour might be tempted to point out in reply that Bengal has pioneered in other directions also, such as the dissemination of cholera and of anarchical ideas, activities which are decidedly inconvenient for the rest of India, but it would be ungracious to insist on such matters at the present juncture; Bengal has every right to be proud of the distinction won by her leading citizens, and the rest of the Empire can forget its envy while it tenders its congratulations.

No announcement has yet been made in this country regarding the reduction of the present abnormal rates for passages from India, a question which has been agitating the official community ever since the conclusion of the armistice opened a prospect of long-deferred leave. According to the mail papers the effect of the present scale of charges is practically to confine the enjoyment of a holiday to bachelors and highly-paid officers, whereas the married man needs leave as much as the bachelor, and the rank and file need it even more than the men at the top. An equitable distribution is urgently needed in the interests of the Indian administration, which, as we have urged before now, has been strained almost to breaking-point during the last four years; and we trust that Mr. Montagu is taking up the matter from this point of view.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 30.

Christmas Festivities.

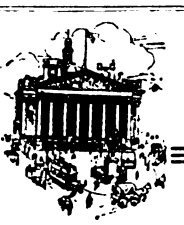
Christmas has passed off right joyously, and Cairo has celebrated the festive season with something approaching pre-war enthusiasm. The feast started off according to tradition, on Christmas Eve, with a children's party and Christmas tree at Shepheard's. On that and the following evening there were great doings at the various hotels, where the management were hard put to it to cope with the demands for dinner, whilst very elaborate and successful arrangements had been made for the entertainment of the troops in barracks, hospitals, and convalescent homes.

One of the most remarkable features this year has been the large attendances at the services of all the churches, no matter of what denomination. At all Saints', the parish church of the Anglican community, there were record congregations at each of the early services on Christmas Day, and accommodation could not be found for all who wanted to attend the morning service. At evensong it was the same story. In this connection it is interesting to note that in response to the general request the Chaplain has decided to depart from precedent and hold two services every Sunday evening—one from 6 to 7 and the other from 7.15 to 8.15, it having been found that so many have lately had to be turned away from the church owing to the lack of accommodation.

The Late Lord Edward Cecil.

A special service was held at All Saints' on Monday last in memory of the late Lord Edward Cecil, who was a regular worshipper in that church and an active member of the committee. The service was conducted by the Right Rev. R. MacInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, assisted by the Rev. C. T. Horan. The congregation included the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, Mahmud Fakhri Pasha, representing H.H. the Sultan, the Ministers, Major-General H. D. Watson representing the Commander-in-Chief, and Mrs. Watson, Lewa E. S. Herbert Pasha, representing the Sirdar, and Mrs. Herbert, Sir William and Lady Brunyate, Mr. A. P. Bolland, representing the Governor-General of the Sudan, Sir Alexander Baird, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, Messrs. H. Farnall, D. Dunlop, and J. Haines. At the conclusion of the service the "Last Post" was sounded outside the church by military buglers.

Wherever I go I hear the same expressions of sincere regret at the death of the late Financial Adviser. In all circles and communities his ability and statesmanlike qualities are recognised, and tribute is freely paid



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to his affability, his extreme accessibility, and his readiness to listen to new ideas. Egypt owes a great deal to the foresight and courageous initiative he displayed during his tenure of office, especially since the outbreak of war, and it is generally felt that his collaboration would have been invaluable during the period of reconstruction on the threshold of which the country now stands.

The English School.

Pressure on my space prevented me from dealing last week with the prize-giving celebrations held on the 20th inst. at the English School. The Rev. C. T. Horan was in the chair, and the gathering on the platform included the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, the Hon. Hampson Gary, the new American Diplomatic Agent, and the Bishop in Jerusalem. The proceedings opened with a short prayer and a few words of welcome from the chairman; after which Sir Reginald Wingate delivered an address. In the course of his speech his Excellency stated that the school had filled a great want, and despite the difficulties inseparable from the war had been carried on with conspicuous success. After paying a feeling tribute to the late Lord Edward Cecil, to whom the school owed its existence, his Excellency proceeded to give some words of sound advice to the boys and girls, and he concluded by enjoining them to remember and follow the watchword of the King: "Be Thorough." The Hon. Hampson Gary followed the High Commissioner in a short speech, in which he expressed his satisfaction with all he had seen in connection with the school The prizes were then distributed by Lady Wingate; the High Commissioner's prizes for general efficiency being awarded to Corrie Somers-Summers and Mary Madden.

The English School was founded in 1916 with a view to meeting the requirements of those Anglo-Egyptian families who could not afford to send their children home to be educated. It has since not only met that want, but has proved of great utility to those parents who would in the ordinary way have sent their boys and girls to England, but who were prevented from so doing by the war and the submarine menace. That the school is popular is proved by the fact that starting with 111 boys and girls, it now has 158 pupils, including 38 boarders. Great difficulty has, of course, been found in staffing the institution; and to a great extent recourse has been had to lady teachers. In time a proper staff of masters will have to be obtained, but it is satisfactory to note that the authorities consider that the progress made has been every bit as rapid as it was reasonable to expect.

To meet all the requirements of a growing community like the Anglo-Egyptian, the school will have to undergo considerable development in the near future; a new site will in all probability have to be found very shortly, as its present premises are those of the German School, which it holds on a lease expiring one year after peace is signed, whilst proper playing fields will have to be provided. All this requires money; and as the school is intended to provide for families who are not well enough off to send their children home, it follows that the fees must be kept within reasonable limits, and so cannot be expected to supply the funds necessary for the above-mentioned developments and extensions. The money required may to some extent be forthcoming from some of the more prosperous and generous members of the community; but, as Mr. Horan said in his opening remarks, there is a general desire that the British Government should subsidise this school, so that it may be able to carry out to the fullest extent the work it has embarked upon.

In this connection it might be as well to point out that for years all the other important foreign communities in Egypt have had their national schools, which have been and still are, in receipt of substantial subsidies from their Governments, and there would therefore appear to be every argument in favour of the British Government making a contribution to the upkeep of the English School in Cairo to enable it to hold its own against those of other nationalities long since established in Egypt.

The Anglo-American Hospital.

The annual meeting of the General Committee of the Anglo-American Hospital took place last week at the Residency, Sir Reginald Wingate being in the chair. Considering the difficulties under which it has had to work during the war the financial position of this institution is on the whole as satisfactory as can be expected. The subscriptions have increased, thanks to the efforts of the Ladies' Association, but there has been a slight falling off in fees owing to the fact that in 1917 the hospital was still taking in military patients There is a deficit on the year's working of £E.139, which would have been considerably less if it had not been necessary to make allowances on bills which certain patients were unable to pay in full. The hospital caters for all classes of the Anglo-American community, and special provision has been made for women earning their own living in Egypt. It is in receipt of no official subvention, and is entirely dependent on subscriptions; and the fact that in a difficult year like the past one it has been able to show such a small deficit reflects great credit on those responsible for its administration. There is a long list of subscribers, but a glance through it shows that whilst many residents are most generous in their donations, there are quite a number of British establishments who do not contribute one penny to the funds. This is an omission which ought to be remedied without delay; for the Anglo-American Hospital fills such a want and responds so to the needs of all classes that every member of the Anglo-Saxon community should make a point of annually contributing to its funds.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, January 3.

We learn with pleasure that, on the recommendation of Sir Arthur Stanley and the Earl of Donoughmore, the Chapter of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem has elected Lieut.-Colonel Frank Ashley an Honorary Associate of that Order, and that the King has graciously approved of the appointment. This is a well-merited honour, for during the whole period of the war Colonel Ashley has worked most assiduously and wholeheartedly in the cause of the Red Cross.

Very gratifying evidence is daily forthcoming of practical sympathy with the Malta War Memorial Fund. By the last mail a donation of £5 was received, "with good wishes," from General Sir Ian Hamilton, who still evidently takes a kindly interest in this island, where he was so deservedly popular and esteemed during the time he was High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean.

A highly fashionable naval wedding was solemnised at St. Paul's Cathedral, Valletta, on Wednesday, December 18, 1918, when Lieut.-Commander Colin Alexander Hutchison, R.N., was united in marriage to Gwendoline Mary Leslie Sayers, only daughter of Major Sayers, Commandant of the Detention Barracks.

For the past few days Malta has been quite "Yankee," a kind of Atlantic City of the Mediterranean, as thirty submarine chasers belonging to the Navy of the United States of America, which have done such excellent work in combating the sea pests, are at present with us. They have just returned from Corfu, having been on duty in connection with the barrage in the Adriatic. They are now undergoing refit prior to leaving Malta for America. The crews of the chasers will be given the opportunity of seeing the various points of interest in Italy and France on their way home.

Another change consequent upon the declaration of the armistice is the departure of the Naval Representative of France in Malta, Admiral Ratyé, together with his staff, on board the yacht Eros. The gallant Admiral, who has made many friends during his stay here, is eminent as a Professor of Naval Tactics in the Superior School of the French Navy.

Much interest has been aroused here by the announcement of the engagement of Princess Victoria Patricia, who was well known and exceedingly popular in Malta when she sojourned amongst us whilst her father was occupying the position of High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean. Commander the Hon. A.R. M. Ramsey is also well known in Malta, especially at the Marsa, where he has ridden many victorious ponies. When the war broke out he was serving as gunnery and first lieutenant of the battle cruiser Indefatigable in the Mediterranean, and took part on that ship in the naval operations of the Dardanelles, being awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Losses of Roumania.

An official *communiqué* says that Roumania has lost 9,539 officers and 325,117 men killed in action, while 275,000 civilians have died of disease or through accidents caused by the war. The population of the kingdom of Roumania being nearly seven and a-half millions, the toll of lives she paid for the common cause of the Allied nations represents 8 per cent. of the total of her inhabitants. It is impossible, however, to take these figures as representing the real losses of the Roumanians, because, Wallachia being occupied by the Germans until last month, it was not possible to ascertain the number of people who died in the villages, and even in some towns, owing to the complete disorganisation and lack of means of communication. Moreover, Roumania has lost a great number of the prisoners taken by the Austro-Germans and Turco-Bulgars. The total number of the Roumanian soldiers taken prisoners was 117,000, 18,000 being taken by the Bulgarians. When the Allied Armies entered Bulgaria there were found only 7,200 Roumanian prisoners. Of the other 10,800 some had died from disease and bad treatment, and some had been killed by the Bulgarians, as was established by a mixed Commission. The situation of the Roumanian prisoners in Germany is far worse. There are still over 40,000 Roumanians in Germany suffering starvation and working like slaves. Of the total of 98,000 prisoners in Germany and Austria-Hungary, 15,000 have returned, and 43,000 have died. The prisoners who have returned from the camps of Stralsund-Denholm and Bresen declare that more than half their comrades died of hunger. To the losses of the kingdom of Roumania must be added the losses of the Transylvanians, who had an army of about 300,000, and those of the Bessarabians, whose fighting forces with the Russians were nearly 100,000 men. The Bukovinians in the Austrian Army also numbered over 35,000. The Roumanians thus paid dearly for the realisation of their national ideal, and they are still losing heavily because of the terrible conditions prevailing in their country.

A New Government.

It is expected that a National Government will be formed as soon as M. Bratianu returns to Bucharest from Paris, and that M. Také Jonescu and some of his political followers will enter the new Government. The Transylvanians will have their own Government, as will the Bessarabians and the Bukovinians, and they will keep contact with the Bucharest Government, each of them being represented by a Minister without portfolio.

Starting to Organise.

The *Monitorul Oficial* publishes a decree by which the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is to be divided into two departments. One will be the Ministry of National Economy and Commerce, and the other the Ministry of Industry and Labour. The Ministry of Labour has already been authorised by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers in Bucharest to take possession over the coal mines of Petroshani, in Transylvania, and will work them in agreement with the National Council of the Roumanians of Transylvania. At the same time the Post, Telegraph, and Customs services are to be organised all over united Roumania.

The Land Question.

The King has signed a decree by which all landed estates of more than 500 hectares are to be shared among the peasants. According to this decree the domains of the Crown, the State, the Roumanian Academy, the Hospitals, the Church, as well as those owned by other public institutions, are to be distributed among the peasants. It is supposed that the distribution of the land will be complete by March next, when the land cultivation begins.

The Mobilisation.

The Government has declared a general mobilisation of industry, and has put the people under martial law. Several contingents have been also mobilised.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

We hear a great deal in these days about the necessity of meting out justice to those who ill-treated our fellow-countrymen who were prisoners in their hands; and, though we are probably not a little tired of the nauseating nonsense poured out on the subject by the cheap and nasty Press, we still hope that, as far as possible, this will be done. But there is another, and much pleasanter, duty to be performed: the acknowledgment and, where possible, the suitable rewarding, of kindness shown to our men in their hour of misfortune. The exercise of such kindness often exposed those who displayed it to considerable inconvenience, and not infrequently to real risk; and it is as much our national duty to trace out these Good Samaritans and thank them suitably as it is to run to earth those brutes whose barbarous treatment of the helpless prisoners in their charge—or at their mercy—has moved us all so deeply.

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Often it will be extremely difficult to trace the "friends in need"; very often it will be impossible. But we are bound to try. Here is an example. Among a large party of soldiers who arrived home recently were several who had been prisoners in Turkey for some time. In conversation with a padre, who afterwards passed the tale on to me, these men said that during their captivity the only people who showed them any kindness at all were—"Germans"! They were employed on work on the roads; and they said that occasionally Germans who passed along the road in motor-cars or lorries would stop, cook them a hot meal, and give it to them; and that was the only chance they ever had of a decent meal. Now, those "Germans" may have been Austrians, or they may have been full-blooded Prussians; but one thing is certain, as Englishmen we ought to feel kindly towards them, though we may still keep our opinion of the majority of their breed.

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Of course, it was not only Germans or Austrians who showed kindness to British prisoners of war in Turkey. Occasionally Turkish officials—even very highly-placed, and therefore closely watched, officials—risked behaving decently, and more than decently; and I know of one or two instances of Arabs holding official positions who showed extraordinary moral courage in their attempts to alleviate the lot of British prisoners. Some day I hope to publish their names, with some particulars of their truly charitable conduct. At present it might do them harm rather than good; for, one of them, at least, was actually "exiled" for his good deeds. But it is certain that the British men, women, and children who owe them so much will never forget the kindness shown them by these gentlemen. For my own part, I regard their conduct as altogether beyond praise.

***

Apropos of the subject of prisoners in Turkey, it is interesting to know that towards the end of the war they were comparatively well posted in regard to what was going on outside their prison walls. This was due to the fact that many of them had arranged ingenious codes with their friends at home for use in case they were unfortunate enough to be captured. But other items of news were "smuggled through" in letters which were guiltless of any coding, and yet contrived to outwit the postal censor. Thus, for example, soon after Jerusalem fell, an officer prisoner in Asia Minor received a letter from Home saying: "We have just taken a fresh lease of that farm on which the artichokes grow so well." Another prisoner wrote to a friend, a journalist, expressing the wish that it were possible to get hold of "some of the goods in which you deal." This gave the opportunity for an assurance that though it was impossible to send such goods to prisoners, as they were forbidden, the writer was glad to say that the quality of his wares was now much better than it had been a little while ago, and that they were therefore in much demand. And the prisoner was happy.

Corsair.

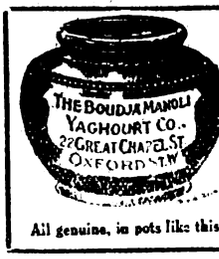
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CORRESPONDENCE.

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A PLEA FOR SANITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I write as one who strives to take an intelligent interest in the tasks which confront the great Peace Conference now in session. Like most observers, I have no specialist knowledge on any of the numerous points which are there to be discussed, but, unlike some of them, I am deeply convinced that pronouncements made by me or such as me must quite necessarily be of no value, while they may do great harm. It is the aim of a certain school of propagandists to stimulate action of this pernicious nature, and they have recently had far too great a sucess in the English Press. No doubt many of these propagandists are perfectly honest men, but it is difficult to believe that there is not some influence behind some of them which uses the opportunity, not to help this or the other of our Allies, but merely as a means of setting our Allies by the ears. We have heard much from time to time of "The Hidden Hand," and it has been suspected ever since the beginning of the war in all sorts of quarters, usually absurdly impossible. Yet, when it works under our very noses we seem to be blind to it, and are simple enough to give it the very assistance which it wants. We rush into the affairs of our Allies, in spite of our more or less complete ignorance of the matters under dispute, and are ready to deliver decisions on the most polemical questions with a judicial air which is apt to vary in inverse ratio to our knowledge of the subject. It never seems to occur to us that such action is the merest impertinence on our part, that the parties attacked resent our attempts at interference very keenly, or that the parties supported pray to be delivered from their friends. Nor does it occur to us that there is only one party that can benefit by this kind of chatter; and that this party is that of our enemies.

It is probably futile to hope to stop the writing or publication of this mischievous stuff, and it is probably useless to ask the writers to try to imagine how they would like voluminous and vicious articles in the better-class of American, French, Italian, or Greek papers, telling us what they think of our policy in Ireland, and doing their utmost to work up hatred against us for such policy. Such articles would rightly arouse the deepest indignation in England, and it ought to require but little imagination to realise that our scribblers are doing the same disservice to our Allies and the same service to Germany.

Just at present too many of our papers are occupying themselves in doing this very disservice to our friends the Italians and the Yugoslavs. The Adriatic settlement is clearly going to be a matter of very grave difficulty. It is perhaps not too much to say that the future peace of the world depends very largely on that settlement. In order to arrive at it, the very clearest thinking and the very deepest study are essential. No clear thinking or study are possible in an atmosphere of unseemly brawling. In a boxing match the ring is kept and spectators do not throw themselves into the dispute. Why, then, do some of our newspapers insistently interfere between the disputants and the referees and do their best to make the referees' task an impossible one?

Interference of this kind is relished by neither side in the long run. Have we not the classical case of the fate of the man who intervened in order to protect a wife who was being severely handled by her husband? And the side attacked by an outsider resents it at once, and feels keenly that such an attack is both unfriendly and uncalled-for. The remembrance rankles and makes friendship in the future impossible.

Do we really desire that England shall be estranged from Italy? If we do, some of us are taking the best possible measures to make this certain. The same remark applies to our relation with Yugoslavia. Some of us are doing our best to uproot the lively feelings of gratitude and friendship which this young nation has shown to us, by writing and printing articles which are inspired either by prejudice caused by ignorance or by exaggerations supplied by interested propagandists. Many of us are getting tired of statistics of exceedingly doubtful value, of history past and present manipulated to suit the writer's object, and of geography treated in the same way. We are not only tired but alarmed to see the effect of this constant pin-pricking on our Allies. We think of the future and are appalled at the reckless way in which the fruits of our joint victory, friendship, and friendly co-operation are being thrown away.

The referees have been appointed and have begun their work. They are the nominees of the world's democracy, and it must be presumed that the world's democracy trusts them to arrive at just decisions. Is it too much to ask our public not to make their task an impossible one? The object of their decision is to make the world a place where war shall be made impossible. Is it too much to ask that our public shall refrain from sowing seeds which must inevitably grow into weeds among which the flowers of peace must wither? Can we not trust them to find a way through the tangled jungle of rival claims, and, above all, can we not credit the disputants with goodwill to assist and avoid spurring them on to obstruct?—I am, etc.,

GOLDEN SILENCE.

MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Several protests have appeared in your columns against Montenegro being incorporated into Serbia.

All who are acquainted with the laws made by Serbia in 1913 for the districts she then forcibly annexed must sympathise with any population threatened with similar annexation. The laws in question were signed on September 21, 1913, and put into force. I enclose a copy. You will note the extreme severity of the measures; the tremendous penalties. A person who unintentionally damages a road is liable to five years' hard labour (Art. 12). A person who is acquainted with a malefactor and does not denounce him to the police—five years' hard labour. A rebel summoned by the police to give himself up, and who fails after ten days to do so, may be put to death by any official, civil or military (Art. 3). The authorities have the right to deport wholesale the families of rebels and the inhabitants of houses in which armed individuals may have been concealed (Art. 4). The authorities can force the population to work on roads and other communal work. Should any strike, or refuse to work at all, or wish to work in another place or manner, they may be punished with from three months' to two years' imprisonment (Art. 16). A curious crime is that of inducing Serbian subjects to join a foreign army, which is punishable by ten years' hard labour; and which practically admits that the annexed were in great part not Serbs, or why should they wish to join foreign armies? Every resistance to the police, either *by word* or force, is punishable by at least six months' imprisonment, *however insignificant the crime*, and may have ten years' hard labour. The rest of the thirty-one laws are nearly all as severe. Montenegro, it is true, did not treat her annexed subjects any better. But she is certainly not to be blamed for wishing to escape annexation herself.—I am., &c.,

M. EDITH DURHAM.

January 18.

P.S.—I take these laws from the report of the Carnegie Commission.

[Miss Durham is in error in supposing that we have protested "against Montenegro being incorporated into Serbia." We have protested against the *method* that has been adopted of trying to bring about incorporation. The question whether Montenegro shall or shall not be incorporated with Serbia is one for the Montenegrins alone to decide (provided Serbia is willing to assume the responsibility), and we have been concerned merely to insure that the Montenegrins as a people shall be given an opportunity to make their decision without compulsion.—ED.]

DISTRESS IN DAMASCUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The following cable was received yesterday in London by the "Syrian and Palestine Relief Fund," from its officials in Damascus:—

"Relief party cordially welcomed by officials in Damascus, where there are urgent calls for help. There is practically no medical relief in the whole city. The Fund's resources are quite inadequate for the varied relief work needed in Damascus alone. Appeal for at least ten thousand a month for Syria."

The "Manchester Syrian Relief Fund" is working in collaboration with the above Fund. Any donation will be thankfully received by the Hon. Treasurer, E. E. Rigby, Esq., the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Mosley Street Branch.—I am, &c., K. JEBARA (Hon. Secretary).

January 16.

[We are asked to remind our readers that the London address of the Syrian and Palestine Relief Fund is 110, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1. Subscriptions may be sent to the Organising Secretary at that address.—ED.]

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

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

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

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A POET PHILOSOPHER.*

The vehicles for expressing thought styled Poetry and Prose are the result of the dualism of human nature. Poetry appeals to our emotional capacity; it is indefinite and suggestive. Prose concerns itself with our intellect; it is definite and expressive. The fact that prose is often poetic and *vice versâ* serves only to prove that the writer has used an inappropriate medium. There is a gulf between the two which nothing can bridge. Sir Rabindranath Tagore has given the world a body of mystical hymns, rhapsodies, and meditations which are essentially poetic in form and substance; and for that very reason it is impossible to give any clear idea of their content in prose. Professor S. Radhakrishnan's work is a very creditable attempt to extract a system of philosophy from the nebulous utterances of the master. Despite shortcomings, it has absorbing interest for Westerners who wish to grasp the trend of modern Indian thought. His first three chapters deal with certain metaphysical ideas which are hinted at rather than expressed by Rabindra's poetry. He eschews the quietism of Vedanta philosophy, which regards the Absolute as something quite apart from material Nature; the world of our senses as an illusion; extinction the aim and object of man. Rabindra's God is very human; life in his eyes is a stern reality, and action for the common good the duty of every religious soul. His writings are a signal proof of the reciprocal influence exercised by Christian doctrine and Vedantism. But seekers after truth will search Professor Radhakrishnan's book in vain for a solution of the problem offered by the Universe, which has perplexed far mightier intellects for 3,000 years. Of greater practical value are the poet's views on the world's political and economic evolution. He has no patience with the Moderate wing of the Congress party. Like British Liberals, they cling to such Victorian catchwords as Liberty, Rationalism, Enlightenment, and the like. They hope to secure India's salvation by dint of argument, persuasion, and political action; "they have raised mendicancy in politics to the level of a fine art." In theory at least Rabindra belongs to the Extremist wing, which "demands the sacrifice of all that men hold in esteem for their country's sake." Certain excerpts from his writings give me to a strong suspicion that Rabindra has a militant side to his character which inclines him to sympathise with the basic dogmas of anarchism. It is only fair to add that sound common sense precludes him from urging their application to India at the present stage of its social and political evolution. "What should we do," he asks, "if for any reason England were driven away? We should simply be the victims of other nations." India's ironbound caste system makes her people a house divided against itself; it must be destroyed as the first step towards emancipation. Equally disastrous in Rabindra's eyes is the disintegrating effect of Nationalism, which has deluged the world with blood and tears. With some lack of consistency, he admits that "peoples" are living things, having a soul and genius of their own, which should be allowed to develop in freedom. Here is surely distinction without difference. A nation, a "people" if you will, is a multicellular organism, bound together by a tissue of law, custom, prejudice, and tradition. It has organs for aliment, defence, and the extrusion of waste products. It develops a collective soul, reflecting the ideals of a cultured minority. No scheme of social betterment can be regarded as sound which ignores an incontrovertible fact; and nations will live in perfect harmony when they have learnt that the Law of Mutual Help is a higher phase in evolution than the Law of Struggle. Sir Rabindranath Tagore stands on firmer ground in holding that the democratic principle, which forbids the exploitation of the weak by the strong, applies to races as well as to individuals. That principle is the watchword of our government of India, although many generations must pass away ere its peoples become fitted to guide their own destinies.

F. H. S.

*"The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore." By S. Radhakrishnan Professor of Philosophy, Maharaja's College, Mysore. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1918. 8s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Silken Tassel." By Ardeshir F. Khabardar. (Adyar, Madras: Theosophical Publishing House. 3s. 6d. net.)

"L'Occupation Austro-Bulgare en Serbie." By M. Novakovitch. (Paris: Berger-Leyrault. 3frs)

"Romance of Souls." By P. S. G. Dubash. (London: Luzac and Co., 5s. net, post free.)

"The Cradle of the War: The Near East and Pan-Germanism." By H. Charles Wood, F.R.G.S. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. January 24	1919. January. 11	Friday	1337. Rabbi II. 22	5679. Shebat 23
25	12	Saturday.....	23	24
26	13	Sunday	24	25
27	14	Monday	25	26
28	15	Tuesday	26	27
29	16	Wednesday	27	28
30	17	Thursday	28	29

Vice-Admiral E. C. T. Troubridge, C.B., C.M.G., has been promoted Admiral

Mr. and Mrs. Raoul Foà have left Egypt and the Sudan and will be away for four months.

We understand that Lady Chelmsford will shortly be coming to England on a three months' visit.

Mr. F. Rattigan, First Secretary to the British Legation in Bucharest, left London last week on his return to Roumania.

Lord Willingdon, Governor-designate of Madras, and Lady Willingdon have left Claridge's Hotel, and are staying at 24, Park Lane.

On January 17, at the Tweeddale Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, the wife of Mr. W. D. L. Roberts, Egyptian Irrigation Service, gave birth to a son.

The Rev. P. S. Waddy, M.A., T.C.F., formerly Head Master of King's School, Parramatta, has been appointed Canon Residentiary at St. George's, Jerusalem.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, attended by Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, visited Poole on January 16 and christened a concrete ship.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant A. S. Barnes, son of Major W. G. Barnes, M.C., A.V.C., and Dorothy Mary, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Shallow, of Pahar, Loughton, and Calcutta.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society, to be held at 22, Albemarle Street, on January 29, at 4.30 p.m., Professor Sir William Ramsay, D.C.L., will lecture on "The Past History of Anatolia: A Mirror of the Future."

Our Malta Correspondent writes that the news of the death of Sir John Clauson, Governor of Cyprus, who was formerly Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary of Malta, has caused sincere regret in the latter island.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant F. Hartley Postlethwaite, R.A.F., son of the late G. F. Postlethwaite, of Pelham Manor, New York, and Elisabeth Julia (Betty), elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W Shallow, of Pahar, Loughton, and Calcutta.

The marriage of Lieutenant Samuel David Kennedy, second son of the late Dr. David L. Kennedy, of British Guiana, and Miss Winifred Wederell, elder daughter of Mr. Thomas S. Wederell, of "Redgrove," Epping, Essex, took place on January 16, at Epping Parish Church.

The marriage arranged between Captain A. J. Shakeshaft, the Norfolk Regiment, and Molly McEwen Clarke, widow of Mr. W. M. F. Clarke, Indian Police, and daughter of the late Mr. A. J. Brown and of Mrs. A. J. Brown, Cheviots, Eltham, will take place on Tuesday, February 4, at Eltham Parish Church.

The marriage of Major E. F. Vereker Ventris, Royal Artillery, attached Headquarters Staff, Simla, eldest son of Major-General F. Ventris, Commanding British Force, Hong Kong, and Mrs. Ventris, 136, Thurlow Park Road, Dulwich, and Miss Dorothea Janasz, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Janasz, of Salford House, Welford, near Rugby, took place in Bombay on January 12.

The bestowal of a C.M.G. upon Mr. W. C. F. Robertson, Lieutenant-Governor of Malta, has given much pleasure in the island, writes our own Correspondent. Mr. Robertson took up the onerous duties of his high office in times of exceptional difficulty, but his administrative ability and tact have enabled him to steer safely through all difficulties; while his sterling qualities have commanded the respect and esteem of all who have been brought into contact with him, whether officially or in a private capacity.

The marriage of Eustace Leigh, son of the late Rev. William Trafford, of St. Lawrence Rectory, Southminster, and Mrs. Trafford, of Croydon, to Ruby Beresford, only daughter of the late Colonel William Loch, C.I.E., and Mrs. Loch, of Eastbourne, took place on January 18, at St. Peter's Church, Kirkley, Lowestoft.

The engagement is announced between James Gordon Danielson, R.F.A., of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation only son of the Rev. A. G. Danielson, D.D., Aberdeen, and Chindwara, India, and Kitty, elder daughter of the late Colonel W. C. Dawson and Mrs. Dawson, Weston Hall, near Otley, Yorks.

An engagement is announced at Rawal Pindi, India, between Major E. C. Boutflower, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, son of Mr. Edward Boutflower, of Hale, Cheshire, and Violet Eleanor Dunlop, only daughter of the late Mr. Arthur Percival Hinde, late of Beaumont Hall, near Lancaster, and of Mrs. Hinde, of Eastbourne, Sussex.

The engagement is announced between John Seymour Eyton, Indian Civil Service, Lieutenant 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry, Indian Army, eldest son of the late Colonel Philip Eyton, Border Regiment, and of Mrs. Eyton, of Overton, Ellesmere, Shropshire, and Phyllis A. Tyser, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs. Hugh Tyser, of Marden, Kent.

A very graceful compliment has been paid to Sir Mark Sykes, who for some time past has been on a Government Mission in Palestine, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. The Armenians, at Aleppo, to the number of fifty thousand or more, have presented him with an address expressing their gratitude to him, and through him to the British Government, for all the efforts that have been put forward on their behalf.

Sir S. P. Sinha's appointment as Under-Secretary for India and his elevation to the peerage are to be celebrated by a luncheon to be given by Indian and English friends on his return from Paris, the Maharaja of Bikaner presiding. His place as member of the Bengal Government is being temporarily filled for the third time by the Maharaja of Burdwan, and it is expected that he will now be appointed to fill the vacancy.

General Milne's dispatch describing the operations of the British Force at Salonika in the final battles is now published.

The British military authorities have taken over the control of the Baghdad Railway, and the French have taken charge of the Oriental Railways in European Turkey.

The Nizam of Hyderabad has forwarded to the committee of the proposed Willingdon memorial fund a sum of Rs. 25,000 in token of his great regard and friendship for Lord and Lady Willingdon.

A Delhi message states that a special *Gazette*, announcing the death of Dr. Lefroy, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan Bishop in India and Ceylon, pays a very high tribute to his work, extending over forty years, and says his loss is a personal calamity to many in India.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the English Zionist Federation, has returned from Paris, where he had long interviews with, among others, President Wilson and Mr. Balfour. Dr. Weizmann has issued a statement in which he declares his interview with President Wilson to have been most satisfactory. The President promised his entire support for "a Jewish Palestine, full and unhampered."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Dr. H. P. Muller, the economist and historian, has been appointed Dutch Minister at Bucharest.

M. Vladimir Nosek, Secretary to the Czech-Slovak Legation in London, is now acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Michel B. Boeresco, has returned from Paris and resumed his duties at the Legation.

Captain Victor Gamble is to succeed Mr. T. Lister as Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces.

Prince Livio Borghese, Counsellor of the Italian Embassy, who has been appointed Italian Minister at Belgrade, left London last week for Paris and Italy.

General Sherif Pasha has been appointed by the Liberal Turkish Congress at Geneva a delegate to the Paris Peace Conference.

It is understood that Mr. C. E. Low, Secretary to the Government of India, will be placed on special duty in connection with the report of the Industries Commission. Mr. A. H. Lee will officiate for him.

The Viceroy has appointed Sir Alfred Hamilton Grant, at present Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, to be Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province in succession to Sir George Roos-Keppel.

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Mr. D. R. Lyle, Remembrancer to the United Provinces Government, and Mr. A. W. E. Standley, Secretary to Government, P.W.D., Irrigation Branch, have been appointed members of the United Provinces Legislative Council.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has appointed the Hon. A. Cadogan, of the Foreign Office, to be his private secretary, and Mr. Arthur Earle to be his personal private secretary.

Mr C. M. Collett, I.C.S., whose services were lent to the Army Department, has now returned to civil employment. He has been posted as Deputy Commissioner of Unao, and replaces Mr. J. F. Sale, who is posted to Moradabad as Joint Magistrate.

The following clerical appointments in India are announced :—The Rev. W. Light, Chaplain of Trivandrum, Travancore, to be Chaplain of Jhelum, Punjab; the Rev. W. A. H. Parker, M.A., to be Chaplain at Kasauli, Punjab; and the Rev. T. A. Thomson, to be Chaplain of St. John's, Calcutta.

It is officially announced that Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Roos-Keppel to be a member of the Council of India. Sir George will enter upon his new office in the spring, when he retires from his present appointment of Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Alfred Dudley Kennard, Medical Officer to the Turkish Embassy, has died at his residence in Bedford Square in his forty-first year.

Major Sir Bryan Leighton, who has died at Wellington Court, Knightsbridge, acted as correspondent for the *Illustrated London News* in the last Balkan war. He then accompanied the Turkish Army in Thrace.

Lieutenant Colonel John R. B. G. Carter, died on January 14 at Denmark Hill, in his fifty-second year. He received his commission in the Indian Army in 1887. After ten years' service he was appointed Superintendent of Police at Mahi Kantha, and was afterwards Assistant Political Resident and Assistant Political Agent, being appointed to Kathiawar in 1909.

Major-General Alexander Kinloch, who has died at Bray Lodge, Bray, Berks, aged 80 years, was D.A.A.G. for Musketry in India from 1870 to 1877. Throughout the Afghan War he was D.A.Q.M.G., and held the same post later in India. He commanded the 2nd and 4th Battalions, King's Royal Rifles, and afterwards three second class districts in India, and the 1st Brigade of the Chitral Relief Force, receiving the medal and clasp. He retired under the age clause in 1895, with the hon. rank of Major-General. He had written on big game shooting in Northern India.

The death has taken place in London from heart failure, at the age of 52, of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Brooke Rawlinson, C.I.E., son of the late Canon Rawlinson, of Canterbury. He was educated at Marlborough, and received his first commission in 1885. Later he entered the Indian Political Department, in which he did much valuable work on the North-West Frontier. In 1899 he was appointed an Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab; he became Deputy Commissioner ten years later, and Political Agent in 1906. After holding the appointment of Revenue Commissioner, NorthWest Frontier Province, Colonel Rawlinson retired in May, 1917, after thirty-two years' service.

Colonel F. H. A. Disney-Roebuck, died suddenly last week, aged 73. He was the only son of the late Captain H. Disney-Roebuck, 23rd R.W.F. He served in the Nile Expedition, 1887-89, and took part in the operations of the advance column under Major-General Earle, receiving the medal with clasp and the Khedive's Star. After his return from India he commanded his battalion at home for several years. He is survived by his two sons, Major Wyndham Disney-Roebuck, R.G.A., and Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Disney-Roebuck, late Northamptonshire Regiment, and until recently in command of the 4th Royal West Kent Regiment.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

About two hundred members of the Church of England Men's Society, who are serving with the Army in Egypt, took part in a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

According to the *Matin*, the Serbian Government estimates the damage caused in Serbia by the Austro-German and Bulgarian invasion at £320,000,000.

At a meeting in New York on Sunday the first Jewish Labour Congress opposed a Jewish Republic in Palestine, and favoured equal rights for all in Palestine.

Commander Aristide Moraininis, the Greek airman, who left Salonika to fly to Athens three weeks ago, has not reached his destination, and is now officially declared to be lost.

A telegram from the President of the Indian Association at Nairobi says :—"Indian community in East Africa express their profound gratitude for the appointment of Sir S. P. Sinha as a member of the British Ministry."

According to a telegram from Constantinople, the Turkish Government has postponed the Parliamentary elections *sine die*. In a proclamation the Government states that the elections will be held after the signature of peace.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan, left Khartoum on December 27 on a tour of inspection in Dongola Province. The first places visited were Kareima, Nuri Dueim, and Merowi.

A telegram sent to Mr. Lloyd George, President Wilson, and Sir Robert Borden by the Ukrainian Canadian Citizens' League, representing over 300,000 British subjects of Ukrainian descent, expresses regret that the Allies have not granted representation at the Peace Conference to the Ukraine.

The British Committee of the Indian National Congress expresses its grateful appreciation of the recognition by the Prime Minister of the principle of the closer association and participation of India in the affairs of the Empire by the appointment of an Indian to be a member of the British Government as Under-Secretary for India.

The American Senate has adopted an amendment to the Bill to provide $100,000,000 for the feeding of the hungry peoples of Europe, prohibiting Turkey, Bulgaria, and Austria, as well as Germany, from being allowed to share in the distribution of the funds, but permitting relief to be accorded to the peoples of Armenia, Syria, and Greece, and the Christian and Jewish peoples under the yoke of enemy Governments.

In a message, dated January 8, and delayed in transmission, Reuter's Bombay correspondent reports :—Following on the outbreak of influenza, Bombay is now suffering from a most severe epidemic of cholera. The spread of the disease is largely attributable to the heavy influx of the population from the country districts, where famine conditions prevail. The figures for the past two days, however, show a considerable improvement.

A reception will be held on Monday, January 27 (St. Sava's Day), in the Lower Hall of the Grafton Galleries, Grafton Street, W., at 8.30, to celebrate the emancipation of Serbia and the union of the Serbo-Croat-Slovene people. The Serbian Minister and Mme. Jovanovitch have promised to be present. The Bishop of London and Lieut.-Commander Hilton Young, M.P., will speak. Tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Lingner, 65, Longridge Road, S.W.5.

A special correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports from Geneva :—It is rumoured that there has been an exchange of views between Belgrade and Budapest on the subject of a rapprochement between Serbia and Hungary. As the old Dual Monarchy has disappeared, a friendly understanding between the Serbs and Magyars is not improbable, provided the former do not show a tendency to impose severe conditions and, above all, do not claim territories in which there is a majority of Magyars in the population.

The Ceylon National Conference, held at Colombo on December 13 and 14, passed an enthusiastic resolution tendering loyal homage to the King and congratulations on the success of the British and Allied arms. Other resolutions were passed asserting that Crown Colony administration was unsuited to Ceylon's conditions and inconsistent with British ideals, and demanding constitutional reforms and the vigorous development of self-governing institutions with a view to the realisation of responsible government under the ægis of the British Throne. Steps were taken for the appointment of delegates to England.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1919.

THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

The eyes of an expectant world are centred on the Allied Conference in Paris. In his opening address the French President declared that the Allies sought nothing but justice, and he rightly insisted that justice demands, first, restitution and reparation for the peoples and individuals who have been despoiled or maltreated, and, further, punishment of the guilty, and effective guarantees against an active return of the spirit by which they were tempted. These are indeed among the grave questions that the Conference will have to decide, but it is not this part of its mission that makes the gathering without a parallel in history and fastens upon it the rapt attention of every civilised nation. The name of Germany, with all the crimes that it conjures up, is justly execrated at this time throughout the length and breadth of the earth, and there is a general interest in seeing her punished, in order that crime may not be encouraged by being left unpunished. It is, however, the other aspect of the Conference that differentiates it from all similar conferences that have preceded it. The map, not only of Europe, but of a large part of the world, is to be redrawn, not by a handful of diplomatists "on the corner of a table," but, as M. Poincaré said, addressing the assembled delegates, "in the name of the peoples, and on condition that you shall faithfully interpret their thoughts and respect the right of nations, small and great, to dispose of themselves, and to reconcile it with the right, equally sacred, of ethnical and religious minorities." This task, moreover, carries with it the need "to secure the material and moral means of subsistence for all those people who are constituted or reconstituted into States; for those who wish to unite themselves to their neighbours; for those who divide themselves into separate units; for those who reorganise themselves according to their regained traditions, and, lastly, for all those whose freedom has already been or is about to be sanctioned." Here, then, is the major significance of the Conference—its chief interest for the majority, perhaps, of the peoples whose representatives have met at the Quai d'Orsay, and for whom its decisions regarding the means to be devised for safeguarding the peace won at such a great price have a vital concern.

The League of Nations is intended not only to prevent or punish war in the future, but also to win respect for the peace that has been established by proving that this peace implies "greater realities of justice and safer guarantees of stability" than have been known before. With this end in view the League cannot afford to be inert. It must have both a corporate existence and a definite mission to fulfil. Born of a war of ideals, it must see to it that the ideals for which the Allies have fought suffer no dilution when victory has been won. A League that closed its doors for the time being on the enemy countries and admitted all the other nations of the world without further question would quickly find that the resultant of the ideals contributed by its different members fell far short of the high principles enumerated by Allied spokesmen during the war. A standard must be set, and it must be made plain to all nations who claim admission to the League that they must be prepared to conform to that standard. The Allied Conference, therefore, cannot regard itself as the League of Nations, but can only supply the nucleus from among its members. Apart from certain undertakings in regard to arbitration, there must be two preliminaries at least to admission to the League—a certain stage of constitutional development on democratic lines, and a declaration that the State, being content with its existing boundaries, is prepared to live at peace and amity with its neighbours. But as the goal of the League must be to embrace all the peoples of the world, it cannot avoid interesting itself in the moral and political advancement of the more backward nations. In this connection a particular obligation will have been laid upon it with regard to some of the peoples liberated by the disintegration of Turkey and Russia. To leave them without a guiding hand is to invite a repetition of the circumstances which favoured the aggrandisement of Germany and the outbreak of the Great War. How, then, is this responsibility to be met? The most practical suggestion that has yet been put forward is, we believe, the one elaborated by General Smuts. He would make the five Great Powers represented at Paris the nucleus of a permanent Executive Council of the League of Nations, with four representatives of other nations chosen by rotation from two panels. The future of the more backward peoples should be one of the responsibilities of this Council. Very wisely General Smuts rules out of court any attempt at international jurisdiction. It has never proved successful in the past, and there is no reason why it should in the future. Where direct tutelage has to be provided he would hand the work over to a single nation as the mandatory of the League, under special safeguards, and it would be the duty of the Executive Council to exercise some measure of supervision over its mandatory, or at least to call for a periodical account of its stewardship.

There can be little doubt that this scheme, in one form or another, will have to be applied very widely in the Near and Middle East. A concrete proposal to this effect is to be submitted to the Paris Conference on behalf of the King of the Hejaz. It is suggested that there should be a federation of a number of Arab States from the Mediterranean and the Red Sea on the West to the Persian Gulf, and that they should be placed under the protection of the United States. This latter suggestion is a testimony to Arab shrewdness. The natural protector of the Arabs, and the one to whom they would most readily turn, is Great Britain. But the Arabs are not novices in statecraft. They recognise the advantage of keeping the Arab world as far as possible a single unit, and they have no desire to see themselves split up under separate foreign jurisdictions. A foreign protectorate is essential, and will, moreover, serve to keep the Arab States together, provided it is a single protectorate. But as the Arab claims include both Aleppo and Damascus, and as the Arabs have but little hope of persuading Great Britain to run counter to French aspirations in that region, they have tried to cut the Gordian knot by appealing to the United States. These motives will not be lost on the Conference, and it will be of interest to see to what heights of genuine disinterestedness for the world's benefit that body will attain. Will the American Government take over work to which she will be entirely new—admittedly as a *pis aller*—or will France acquiesce in the self-determination of the Arabs and leave them to work out their own salvation under the protection of their own choice—that of Great Britain? The Conference, it is to be hoped, will realise that the future Turkey will need "protection" just as much as the other nationalities now liberated from the Ottoman yoke, and in this direction we may expect the United States to find their mission. It might give rise to misunderstanding between the two peoples, if one and the same Power undertook to look after both Arabs and Turks. The renunciation which the French would be called upon to make would be a severe test of French statesmanship; but if the Paris Conference or the League of Nations makes it clear that these trusteeships are not to be used for self-interest in any way, there may be less anxiety among the Powers to retain or accept those that can conscientiously be refused.

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RURAL LIFE IN EASTERN MACEDONIA.—II.

The rich man of a village lives much the same sort of life as the other villagers. Merchants generally affect European clothes, instead of the baggy breeches, sleeveless jacket and waistband of many folds of the peasant, but their wives always wear native dress and do all the housework. They spend their money chiefly on the education of their children, sending them to Salonika, Athens, or, before the war, to Robert College, Constantinople, not infrequently even to French, Swiss, and German universities or medical and technical schools. In due course the boys become lawyers, doctors, Government officials, or journalists, though latterly engineering had been coming into fashion. When they have once tasted the sweets of town life a post in one of the larger towns is always the goal of their ambition, and, except as summer visitors, their native villages generally know them no more. But the mass of the people go on, from father to son, in the same village doing the same things. There is a certain amount of emigration to America from Western rather than from Eastern Macedonia, but less than from old Greece or the Islands. Those who go remit money home with praiseworthy regularity, and return when they have made their pile and open a café or a shop. Practically everyone in a village owns or rents a piece of land, and those who practise a trade do so in combination with farming. There are a few large chifliks (farms), especially in the Struma valley, mostly the property of Turkish Beys, many of whom left the country after its conquest by Greece. In such cases the farms passed to the Greek Government, and have been leased to lawyers or merchants who, like the Beys, farm them on shares with the villagers; and there are some large properties owned by the Community of Mt. Athos. But the bulk of the holdings are small, from three or four up to thirty acres, and are cultivated by the villagers and their families. The women do a great deal of the work and take part in all operations except ploughing.

Some very disparaging remarks have been made by our Army about the Macedonian system of farming, and it is literally true to say that the implements and methods in use are identical with those described by Hesiod, writing about the eighth century B.C. The plough is still a wooden beam tipped with iron, corresponding in every detail with his specification. The sickle is still chiefly used for reaping the crop, though there is a class of hired labourer called "scythesmen," who can use a scythe and command very high wages at the hay or grain harvest. The crops are still piled on the threshing floor and threshed by oxen or mules drawing wooden boards round and round it. On the bottom of the boards are set sharp pieces of iron which, besides separating the grain from the ear, convert the straw into chaff. Winnowing still consists in pitching the contents of the threshing floor into the air with large wooden shovels, so that the wind may carry away the straw from the grain. These picturesque survivals are, of course, not business, but, after all, people can only use what they have and understand, and make the best of it; and it should be remembered that there was not much encouragement in Turkish times to strike out new paths. Still, even before the war new methods were beginning to make their way. We found in some of the large chifliks on the left bank of the Struma iron ploughs manufactured in Old Greece which were a great improvement on the Hesiodic pattern, as well as toothed harrows and a Clayton and Shuttleworth threshing machine.

It will be easily understood that with such implements as I have described production on a large scale is impossible. All the processes take too long and need too much labour. So we find each family growing only enough grain for their own consumption and that of their animals. In a good year there is a surplus for sale; in a bad year there is scarcity. Cereals are winter crops harvested in June. The summer crops are maize, planted from St. George's Day, April 23 (O.S.), until the end of May, and harvested about the end of August, and tobacco, the cultivation of which, stimulated by extraordinary war prices, is greatly extending. It is an invaluable crop to the small cultivator, as his whole family can be turned on to planting, hoeing, picking and drying the leaves, and a small acreage gives a big return. The tobacco buyers of the large American and English combines come round the villages, and give cash advances on the crop while it is still standing, and the inferior qualities always find a ready sale locally. The Macedonian smokes nothing but cigarettes; the nargileh is as extinct as the dodo. Besides tobacco, there are subsidiary but very paying summer crops—cotton, sesame (of which the oil is much prized locally for cooking), the opium poppy, as well as the vine and the silk mulberry—most of the families in Platanochori and the neighbouring villages rear silkworms—also melons, pumpkins, and runner beans, which are generally planted among the maize. Other vegetables are only grown extensively in a few areas where irrigation is possible. Although running water is scarce in Macedonia, there is abundant underground water in most parts, which might be made available comparatively cheaply by windmill pumps. Nothing could do more to develop the country than irrigation, whether by this means or by the more costly schemes for conserving the surface water which, it is said, are contemplated. Without irrigation you are completely at the mercy of the uncertain rainfall. If the latter or spring rains fail, your cereal crops may be hardly worth harvesting, and if God does not send the three thunderstorms which are essential to the maize, that will disappoint you too. With water, if it be only for a couple of acres, you can always depend on bread for your family, as the natives say.

In every village there are flocks of sheep and goats which are herded by shepherds hired by the owners in combination. Besides these there are large flocks owned by Vlachs—nomad shepherds, that curious race whose language is almost identical with Roumanian and whose chief settlement south of the Danube is in the Pindus range. They move about the country according to the season, spending the winter in the plains and the summer in the mountains, and are regarded with a certain amount of suspicion by the permanent inhabitants.

Village affairs are managed by a committee presided over by a mayor or deputy mayor, who is the local representative of the Government, and has a good deal to do, especially in these times when the Government is always bothering. He is paid a small salary by the village, who also pay the field watchman, who sees that the shepherds keep off the crops, and the priest. Village priests are commonly of the same class and of little more education than the other villagers. They marry, and work in the fields like everyone else. If the priest is a man of any character he has considerable influence, and more than one had to be temporarily removed from his village during the military occupation for taking too much interest in politics.

The schoolmaster and, in the larger villages, from two to six policemen complete the village community. They are both Government officials and rather inclined to give themselves airs on that account. I have only met schoolmasters socially, but it always struck me that they were discontented with their lot and felt that their talents were wasted in a village. The police have been much improved since the Venizelist regime by the infusion of a large number of Cretans, particularly as officers and N.C.O.'s. These country police have large areas to patrol, and, I think, do their work rather well and more honestly than one would expect in a country where baksheesh has for so long played such a large part in justice. The Macedonians have an immense respect for constituted authority and are easily governed. There has always been a floating population of bad characters, which has largely increased during the war, but a few years of firm administration would soon undo the effects of centuries of lawlessness.

Altogether, it really looks as if better times were in store for the Macedonian. The war has, of course, caused great suffering and heavy material loss—many villages are in ruins—orchards and vineyards destroyed. But the effects have been much mitigated by the flow of British gold throughout the country, which has not only saved thousands of people from starvation but actually put many of them in a better position than they ever were in before. Perhaps they may have gained other advantages from the close association so many of them have had with the British Army. Thousands of muleteers enrolled in the Army have had to conform to British standards of cleanliness, sanitation, care of animals, and discipline, and have been treated according to British ideas of what is fair. If one may judge from conversations and the letters they write, it was a revelation to many of them; but with characteristic adaptiveness they


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

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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quickly caught on to the idea, and the clean but swarthy driver of that well turned-out limber who brought his whip hand so smartly away in the salute just now, is quite a creditable imitation of a British soldier. Of course, they think us mad in many ways, but for all that they have an unbounded admiration for us as a nation, and what it is hardly too strong to call a feeling of genuine affection for the British soldier.

Given fifty years of peace, an impartial and strong Government, and capital for the development of the country by improved communications, irrigation, and the gradual introduction of better agricultural methods, and I believe the future of Macedonia is full of promise.

W. S. Cohen.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Capture of Medina.

In a leading article, the *Times* last Friday expressed the satisfaction that must be felt by all the Allies at the final surrender of Medina by the Turks and the entry of the Arabs into the city. After sketching briefly some of the early history of Medina, the article continues:—

In the present war the Turks were well aware of the veneration in which the Arabs held Medina, and traded without scruple upon the piety of their brethren in the Faith. They did not hesitate to shell the holiest of all Moslem shrines—the Kaaba of Mecca, into the wall of which, when it was rebuilt, Mahomet with his own hands built the still more sacred Black Stone—but they protected Medina by using the great mosque as their chief ammunition store, with the result that not a shell could be thrown into the place without endangering the Prophet's tomb. The Arabs would not even distress the Holy City by cutting off the water supply. The Turks had brought large forces from Syria to hold the railhead of the Hedjaz railway and to use it as a base for operations farther south. They never got farther south, but after some fine fighting, in which the tribesmen had to face artillery for the first time, Sherif Feisul wisely perceived that, in the circumstances, a storm, or even a siege, was hopeless, and that the bulk of his men would be better employed elsewhere. The siege was converted into a not very strenuous blockade, and Sherif Feisul took his warriors across the waterless desert to Wejh, where, however, the Navy had already done the work, and afterwards employed them in desperate and successful raids upon the railway, well to the north of Medina. The Turks have doubtless made free with the rich offerings at the Prophet's tomb from all parts of the world of Islam, but the shrine itself, and the neighbouring sanctuaries, such as the Mount of Ohod, the scene of a signal victory of Mahomet's, and, therefore, one day to be translated into Paradise, and the Mount of Aïra, where he nearly died of thirst, and which will accordingly be hurled into hell, have passed out of their hands. So have all the rest of the chiefest among the holy places of Islam, whether revered by Sunnis, or by Shias, or by both. These things still have influence over the minds of millions.

Prisoners in Turkey.

The January *Blackwood* contains the first part of an article entitled "450 Miles to Freedom," by Captain M. A. B. Johnston and Captain K. D. Yearsley, which gives a racy account of life in the Turkish internment camps, and of escapes and attempts to escape. It is certainly worthy of note that, in spite of their own misfortunes, the British prisoners were able to, and did, help others who were nominally free. Thus we read that when the authors and their companions were to be removed from Kastamouni to Changri:—

The poor Greeks of the town were very sad to see us go. The Rev. Harold Spooner, through the Greek priests, had been able from time to time to distribute to these destitute people fair sums of money, supplied by voluntary subscription among the prisoners. In addition to this, families of little children used to be fed daily by some messes, and so we were able, in a small way, to relieve the want of a few unhappy Christians. Before we left Kastamoni the Padre showed us a letter which he had received from the head Greek Priest, thanking us for having helped the poor. We had, he said, kept families together, and young girls from going on the streets, and he assured us that it would be a privilege of the Greek community to look after the small graveyard we had made for the six officers and men who had died while we were there.

Regarding the treatment of prisoners and the Turks' responsibility in the matter, the authors write very plainly:—

It may, perhaps, be said with truth that it was no studied cruelty on the part of the Turkish authorities that was the cause of the death of so many brave men who had given themselves to the work of their country; yet with equal truth it may be said that it was the vilest form of apathy and of wanton neglect. Where the taking of a little trouble by the high officials at Constantinople would have saved the lives of thousands of British and Indian soldiers, that trouble was never taken. Weak with starvation and sick with fever and dysentery (we speak of the men of Kut), they were made to march 500 miles in the burning heat across waterless deserts without regular or sufficient rations and without transport—in many cases without boots, which had been exchanged for a few mouthfuls of food or a drink of water.

We officers, who had not such a long march as the men, and who were given a little money and some transport, thought ourselves in a bad way—what of the men who had none? There were no medical arrangements, and those who could not march fell by the desert paths and died. The official White Book gives the number 65 as the percentage of deaths amongst British soldier prisoners taken at Kut, a figure which speaks for itself.

It is a law of the world's civilisation that if a man take the life of another, except in actual warfare, he must pay forfeit with his own life. Take away bribery and corruption, and that law holds good in Turkey. Now, when a soldier is taken prisoner he ceases to be an active enemy, and the country of his captors is as responsible for his welfare as for that of her own citizens. What if that country so fails to grasp the responsibility, that its prisoners are allowed to die by neglect? Should not its rulers be taught such a lesson that it will be impossible for the rulers of its future generations to forget that lesson?

It is no real use to obtain evidence of a cruel corporal at that prisoners' camp or bestial commandant at this and to think that by punishing them we have avenged our dead. These men are underlings. The men we must punish first are those few in high authority who by an inattention to their obvious duty have made it possible for their menials to be guilty of worse than murder.

We pride ourselves on the fact that we are citizens of the most just country of the earth. Let us see to it that justice is not starved.

Articles to Note.

"The Report on Indian Constitutional Reform," by Sir F. S. P. Lely; "India in France," by J. D. Anderson; "India: A Democracy?" by S. S. Thorburn; and "The Settlement of Turkey," by "Polybius," in the *Asiatic Review* (January).

"Dacoity in Bengal," in *The Times* (January 21 and 23).

ARABIA AND THE U.S.A.

Under date of January 19, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—The Emir Feisul, son of the King of the Hejaz, who is now in Paris, is awaiting instructions from his father as to the two delegates who are to represent his kingdom at the Peace Conference. Colonel Lawrence, who accompanies the Emir as aide-de-camp, expects that Emir Feisul himself will be chosen as first delegate of the kingdom of the Hejaz, in order to give greater weight to an important proposal which is to be submitted to the Conference. The proposal will suggest the formation of a great federation of all the Arab States from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf, free from any Turkish domination and under the protection of the United States. "The Arabs of this most ancient race," said Prince Feisul to-day, Colonel Lawrence acting as his interpreter, "desire to become the youngest independent State in Asia, and they appeal to America as the most powerful protector of the freedom of man."

THE EX-KHEDIVE'S ESTATES.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports, in a message despatched on January 12, but delayed in transmission, that the estates in Egypt of the ex-Khedive, Abbas Hilmi, which have been sequestrated since December, 1914, have now been vested by proclamation in the Public Custodian. The report continues:—The preamble gives as the reason for the change the request of the previous sequestrator to be relieved, and the necessity to provide for the future administration of the estates, since Abbas Hilmi is excluded from Egypt, and he and his descendants, by the decision of the British Government, are definitely excluded from all rights of succession to the Sultanate. The ex-Khedive's estates are all heavily mortgaged, and the annuities were much in arrear before the sequestration.

POSTAL SERVICE TO TURKEY.

The Postmaster-General announces that letters and postcards may now be posted to any part of Turkey-in-Europe or Turkey-in-Asia. Only correspondence of a purely personal and domestic character may be sent; it will be subject to censorship; and no guarantee can be given of delivery even if it is forwarded. The correspondence cannot be registered.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I see that it was stated in a lecture on carpets the other day that the carpet supplies of Turkey and Persia were running out, and that the reserves of these countries, as well as the carpets that were being made, had been bought up by this country. The statement is very interesting, but I cannot accept it as correct for a moment, for the carpet supplies of these countries are almost inexhaustible, and it is unthinkable that the demand for the carpets, great though it is, should have brought about such a result. I suggest that the view expressed may be based on the fact that in recent months these carpets have been bought in England at high prices for re-export to meet the British demand for them in Mesopotamia. But while this obviously points to the demand exceeding the supply, it does not follow in the least that there is a real shortage out there. It merely means that possessors of the carpets are unwilling to part with them or are holding them in the hope of higher prices.

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I am assured by a correspondent who knows the position thoroughly that there is not likely to be any difficulty, now or in the future, in securing one of these carpets in Mesopotamia or Persia provided the would-be purchaser is willing to pay the price. That is, of course, the real explanation of the shortage, for the possessors of these carpets are fully aware of the demand for them, and they also know that the demand is a growing one, and the deduction from that fact that in due course better terms may be secured is not particularly difficult.

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The death of Mr. John Rodgers, chairman and managing director of the famous cutlery firm of Joseph Rodgers and Sons, Limited, which took place at Sheffield on Sunday, deprives the British business world, and especially the export section of it, of one of its most prominent and enterprising figures. The firm of which Mr. Rodgers was the head has always played a leading part in the export trade, and in the Near East in general it found a large and satisfactory market. Its success in that region was so pronounced, indeed, that I am told the trade-mark of the firm was forged to a greater extent than any other in the Near East. Could there be a more magnificent tribute to the cutlery of Messrs. Rodgers? Of course, the Germans were the offenders. Baghdad, in particular, being full of their imitations of the firm's wares before the war.

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News regarding financial and economic reconstruction in Roumania is slow in coming through, but we are now beginning to get a few items, and this week our correspondent on Roumanian affairs reports that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce there has been divided into a Ministry of National Economy and Commerce and a Ministry of Industry and Labour. The latter body, he states, has been authorised to take over the coal mines. Comment on the precise significance of these changes must be withheld pending the receipt of fuller information. It would appear, however, that one reason for the alteration is the advisability of the creation of a separate body to deal with problems concerned with the labour question, in which respect Roumania would be merely following the example of almost every other country.

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The mail papers just received from India show that great anxiety is felt among those who hope to go on leave during the present year on account of the high rates charged for passages home. It is a question which affects not only members of the various Services, and of the non-official community, who have had to forgo leave on account of the war, but also in a number of cases wives and children, who have had no option but to stay in India. The *Pioneer*, discussing the question, says that "it appears that the companies have just decided to reduce homeward shipping freights from 400 shillings to 250 shillings per ton, and there is no valid reason why passenger rates also should not be placed on a more moderate basis."

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My readers will be interested to learn that among recent recipients of foreign decorations is Mr. G. L. Bailey, director of the Lake Copais Company, Kribba, Greece, who has received the Cross of Chevalier of the Royal Order of the Redeemer, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him towards the development of agriculture in Greece.

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I see that the Indian Budget is to be presented at the Imperial Legislative Council on March 21.

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I am interested to learn that the question of the organisation of an international industrial exhibition in Calcutta during the cold weather of 1920-21 is under consideration. If it is decided to hold the event, as it probably will be, I hope that British manufacturers here will take the fullest advantage of what should be an excellent opportunity for the extension of their trade in India.

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In the absence of complete details there is little that can profitably be said with regard to the Bombay cotton strike. It seems that some eighty factories have been affected, and that the workers on strike number about a hundred thousand. The messages so far received leave the origins of the strike obscure, but it is stated that the men's demands include a 25 per cent. increase and one month's pay for Armistice Day. The most unfortunate feature of the strike has been the riots which have developed, and have apparently led to minor conflicts with the authorities.

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As an isolated example in India of the unrest now prevailing throughout the world this strike may be regarded as of small importance, but in relation to the future the occurrence is not devoid of significance. It is, so far as I know, the largest strike that has ever taken place in the East, and its spontaneity in a country where trade unions are unknown gives food for thought, for one of the chief weaknesses of Indians is their readiness to respond to the voice of the agitator, and one can well imagine the consequences if organised labour agitations were allowed free play in the country. If the present strike should prove the forerunner of a situation similar to that with which all the most advanced countries are now confronted, then the prospects for India's industrial development will be gravely discounted.

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Mr. Robert Campbell, presiding at the extraordinary general meeting of the National Bank of India this week, held for the purpose of considering resolutions to increase the capital, explained that the purpose of the increase was to strengthen the bank's position in view of the great expansion of business expected as soon as peace was finally assured. They had also another good reason for the development in the rapid and important growth of their business in recent years. He demonstrated this by saying that while the paid up capital of the bank was raised in 1911 to £1,000,000, the figure at which it now stands, the deposits, which on June 30, 1911, amounted to £13,031,000, were more than doubled at the same date last year at £26,719,000, while bills of exchange and advances had increased from £11,180,000 to £22,990,000, and investments from £1,006,000 to £2,440,000.

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Dealing with the question whether the new shares might not have been priced at £25 instead of £20, thus adding a substantial amount to the reserve, while still providing a handsome bonus for the shareholders, Mr. Campbell said that he thought he might say that the only reason why that was not done was that they were fortunately able to accomplish the same thing in another way. "As you will have seen from our half-yearly report to June 30 last," he added, "after providing for the interim dividend we carried forward £217,000 of undivided profits. The cabled advices we have received from our branches of the results for the past half-year are such as to assure us that when the accounts are made up to December 31, after providing for dividend and other usual appropriations, this carry forward will be largely added to. We propose then to transfer £200,000 of the amount to the reserve fund, making a total addition to the fund of £500,000, as well as £500,000 to the capital."

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Figures are now available regarding the quantities of cotton goods woven in India in August and in the four months preceding that period. The total for the five months is less than that for the same period in either 1917 or 1916, but the August figures are well in advance of those for 1917. The chief increases during that month compared with the same period in 1917 were in dhooties, which showed an increase from 27 to 40 million yards; in shirtings and longcloths, where the increase was from 34 to 36 million yards; and in tent cloth, where the advance was from two million to five million yards. In the year ended August 31 the woven goods amounted to 376,000,000 lb., against 380,000,000 lb. in 1917, and the quantity of yarn spun was 642,000,000 lb., against 677,000,000 lb. in the previous year.

COMMENTATOR.

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EGYPTIAN STATE FINANCES IN OCTOBER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 26.

Further substantial progress is recorded in the statement of accounts for the month of October issued by the Ministry of Finance. During that month revenue amounted to £E3,654,143 as compared with £E3,219,583 in October, 1917. The chief items of revenue were direct taxes £E1,605,770, customs £E362,742, tobacco dues £E224,942, judicial fees £E138,537, railways £E706,871, state domains £E178,796, ghaffir cess £E147,303, miscellaneous receipts £E124,837. Compared with October, 1917, customs have increased by £E148,000, and railways by £E206,000. For the seven months ending October 31, receipts are £E16,054,101 or £E3,749,190 better than a year ago.

Expenditure during October comes to £E2,350,598 as against £E1,789,986 in the same month in 1917. The principal items were public health £E43,933, irrigation £E104,970, railways £E287,744, police £E47,104, ghaffirs £E66,788, ministry of war £E171,698, pensions and indemnities £E57,414, public debt £E596,795, war gratuities £E373,712, and extraordinary war expenditure £E63,643. Compared with October, 1917, the main differences are increases of £E93,000 in railways, of £E88,000 in ministry of war, and £E328,000 in war gratuities, and decreases of £E22,000 in irrigation and £E113,000 in the public debt. For the seven months ending October 31, the total expenditure amounted to £E12,606,376 as against £E10,371,149 at the same date a year ago.

As a result of the working of these seven months there is a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £E3,447,725, as compared with one of £E1,933,762 during the same period of 1917. It is to be noted also that whereas extraordinary war expenditure was not accounted until the March statement last financial year, £E361,857 has been included in the year's expenditure so far, so that in reality the surplus is nearly two millions better than at the end of October, 1917. Even at this early date it is possible to foresee that the revenue for 1918-19 will be far above the estimates which were set at £E22,900,000, and that the surplus will be in the neighbourhood of £E5,000,000.

EGYPT'S COMMERCE.

Improvement in October.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 14.

The customs returns for October show a further increase in Egypt's foreign trade. During the month imports came to £E3,223,234 and exports to £E2,980,858, as compared with £E2,711,844 and £E2,198,618, in October 1917. The total imports so far are £E41,036,208 and exports £E38,942,967, showing an increase of £E16,011,798 in the former and of £E9,106,818 in the latter compared with the figures for the same period of last year.

The principal imports during the month were sugar £E124,571, coffee £E78,799, tea £E59,150, vegetable oils £E67,590, mineral oils £E61,142, stationery £E168,253, coal £E229,285, cotton thread £E169,435, cotton piece goods, £E633,795, woollen textiles £E54,589, raw silk and silks £E120,407, ready made underclothing £E138,982, manufactured iron and steel £E149,987, and tobacco £E338,142.

The main exports were cotton seed £E184,847, sugar £E149,853, gum £E87,420, cotton £E2,305,001, and cigarettes £E79,492.

Trade with the Empire.

Great Britain's share of imports increased by one third to £E1,246,210, but that of India fell by nearly half to £E320,140. The former sent 80 per cent. of the coal (the rest came from South Africa), and of the cotton piece goods, half the mineral oils, and 60 per cent. of the iron and steel. The United States sent half the mineral oils and the balance of the iron and steel. France quadrupled her sales to £E204,241 (spirits, silks and chemical products), Japan more than doubled hers (matches, underclothing, silks and smallware), as also did China (raw silk and silken goods).

Under exports Great Britain took 25 per cent. more, viz., £E1,305,701 (all cotton seed and half the cotton), the United States from nothing rose to £E757,409 (half the gum and one third of the cotton), Spain took £E126,070, Italy £E167,236, and Switzerland £E222,610 (practically all cotton), whilst French Mediterranean Possessions took £E139,372.

Trade with the Sudan continues to be brisk. Imports thence came to £E266,170 during the month, and exports to that country to £E253,427. Among the imports into Egypt were livestock £E168,396, gum £E25,182, cereals £E28,239, and hides and skins £E21,808. The chief exports to the Sudan were sugar £E34,108, textiles £116,672, and tobacco £E14,767.

IRRIGATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Opening of New Canal.

The announcement is made that on January 10 an important new irrigation canal was opened at Mansurieh, on the Diala River, some 70 miles north-east of Baghdad. The canal is six miles long, and it is stated that without further work upon it water can be supplied to irrigate 300,000 acres, rendering cultivation possible as far as the neighbourhood of Baghdad. The opening of the Hindieh barrage, and the construction of subsidiary canals, rendered possible the cultivation of 500,000 acres on the Euphrates, and with this new development a further great stride has been taken in the direction of restoring to Mesopotamia the prosperity which she once enjoyed. Not the least interesting feature of the construction of this canal, which forms a small part of a vast scheme projected before the war, lies in the fact that the policy embodied in it has its roots in past history, for in the days of the ancient Chaldeans the region bounded by the rivers Adheim, Tigris, and Diala, was irrigated by an extensive series of canals.

The despatch announcing the opening of the canal gives the following description:—Until the fall of the Abbasid Khalif the whole tract of country enclosed by the Diala, Adheim, and Tigris rivers was watered by a series of canals drawing from the Diala. Most of these canals have long been dry, and the greater part of the land has fallen out of cultivation. The Khalis Canal, which at present supplies water to about 50,000 acres, was also, owing to the erosion of the right bank of the Diala, in danger of falling. Six months ago our Irrigation Department began the widening of an old channel known as the Mansurieh cut and the erecting of a regulator at its head, which has been built of solid concrete. In addition to a locally raised Arab corps three Indian labour corps have been employed on the work,—the 5th Madras Corps and the 11th and 18th Labour Corps. The canal leaves the river by a rocky gorge, in which the gradient is 4ft. in the mile. Below the gorge the gradient flattens to 1ft. in a mile, and this change had entailed the construction of five masonry falls. The width here increases from 25ft. to 50ft.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 16:—

Light to moderate rain in Punjab, Chota Nagpur, Sind and Jubbulpore Division. Otherwise no change.

Cotton Market weak and irregular. Good Broach April-May delivery quoted Rs.639 As.10. Gunny Market in Calcutta opened firm but closed quieter in consequence of mills resuming work for five days a week till June 30. Jute Market firm. Jat fours Rs.13 As.8. The demand in Calcutta for Burma rice has been accentuated by freight difficulties. The price advanced is Rs.5 As.9 old crop.

The Share market in Bombay is dull and in Calcutta the chief interest is in the industrial section.

The Bombay Cotton Mills closed in consequence of strike.

A Press communiqué has been issued giving statistics of production of sugar by factories in India. The maximum capacity of the output of the factories which reported was 533 tons a day and the actual output about 280 tons a day.

The Kamrup Experimental Farm in Assam had a difficult year owing largely to seasonal conditions and delays in procuring machinery.

The gross receipts for eight months (April-November) of Customs Revenue—excluding salt revenue—in 1918 amounted to Rs.11,96 lakhs against Rs.10,49 in same period of 1917. Import duties Rs.8,20; export duties Rs.2,57; excise on cotton manufactures Rs.79 lakhs, on motor spirit Rs.26 lakhs.

The imports of raw cotton from April to August showed a large increase as compared with similar periods in 1916, 1917, viz., 57,171 cwt. against 14,849 cwt. and 7,289 cwt. respectively.

COTTON GROWING IN BENGAL

The Director of Agriculture in Bengal has issued a report on the measures which have been taken to encourage cotton growing in the Presidency. The question of cotton cultivation in Bengal was discussed at the summer meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Association, held in Calcutta last July, when the general conclusion arrived at was that, although cotton was not to be recommended as a field crop in the plains of Bengal, and although the general situation as regards the price of raw cotton or manufactured cotton goods could not be affected by any possible extension of cotton growing in the Presidency, yet as a special war-time measure, and in view of the efforts which were being made to reintroduce home-spinning in certain localities owing to the high price and scarcity of cotton goods, a local supply of raw cotton might be organised through the growing of cotton plants amongst other crops on small areas of the higher homestead lands near village sites. Cotton-growing would thus be a subsidiary industry to home-spinning, and its extension would depend largely on the extent to which local efforts to revive the *charka* proved successful.

The director points out that it requires to be borne in mind that no part of Bengal is suited for cotton gorwing; much the greater part of it is absolutely unsuitable, and the crop is confined to a comparatively small and highly specialised area on the eastern borders of the Presidency.

Estimates of cereal crops in Lower Egypt give wheat at 8 per cent., barley at 4 per cent., and maize at 3 per cent. below normal. In Mid-Egypt crops are slightly above normal, while in Upper Egypt they are normal.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Condensation Reservoirs.

As is well known, one of the chief problems in the Near East is the provision of water. Whole towns and villages are dependent upon the rain water which is collected during the winter from the roofs of the houses, and stored in underground built-up cisterns, or upon wells, averaging from 40 to 200 feet deep, from which the water is drawn up in the old patriarchal manner with hemp cords and wooden buckets. In most cases the remedy is not difficult, but want of means often prevents the execution of works for a water supply. A new method for obtaining water by condensation reservoirs should, therefore, be of much interest to people generally in the Near East, and especially to many local authorities there. The effect of the method is to accelerate and intensify by artificial means the forces of nature.

Dew ponds are familiar to those acquainted with the chalk downs. Many of these dew ponds are of great antiquity, and are the handiwork of Neolithic man. In some remote districts, during long droughts, the extraordinary spectacle may be witnessed of villagers and farmers sending carts from the valley to the top of the downs in order to fetch water from dew ponds for domestic and farm purposes. The reason that these dew ponds do not dry up is that the radiation of heat from the earth at night is checked by a layer of non-conducting medium. The surface of the pond is thus chilled to the dew point, and a condensation of the water vapour contained in the atmosphere takes place in the form of dew. In a normal tropical climate this condensation is more copious than in a temperate climate. The water thus obtained is naturally distilled, and is therefore, chemically pure. It is impossible that it can be contaminated, as is so frequently the case with spring or surface water. It is lifted by natural forces to such a height that it can be distributed by gravitation without recourse to pumping.

The new method is based upon the principle relied upon by the contrivers of the dew ponds, and may be applied in a variety of ways. The requirements of every proposed installation have to be specially considered before the precise type of design and the method and apparatus best suited to the purpose can be determined. In most cases storage tanks at a lower level are desirable, and the water from the condensation reservoir is syphoned to these tanks. As an instance of the utility of this system of water supply, it may be mentioned that a condensation reservoir measuring 100 by 100 feet, would, it is estimated, yield an effective volume of about 200,000 gallons of water per annum, equivalent to the domestic water supply necessary for a population of thirty or forty people. The first cost of an installation of this character is extremely low, and its maintenance involves only small expense.

Greek Industries.

The industrial census which has recently taken place in Greece, compared with previous statistics, shows remarkable progress in all branches of industry during the last ten or fifteen years. According to the details given, there are in Greece 2,213 large or small factories, employing a total of 36,124 hands. Of these factories, 1,188 are small concerns employing a total of 3,579 hands, 743 are moderate concerns employing 8,845 hands, and 282 are large concerns employing a total of 23,700 hands. Among the 282 businesses, which represent principally the large industries, spinning and weaving factories, which number 28 in all with 10,004 hands, are most prominent. Next come 72 factories or mills for the preparation of various kinds of provisions, with 3,655 hands; 28 engineering works, with 2,003 hands; 23 chemical works, with 1.890 hands; 16 tanneries and leather-working factories, with 776 hands, and other smaller factories engaged in various industries.

Of the 282 large factories, 222 with 17,841 hands belong to old Greece, and the other 60 with 5,859 hands, belong to the New Provinces (which were acquired after the Balkan War, viz., Eastern Macedonia, Epirus, Crete, Mytilene, Chios, etc.).

The total value of the 2,213 factories amounts to 260,363,647 drachmæ (£10,414,546), and their total annual returns are estimated at 372,294,308 drachmæ (£14.891,772). Of the latter total the small factories are responsible for 106,550,025 drachmæ (£4,262,000; larger factories for 250,794,810 drachmæ (£10,031,792); and the large factories for 314,940,473 drachmæ (£12,597,619). Almost one-half of the value of the annual products of the 282 large factories is derived from the twelve large flour-mills. With regard to the motive power, of the factories 570 are driven by steam power, 583 by electricity, 326 by hydraulic power 308 by gas, and 235 by petroleum (oil engines).

Ploughs for Asia Minor.

It is evident that the great agricultural activity in Mesopotamia has had a stimulating effect on all agriculturists and farmers throughout Asia Minor, as there are indications on all sides of a desire to cultivate land according to modern methods. But there are no implements or machinery available, and what is offered is often unsuitable. Hence the great opening for all kinds of agricultural implements in all the regions that were liberated from the Turks. Ploughs are mostly needed, and manufacturers or merchants who can export them now for the Syrian and Palestine markets may be sure of very satisfactory results. Tractors, power ploughs, and sowing machines can also be easily disposed of at any time, but care should be taken in regard to the type of machines and implements that are sent to those regions. In Asia Minor rain is unknown, or at least phenomenal, during the period of the year between April and October, so that it is easy to form an idea of how a plough, for instance, will have to be built in order to be able to turn up the soil of the sun-hardened surface.

Although the hand plough is still much used, the traction, or mechanical, plough is greatly preferred by those who happen to see it at work, and especially by landowners. The great dearth of draft animals in Asia Minor will make machine traction absolutely necessary for scientific farming, and the lack of labourers is supplying a further strong reason for the change to machinery. This is already noticeable among the ordinary farmers and smallholders. The difficulties in dealing with the soil begin with the ploughing. The ploughs really serviceable in Anatolia and the rest of Asia Minor must be fitted with special devices for the purposes of disposing of the weeds which grow very quickly and in great abundance, and cutting devices are necessary which can be used on level ground. In certain parts of the hinterland in Anatolia the indolence of the rural population, as well as the stony surface, undergrown with roots, must be taken into consideration, and it is easy to conceive that there only very strong and solid machines can hold their own in the market. The Germans studied the conditions of that region very thoroughly, and offered local agriculturists what they wanted, and what was suitable for their purposes. Hence their commercial and engineering successes there, but if they had made the attempt, British manufacturers could have succeeded with far less effort. Now they have once again a unique opportunity, of which, it is hoped, they will avail themselves before other countries come into the field.

INDIAN EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

The text of a Bill imposing an excess profits tax from April 1 next has been published, says a Reuter message from Delhi dated January 6. The Government can give no guarantee as to its duration, but it is possible that the sum realised from the duty will be such that the imposition will be required for one year only. The standard profit in the case of new business is reckoned at 10 per cent., while in other cases the duty is 50 per cent. over the average profits of the four previous years.

Sir Arthur Anderson succeeds Sir R. W. Gillan as President of the Indian Railway Board.

American restrictions on the importation of Egyptian cotton have been removed.

An arrangement for the diversion of certain Australian wheat shipments to India has been made, to free the Indian crop for districts where scarcity prevails.

The Indian gold output for December amounted to 40,150 ozs., an increase of 3,160 ozs. on the reduced total for the preceding month. The year's total amounted to 485.240 ozs., a decrease of 35.130 ozs. on the figures for 1917.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Produce.

The C.E.B. report for November gives the following particulars regarding the cotton crop :—

The report from Tokar, in the Red Sea Province, states that there seems every prospect of a good average crop. A very late flood on the 5th and 6th, though doing slight damage in some areas, on the whole proved beneficial. There were local rains during the first half of the month, but were not sufficiently general to do much good. Locusts appeared in considerable numbers during the first two weeks of the month, and again large swarms on the 22nd. The latter were immature, and reports show that the cotton only suffered to a minor degree. Energetic steps were taken by the Inspector of Agriculture and Merkaz staff to drive the swarms away, and by the 27th only stragglers were left in the Delta.

In Berber Province, at Gendetu, to the end of November, 200 feddans (not 270 as stated last month) have been sown with cotton. Cotton picking has commenced, and about 150 kantars have been picked from 100 feddans. At Mikeilab, the cotton is fair but late for this district. On the Timerab extension there are 170 feddans of cotton, and that on the island, having got the better of the grass, is now (November 9) superior to that on the "Karu." The cotton is patchy in places, there is much grass, and it is a bit late (sown August), but given favourable weather the yield should be very fair. Under 3 per cent. of bollworm is reported, and even less at Zeidab, where the crop is much above the average. 3,745 kantars were sold in El Obeid market, as against 1,800 kantars in the same month last year. The average price was £E1.224 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 2,395 kantars, as against 439 kantars last year. At Um Ruaba 773 kantars were sold at an average price of £E1.200 per kantar. None were sold during November last year. At Rahad 813 kantars were sold during the month (the average price being £E0.975), as against 600 kantars last year.

Indian Indigo Crop.

The first forecast of the indigo crop estimates the total area sown in British India at 280,500 acres, being 55 per cent. below the revised estimate at the corresponding date of last year. As compared with the final estimate of last year (690,600 acres), the present estimate shows a decrease of 59 per cent. The total yield of dye is now roughly estimated at 32,100 cwt., as against 70,300 cwt. estimated at this time last year, or a decrease of 54 per cent. As compared with the final estimate of last year (87,800 cwt.), the present estimate shows a decrease of 63 per cent. Weather conditions at sowing time were unfavourable owing to deficient rainfall, and the condition of the crop, on the whole, is only fair.

TENDERS INVITED.

Egyptian State Railways.

With reference to the inquiry by the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways for the supply of steel sleepers, Sir A. L. Webb states that he will accept proposals up to mid-day on January 30 instead of the 24th, as announced last week. His address is Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Civil Commissioner at Baghdad reports that a firm of merchants in that town wish to get into touch with United Kingdom manufacturers and brokers of piece-goods and general merchandise, with a view to obtaining agencies therefor. Particulars may be obtained from the Board of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), quoting reference number 48.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

It has been a very slack market throughout the week, and owing to falling prices operators as a body have held aloof, as it is believed that values have not yet touched the bottom. Some discussion is now taking place as to the position of the Government with regard to their purchases of the Egyptian crop. In view of the recent slump in American cotton rates it is expected that the authorities will have to break prices for Egyptian qualities. Somebody will undoubtedly have to lose money. Favourable reports continue to be received relating to the Egyptian crop. In Egyptian yarns demand has again dragged. More spinners have been prepared to give way in price. Fine numbers are still deeply engaged, but producers of coarse counts are now losing ground more rapidly. In cloth for Egypt some business has been done in a well-known make of grey shirtings, but the total sales remain very small. More particulars are awaited with regard to the reported damage in Egypt from the big rainstorm. A few more cloth offers have been about for India, but only occasional sales have been arranged. Bleaching descriptions have moved off a little more freely for China. Complaints from manufacturers have increased. Looms are stopping in all weaving centres. American yarns are distinctly lower on the week, and sales of any importance have been difficult to negotiate, as users are determined to purchase from hand to mouth.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates :—January 5, 6, 7, 8, 940,000 francs, against 1,050,000 francs; January 9, 10, 11, 12, 830,000 francs, against 950,000 francs; January 13, 14, 700,000 francs, against 290,000 francs; January 15, 16, 17, 700,000 francs, against 570,000 francs.

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Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Putteos, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
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The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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TRADING WITH SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent).

Cairo, December 23.

The blockade against Syria was raised as from yesterday, and the news was the best Christmas gift for the Syrians here who, ever since the liberation, have been tortured by the knowledge that their fellow-countrymen lay only a night's journey across, beyond the reach of the enemy, and at the same time beyond the reach of their help.

A British military administration has just been set up in Cairo for issuing permits to trade with Syria on lines similar to those adopted by the O.E.T.A. for Palestine, with the difference that in the former case the consignees have to be approved by the French authorities at Beyrout. An American steamer of about 3,000 tons d.w. is expected to sail in a few days from Alexandria for Beyrout, and probably also Haifa, with a varied cargo of clothing material and foodstuffs, and the Italian Steam Navigation Co. has just announced the sailing of one of its steamers on the 30th instant for Beyrout. What would help further to relieve the situation in Syria would be the establishment of a parcel post service between Egypt and Syria, and no doubt the authorities will arrange it as soon as they can do so.

CONSTANTINOPLE TELEPHONE.

A circular has been issued by the United Kingdom representative of the Constantinople Telephone Company stating that on May 7, 1915, it was intimated that the Turkish Government had forcibly taken possession of the company's system in Constantinople; that the general manager and the British staff had returned to England; and that a letter had been received from Mr. Salem, chief legal adviser in Constantinople, with a copy of the protest addressed by the Constantinople directors to the Turkish Government. Through the active assistance of the Foreign Office and the War Office, whose promptitude and courtesy the directors gratefully acknowledge, arrangements were made, immediately after the armistice with Turkey, for the general manager, Mr. Douglas Watson, with five expert assistants, to proceed to Constantinople to place their experience at the disposal of the British authorities and to be available to take over the plant at such time as its restoration to the company could be effected. Mr. Watson, with his party, arrived at Constantinople on December 2, and information has now been received from him that the plant has continued in operation throughout the period of the war, and still continues in operation, though with an imperfect service arising from deficiency of certain plant and lack of efficient management and organisation. Mr. Salem is now on his way from Paris to Constantinople and on arrival will confer with the general manager as to the steps which should be taken for the recovery of the property and to obtain reparation for the losses which the company has sustained at the hands of the Turkish Government. The address of the London representative and transfer agent is now 7, Sergeant's Inn, E.C.4, and shareholders are reminded that as the company is incorporated under Turkish law no registration of transfers in London can be effected until the restrictions resulting from the war conditions are removed.

MANGANESE ORE FROM EGYPT.

The Sinai Mining Company commenced the export of manganese ore in October with the shipment of 4,000 tons to the United Kingdom. The company's mines are in the south-west of the Sinai Peninsula, about 15 miles from the coast of the Gulf of Suez, and the ore is exported through the harbour of Abu Zenima.

The export of chillies from Madras to any destination outside India has been prohibited.

The War Trade Department will now consider applications for re-export of certain classes of East Indian tanned kips and of myrobalans, cutch, etc.

Speaking before the Royal Society of Arts on the carriage of coal by rail in India, Mr. H. Kelway-Bamber said that at the present coal-carrying capacity of the Indian railways the coal traffic of India would require in 1930 three times the number of vehicles necessary in 1910, and in 1950 five times the number.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
Lieut.-General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
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CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
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LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
38, Rue St. Ferreol.

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caifa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East).

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COTTON TRADE IN 1918.

A Prosperous Period.

Reviewing the cotton trade in 1918, Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall points out that the Lancashire cotton industry during the past year has experienced the most prosperous period in its history, and although numerous difficulties have been encountered, more money has been made, especially in spinning, than in any previous twelve months. Owing to the scarcity of raw cotton a large amount of machinery has had to stand idle under the curtailment of production scheme of the Control Board. Prices in yarn and cloth have been inflated as a result of the abnormal conditions arising out of the war. A very active trade was done during the summer, and in certain sections demand considerably exceeded supplies. The collapse of the Central Powers and the signing of the armistice brought a distinct change in the situation in the autumn, and since then business has been at a standstill, and a definite slump in the value of manufactured articles has occurred.

As regards the outlook, Mr. Tattersall says that traders have not yet recovered from the effects of the sudden ending of the war a couple of months ago, and the industry, as a whole, remains in a very uncertain state. The outlook, therefore, is unsettled, and much difference of opinion prevails as to the future basis of values and the course of business. It is held in many quarters that operations on a free scale will not take place until prices are on a lower level. On the other hand, there are many people who believe that we are within reasonable distance of a larger turnover in both yarn and cloth. Undoubtedly since the turn of the year the general inquiry has been distinctly more encouraging. It is all a question of establishing confidence in current rates. It is of interest to point out that during the four years ending 1918 our average shipments of piece goods per year amounted to 4,669,814,375 yards as compared with 6,594,410,700 yards per year in the period of four years ending 1914. This statement indicates that many of our outlets abroad are bare of supplies. India took distinctly less cloth during 1918 than in the previous year. The monsoon rains last season were not altogether satisfactory, but there is no anticipation of serious distress. China has been a disappointing market for a very long time, but with more settled domestic conditions in the Far East there should develop a big demand for cotton fabrics. There is every expectation of an extensive demand for Lancashire goods in European and Near Eastern countries. Manufacturers are now prepared to accept much cheaper prices than three months ago. There is, of course, the competition of Japan and India to be faced, but Lancashire can still produce the best goods in the world at relatively low prices. The prospects for spinners of yarn are largely dependent upon the trade done in cloth. It is hoped that our export business in yarn will soon be freed from the restrictions which are now in force. The year 1919 is not likely to be so prosperous as the twelve months which have just closed, but there is no reason why business of a remunerative character should not be done. It should, of course, be remembered that when the regulations of the Control Board relating to the running of machinery are abandoned there will be increased competition amongst spinners and manufacturers for orders.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

G.I.P. Railway.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the half-year ended September 30 last states that, including State lines, gross receipts amounted to Rs.6,33,47,323, an increase of Rs.1,02,90,634, or 19.40 per cent., and expenditure Rs.3,48,89,130, an increase of Rs.68,11,627, or 24.26 per cent., net revenue being Rs.2,84,58,193, an increase of Rs.34,79,006, or 13,93 per cent. Gross receipts for the six months (including State line) amounted to Rs.5,87,20,054, increase Rs.91,65,969; expenditure, Rs.2,23,81,992, increase Rs.61,37,944; net revenue being Rs.2,63,38,062, increase Rs.30,28,025. Interest charges were Rs. 1,48,58,751, increase Rs.1,72,276, leaving a surplus net revenue of Rs.1,14,79,310, increase Rs.28,55,750. In coaching there was an increase of Rs.34,33,857, equal to 17.92 per cent., and in goods an increase of Rs.65,69,217, equal to 19.78 per cent. The ratio of expenditure to gross earnings was 55.08 per cent., compared with 52.92 per cent., but these low figures are due to the fact that the company was unable to spend freely on repairs and renewals. Capital expenditure during the half-year amounted to Rs.18,24,209. Over a lakh has been spent on additional oil tank wagons, and it is expected that in the near future a considerable number of engines will be converted to oil burning. The railway have made arrangements with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for a regular supply of oil, and are now erecting tanks for the storage of this fuel. Meeting, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., to-day, at 12.30 p.m.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

The directors of the Bank of Bengal have declared a dividend of 12 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. for the second half of 1918, together with a further special bonus of 1 per cent. per annum. Rs. 5,50,000 have been transferred to the reserve and Rs. 5,60,167 carried forward.

The directors of the Bank of Madras have declared a dividend of 10 per cent. for the last half-year and a bonus of 2 per cent. Rs. 2.57,550 are carried forward and 2 lakhs of rupees are transferred to the reserve.

NEW COMPANIES.

Overseas Exporters.

The Overseas Exporters (1919), Ltd., has been registered at Somerset House with a nominal capital of £500,000 in 497,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 60,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. The company is to take over the business of Overseas Exporters, Ltd., incorporated May 7, 1917; to acquire all or any of the assets and liabilities of the business of an export merchant carried on at Sheffield by Percy A. Reuss as Reuss and Co.; to carry on the business of general traders and merchants, exporters to and importers from all parts of the world; to promote the sale of British made goods in all parts of the world, particularly by means of travellers, agencies, catalogues, advertisements and literature, etc.

Indian Companies.

Recent formations in India include Indian Tanneries, Calcutta, with an authorised capital of Rs10 lakhs, and Orissa Cement, Calcutta, with an authorised capital of Rs5 lakhs.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Tuesday.

There has been a good deal of activity this week in certain Egyptian land descriptions, and there has been a general advance in prices in the securities affected. The buying has been chiefly of a local character, based upon the very satisfactory reports regarding the general conditions in Egypt; but the Egyptian markets also have shown a much improved tendency. Telegraphic communication, however, is again very bad; and this is undoubtedly hampering business.

In Government loans Egyptian Unifieds are ¼ up at 90¾. There has been a good demand for the loan, as also for the three and a-half per cent. 1890 loan, all through the week; but business has been restricted owing to the scarcity of sellers.

In Bank shares Nationals and Agriculturals are both a shade off at 21 9-16 and 6 23-32 respectively; while Anglo-Egyptian Banks have receded ¼ to 16¾.

Amongst Railways, Delta Light preference are 1-16 firmer at 8 7-16.

In Land shares, Aboukirs have improved 6d. to 25s., and Delta Lands are 10½d. higher at 16s. 4½d. The feature has been the demand for New Egyptian shares which, after rising on large transactions to 25s. 3d., finish 2s. up at 24s. 7½d. Sidi Salems are 1-32 firmer at 2 11-16, and Sudan Plantations, after rising to 4⅜, finish ⅛ up at 4⅛. Union Foncières have been in demand at current quotations, but no shares have been offering. Some business has been done in Uniteds round 3s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares, Khedivial Mails are 2s. 3d. lower at 96s. 3d.; but, on the other hand, the preference has risen ⅛ to 4¼. Salts and Sodas have been a dull spot, and have dropped 5-16 to 2¾.

In Greek securities the 1881, 1884 and 1890 loans are all one point down at 73, but, in a general way, there are only buyers at the reduced level. The Monopoly and Rente loans are both half a point down at 60 and 56 respectively. Fundings are nominally lower by two points, and the 1902 loan by one point, both being at 65. The 1910 and 1914 loans are both small sellers at about the quoted prices. In "Greek Currants" there is still a demand at 95.

Oil Shares.

The market has shown signs of improvement. British Burmahs are 3d. stronger at 15s. 3d., and Anglo-Persian Preferences are also 3d. up at 26s. 9d. Burmahs are 1-16 lower at 8½, but Anglo-Egyptians B are higher at 2 31-32, a rise of 5-32 on the week.

Roumanians have been a brighter feature, though Roumanian Consols are 6d. lower at 16s. Traian Roumanians have been in considerable demand, and close at 12s. 2½d., and Anglo-Roumanians have also been the subject of many transactions, the closing price being 9s. 9d.

In Russians, Ural Caspians are a shade weaker at 1⅝, but Bakus are again 4½d. up at 5s. 6d. Russian Generals and Russian Petroleums are unchanged.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canals closed at 5390 francs. Other prices were:—Egyptian Unifieds 93.25. Serbian Fours 61, Turkish Unified 70.40. Banque d'Athenes 104. Credit-Foncier Egyptiens 787, Land Banks of Egypt 185.50. Ottoman Banks 549.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Jan. 14	Jan. 21
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	93	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90½	90¾
Do. Pref. 5% %, 1890	88	78	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	74	73
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	74xd	73
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60½xd	60
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56½	56
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	74	73
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66xd	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Lu., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82	83½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6¾	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½xd	7½xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17	16¾
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	6½	6½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅝	7⅝
British Trade Corporation	—	9⅛	9⅛
Chartered Bank of India	65	89½	89½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	19⅜	19⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21⅜	21⅜
National Bank of India	43	72	72
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8⅝	9⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅝	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	24/6	25/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	4⅛	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	13½	13¾
Do. Pref.	4⅜	9⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15.6	16/4⅜
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/6	16.6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/½	24/7
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	2½	2½
Sudan Plantations	—	4	4⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	71/6	71/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/6	3.6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	27/9	27/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	3⅛	2⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	93/6	96/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	4¼	4¼

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Fashoen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Anwas, Baghdad, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz an Yezd. Agency at Busreh

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON ST., E.C.2.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody. Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,53,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000 | Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | Reserve - - - - - £237,500

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER - LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. MANCHESTER. NEW YORK.
EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.
MOROCCO:—
CASABLANCA, FEZ MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, SAFFI, TANGIER.
CANARY ISLANDS:—
LAS PALMAS.
WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL .. .. £2,000,000 | Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) £1,000,000
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. £2,000,000 | Reserve Fund £1,350,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman.* ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq. SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, Esq. J. N. STUART, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

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

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

BRANCHES.

Calcutta	Cawnpore	Tuticorin	Mandalay	Kandy	Mombasa	Entebbe
Bombay	Lahore	Cochin (S. India)	Aden	Newera Eliya	Nairobi (British East Africa)	Kampala (Uganda)
Madras	Amritsar	Chittagong	Aden, Steamer Point	Zanzibar	Nakuru (British East Africa)	Jinja (Uganda)
Karachi	Delhi	Rangoon	Colombo		Kisumu (British East Africa)	

OCCUPIED TERRITORY GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current term
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches
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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A golden rule for the individual prescribes that, when there is any doubt as to which of two courses ought to be adopted, the wise plan is to choose the harder. The Paris Conference, it is to be feared, has ignored the advice. It was confronted with three possible methods of dealing with the Russian question—isolation, intervention, and compromise. The first offered no permanent solution. The second presented the greatest difficulties; a considerable force of troops might be required, the operation might last a long time, and there would inevitably be a heavy bill to pay. Accordingly, the Conference, or rather the five Great Powers, decided to adopt the third course. A *communiqué* was issued placing on record the attitude of the Associated Powers towards the Russian Revolution and their desire to serve Russia "as generously, as unselfishly, as thoughtfully and ungrudgingly as they would serve every other friend and ally," and closing with an invitation to every organised group that is now exercising or attempting to exercise political authority or military control in Russia to send representatives to Prinkipo, in the Sea of Marmora, to confer with representatives of the Associated Powers regarding the future of Russia.

The invitation stipulated, as an indispensable preliminary, that there should be a truce of arms amongst the parties invited, and that all aggressive military action should cease. In this way it was hoped that there would at least be peace in Russia for a period. Moreover, it was felt that, after this invitation, whatever might happen, the Allies would have the satisfaction of knowing that they had done all that was possible for a peaceful solution Theoretically, in every controversy a round-table conference is an excellent proceeding. In the present instance unfortunately the proposal of the Allies does not seem to have paid any heed to certain practical considerations. Russia is at present divided into two main camps, Bolshevists and anti-Bolshevists. The latter are split up into a number of distinct organisations, most of which are defending themselves with arms against the assaults of the former. The Bolshevists are merely an association of terrorists, who have waded through murder and rapine to power, and amid a general shortage of food maintain their authority by withholding supplies from all who do not join their army or otherwise support them. Their record includes, in addition to the deaths without trial of thousands of their fellow-countrymen, a crime that will stand out for all time in the world's history of cold-blooded outrages, the murder *en bloc* of the Russian Imperial Family.

The Allies' proposal, if accepted by the parties concerned, would bring Bolshevist and anti-Bolshevist together ostensibly to decide in common upon a future system of government for Russia in which both would co-operate. That such a meeting should take place would be tantamount to an admission on the part of the anti-Bolshevists that they were prepared to waive their quarrel with the Bolshevists. It is hardly to be wondered at that a chorus of refusals should have greeted the invitation to Prinkipo. The Bolshevists alone, if we except a handful of Revolutionary Socialists who have been ejected from the Bolshevist fold, seem ready to consider the proposal. The rest of the world is frankly amazed. On behalf of the Allied Governments it may be urged that criticism will best be deferred until this particular chapter has been closed. Diplomacy has ever been associated with devious methods, and it may have been necessary to clear certain ground by a suggestion which exposes its authors to the charge that they have taken the measure neither of the Bolshevists nor of the Russia for which they express such solicitude.

Whatever opinion may be held regarding the proposed meeting at Prinkipo, there can be no doubt as to the wisdom of the warning issued—none too soon—by the Supreme War Council against the forcible claim-pegging that is now taking place in certain parts of Europe. The Governments now associated in Conference to effect a lasting peace among the nations, ran the message, "are deeply disturbed by the news which comes to them of the many instances in which armed force is being made use of in many parts of Europe and the East to gain possession of territory the rightful claim to which the Peace Conference is to be asked to determine. They deem it their duty to utter a solemn warning that possession gained by force will seriously prejudice the claims of those that use such means. It will create the presumption that those who employ force doubt the justice and validity of their claim and purpose to substitute possession for proof of right and set up sovereignty by coercion rather than by racial or national preference and natural historical association." Until this notice was issued it was to be feared, in view of the notorious happenings in a variety of countries, that the Conference had neither ears nor eyes outside Paris, and proposed to concern itself solely with archives and memoranda. The warning holds out the promise that the settlement of the Near Eastern Question may in the end follow sound practical lines.

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A start appears to have been made in regard to Montenegro. This small country was supposed to have determined its future for all time at a meeting grandiosely termed the Great Skupshtina held at Podgoritza under no authority beyond the summons of Serbian military authorities in occupation. Every effort was made to represent, for the benefit of the Allied Conference, the union of Montenegro and Serbia as a *fait accompli*. The position of the Montenegrins was admittedly difficult; the King and his Government continued to keep away from the country, while the advocates of union had returned to Montenegro and claimed to speak for the whole nation. But the Conference has admitted the justice of the claim that a union of this nature to be valid must be effected constitutionally and by the people as a whole, and it has sanctioned the transmission of a message to the Montenegrins from King Nicholas. The wording of this message, which is said to have been approved by the Peace Conference, is significant. "I beg of you to remain quietly in your homes and not to oppose by force of arms the troops which are now endeavouring to take possession of the government of our country. I have received the highest assurances from the Great Allied Powers that very shortly an opportunity will be offered to the Montenegrin people to determine freely the political form of its future government. For my part I will with pleasure accept this decision."

According to messages from Budapest—a suspect quarter—a peasant revolution has broken out all over Roumania. The news requires to be confirmed before credence can be given to it. The report, however, is circumstantial. It speaks of a simultaneous rising that occurred "in all the villages" at a fixed hour on January 25. The insurgents are said to have made their way to the towns, where fighting took place with regular troops. In Bucharest especially the conflict is stated to have been of a sanguinary nature. The Roumanian Government has undertaken to meet the grievances of the peasantry by the compulsory expropriation of land. When it is learnt that Roumania is practically without communications owing to the depletion of the railway stock and the damage to telegraphs, roads and bridges done by the retreating Germans, it will be readily understood that some delay must take place in carrying into effect the Government's plans. If, therefore, the report of the insurgent movement be confirmed, it is probable that the trouble has arisen from the exasperation of the peasants at the failure of the measures for their relief and from a suspicion, wholly unwarranted, that the delay suggests a change of mind on the part of the Government.

At a recent meeting of the Imperial War Graves Commission it was reported that the grave of Sir Stanley Maude was in the centre of the British Cemetery at Baghdad, and that it was the desire of the Army that a memorial should be placed over the grave, which should serve as a memorial to the whole Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. The Commission, we are told, were strongly in favour of the idea being carried out, and resolved that an architect should be sent out to Mesopotamia at an early date to report on the whole question of the architectural treatment of cemeteries in that country. Sir Stanley Maude's grave is at present marked by a tall stone cross, with truncated arms, and surrounded by a low brick parapet. Other graves are close to it, but it should be possible to make room for a really fine memorial. We can but express the hope that those who are responsible for carrying out the Army's suggestion will be guided by two principles: first, that the memorial shall be essentially "Western" in design: and, secondly, that it shall be conceived in no parsimonious spirit, but shall be worthy of the nation erecting it and of the deeds which it is intended to commemorate.

How does India stand with regard to the proposed international regulation of labour questions, the preliminaries of which are now being talked over in Paris? Mr. Barnes, who, as a member of the Cabinet, presumably speaks with authority, has indicated his hope that "a real practical effort will be made to raise and maintain higher standards of labour throughout the world by eliminating the international competition of low-wage countries," and since India has about as low a standard of wages as any country in the world, it appears to follow that Europe will presently refuse to receive her wheat and hides and linseed, and such other exports as come into competition with the produce of more highly paid workers. Mr. Montagu is presumably cognisant of the attitude of the Cabinet on this question, and we think he should lose no time in making the position clear.

It may, of course, be said that Europe will continue to receive with gratitude the cheap food and raw materials which constitute the bulk of India's exports, but that contention is now a little out of date. Modern Labour has high ideals, and we can find no sign in Mr. Barnes' statement of an intention to divide the workers of the world into the Helots who produce material and the Greeks who work it up, while if that be the design, we must remember that India means to change her habits. The Industrial Commission contemplates an early advance in such directions as the export of oils instead of oilseeds, and of leather instead of hides; India is entitled to know at once whether such projects as these are worthy of immediate effort, or are to be postponed to that distant day when Indian labour will no longer be justly described as low-paid.

We yield to no one in our desire to see a great advance in the whole standard of Indian life, and we should be delighted to see the Raniganj miner getting his guinea a day along with the various perquisites and advantages which his Western brethren enjoy. India, however, needs time—the Commission would apparently allow a generation or two—for such changes as these to be brought about. Labour on the other hand is in a desperate hurry, and somebody should see to it that in the clash of ideals the weaker party does not go to the wall. The representatives of India in Paris just now comprise a politician, a lawyer, and a prince; they are all able men, but when these economic questions come up for decision, we confess that we should like to see them supported by someone possessed of first-hand knowledge of the situation.

We hope the educational authorities in India will keep their eyes upon the modification of the examination system recently announced by the Columbia University. Apart from occasional successful competitors, everyone now agrees that examinations are imperfect tests, and that a youth's fitness for further study or for intellectual work depends on many factors besides his ability to absorb, and regurgitate on demand, a certain quantity of mental nourishment. Columbia has now decided to supplement such ordeals by a process quaintly termed "the selective draft," which consists in the application to individuals of tests designed in the psychological laboratory, and which have already been employed with satisfactory results in the Army of the United States. These tests indicate capacities rather than acquirements, and their anticipated effect is to keep out those students who can at present manage to matriculate but are fit for nothing more.

What such a system would mean in India can be readily understood by anyone who has studied Mr. Sharp's last Quinquennial Report. The colleges are clogged with youths who should never have been admitted, and who serve only to wear out the staff and obstruct the progress of the minority of suitable students, and there is something fascinating in the idea of eliminating the unfit through the agency of a trained observer, armed, we suppose, with self-recording apparatus, which cannot be anticipated, still less "squared." Whether the idea is practicable for India is quite another question; we do not doubt the efficacy of the tests, but we are uncertain whether the ordinary Indian Senate could so far harden its collective heart as to authorise their application. Perhaps the best plan would be to test the Senates first.

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DEATH OF MR. H. D. ALLEN.

With deep regret we have to announce the death of Mr. Henry Deacon Allen, the second son of the late Sir George William Allen, the founder of the *Pioneer*, who died suddenly at Cawnpore on January 25.

A striking feature in Mr. Allen's character was his intense love of children. In his later years, when relieved from business cares, he and his wife devoted themselves to Anglo-Indian schools and medical missions, and spared neither time nor money in extending the usefulness of these institutions. Of a somewhat retiring disposition, Mr. Allen took little part in public affairs, nor did money appear to attract him, except as an instrument in helping others. Very strictly honourable, kindly and hospitable, his home, aptly named "Retreat," near Cawnpore, was to many a man and woman a place of rest and consolation. His death will be mourned by a wide circle of relatives and friends and many poor children whose lives he had helped to brighten.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 6.

New Year Festivities.

New Year's Day was fittingly celebrated in Cairo, but the Watch Night festivities were somewhat curtailed owing to the time-limit restrictions, which are still in operation. On New Year's morning the customary reception was held at the French Agency, where eloquent speeches lauding the part played by France in the defeat of the Germans were made by the Premier Député de la Nation, Me. Guilhamou and the new French Agent, M. Lefèvre Pontalis. In the afternoon a military race meeting was held out at Heliopolis, and was exceedingly well attended. His Highness the Sultan was present in his pavilion, as also were Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate.

In the very near future, as the situation becomes more normal, we may expect the gradual repeal of most, if not all, of the orders issued under the military regime. Some of these have already been rescinded, the latest being the two orders dealing with the extinction of all lights on the coast and the shutting out of all persons from that area between sunset and sunrise.

Investiture at the Residency.

An interesting ceremony took place at the Residency last Monday, when Sir Reginald Wingate handed to the recipients the insignia of the Order of the British Empire, which had been bestowed on them in the Birthday Honours last June. The investiture took place in the gardens, a guard of honour being provided by the Irish Guards, and a military band being also in attendance. The High Commissioner made a short speech of congratulation to the officials, and after reading the letter of patent, he proceeded to hand to each in turn the insignia of the grade to which he had been appointed. The ceremony was watched by Lady Wingate, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, and several members of the Residency staff, also by relatives of the recipients, who had received special invitations.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The Ministerial crisis continues, but it is rumoured that a compromise may at any moment be arrived at. Colour is given to this report by the fact that during the week both the resigning Ministers, Rushdi Pasha and Adly Pasha, have had interviews with the Sultan, and that Rushdi Pasha in addition to calling at the Residency has again received the visit of Sir William Brunyate, who made a prolonged stay at his villa at Heliopolis. On the other hand, it is understood that Rushdi Pasha insists on his resignation being accepted without any further delay, as he is tired of politics and wants to obtain a thorough rest. Whichever version is the correct one, it is hoped that a settlement will soon be arrived at, as there are very many decisions and laws awaiting the approval of the Council of Ministers, which cannot come into operation until that body meets again.

The General Election.

Considerable interest has been taken out here in the General Election, and the telegrams received by the *Mokattam* and other special services have been eagerly scanned for the latest returns. There is no doubt that the result has made a very deep and salutary impression, and has shown the Egyptian public the solidarity which exists in the United Kingdom with regard to the determination to carry the results of the war to their logical conclusion, and to ensure that the Central Empires can never again menace the world as they did four years ago.

The Flight from England.

The Handley Page aeroplane with General MacEwen on board, which left London on December 13, arrived at Heliopolis on Friday. It has met with considerable delay on the way owing to the bad weather. At Mersa Matruh, where it had to land to carry out repairs on December 22, it was overtaken by a terrific downpour of torrential rain, which inundated the aerodrome, and it was only this week that the conditions were favourable enough for the flight to Cairo to be continued. The Sultan drove out on Friday afternoon in State to inspect the Handley Page machines at Heliopolis, where he was received by Brigadier-Generals Herbert and MacEwen.

Official Appointments.

With regard to the passage in my letter of December 15, in which I announced the resignation of Ahmed Zeki Pasha from the post of Secretary to the Council of Ministers, it is now announced that he has withdrawn his resignation at the request of Rushdi Pasha. It appears that Zeki Pasha has not yet completed the period entitling him to the maximum pension; and so he has decided to remain in his post, and has, in fact, resumed his duties at the Ministry of Interior.

It is announced that Colonel Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., until a year ago Oriental Secretary at the Residency, has been appointed to act as Administrator of the Occupied Enemy Territories in Palestine during the absence on leave of Major-General Sir Arthur Money. Colonel Storrs, as recently stated in these columns, has done excellent work as Military Governor of Jerusalem, and it was in consequence of the administrative ability shown by him that the Commander-in-Chief delegated him to organise the administraion of Haifa when that area was occupied by us. General Allenby's selection of the Governor of Jerusalem to act for the senior official in the occupied territories is yet another tribute to the ability shown by him in handling the divers delicate questions which, owing to the diversity of interests involved from time to time, come up for decision in Palestine.

Catholic "Primate's" Visit.

Amongst the latest arrivals in Cairo is Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster. His Eminence, who is staying at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, visited the British Fleet in the Mediterranean on his way out from England. Cardinal Bourne had an audience of the Sultan yesterday, and was the guest of the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate at dinner at the Residency. He preached to the Catholic soldiers at the Catholic Cathedral at Heliopolis yesterday, and this morning in the Chapel at the Citadel.

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THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN PALESTINE.

The Budget statement of the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South) for the year 1918-1919, which has just been made public, gives the outside world a glimpse of the work that has been done in Palestine since we first drove out the Turks in October, 1917, and the following *résumé* of the more important paragraphs may be of interest:—

The whole of Palestine and Syria are under the supreme control of General Sir Edmund Allenby as Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. This territory has been divided into three areas. One is administered by our French Allies, one by the Arab Government, and the third, known as O.E.T. (South), is under direct British administration. This latter area consists of the Turkish *sanjaks* of Jerusalem, Nablus, and Acre, bounded on the south by the Egyptian frontier districts from near Rafa to the south of the Dead Sea, on the west by the Mediterranean Sea, and on the north by a curved line from the coast, some twelve miles above Acre, to the River Jordan, a few miles above Lake Huleh. On the east the line follows the River Jordan to the eastern side of Lake Huleh, then the Jordan again to Lake Tiberias, from the eastern coast of which it runs to a point east-south-east of Beisan, whence it again follows the River Jordan and the Dead Sea to the southern end of the latter.

This area measures about 8,700 square miles, of which only about 1,000 are at present under cultivation. The population is estimated approximately at 639,000, of whom 61,000 are Christians and 66,000 Jews, the remainder being Moslems. The administration of this territory was at first placed under an Acting Administrator, Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Parker, with headquarters at Jaffa, and later under the Chief Political Officer at G.H.Q., Brigadier-General G. F. Clayton, C.B., C.M.G. In April, 1918, a complete administration, since known as O.E.T.A., was created under the direction of Major-General Sir A. W. Money, K.C.M.G., C.S.I., as Chief Administrator, and during his absence on leave Brigadier-General R. H. Storrs, C.M.G., Military Governor of Jerusalem, has been appointed to act for him.

The headquarters are now at Jerusalem, and the Chief Administrator is assisted by five principal officers—viz., Lieut.-Colonel V. Gabriel, C.S.I., C.M.G., charged with finance (including revenue, agriculture, forest and veterinary departments, wakfs and municipalities), Lieut.-Colonel E. S. Jackson, C.M.G., D.S.O., charged with political and general administration (including police, prisons, education, and appointments), Lieut.-Colonel G. K. Crichton, M.C., charged with commerce (including supplies, communications, relief, public works, and archæology), Major O. B. Clarke, charged with law, including land registration, and Colonel C. Garner, charged with public health. There are twelve military governors, each in charge of a district, which in every case is the same as the previous Turkish *kaza*, and which in some instances is divided into sub-districts, each under a Deputy Military Governor.

The Budget for the financial year 1918-1919 is set down at:—Revenue, £E661,813; expenditure, £E738,649; thus leaving an estimated deficit of £E76,836. The preparation of a Budget has been rendered exceedingly difficult owing to the fact that the Turks took with them all the agricultural stock and produce of the country, as well as the records, cash balances, and principal officials; whilst the constant additions of fresh territory and the influx of refugees have not made matters any easier.

The chief heads of revenue at present are: Direct Taxation, Customs and Excise, Legal Fees and Post Office. There were many sources from which the Turks derived revenue, but the British administrators have only maintained the more important and the least onerous. Thus military exemption dues, the professional and road taxes, the census fees, the tax on land transfers, and the schools tax have been remitted, at any rate, until the country is economically in a more satisfactory state.

Under direct taxation come tithes, house and land tax and animal tax. The tithes, which amounted to 12½ per cent. of the crop, were usually farmed out by the Turks, who, as a matter of fact, had collected them in the *sanjaks* of Acre and Nablus before the occupation. The military administration decided to collect in money in the present year, the crops being estimated under British supervision by commissions in the manner prescribed by Ottoman law. A comparison of the figures for the *sanjak* of Jerusalem for the winter tithe collection under the Turks in 1917 and under British direction in 1918 shows an increase of 5 per cent. in favour of the latter. Considering that, apart from the area having been subject to military operations, there has been a shortage of seed and labour, it is considered that this indicates that in normal years a large increase over Turkish collections may be expected.

Customs are actually the largest single item of revenue. They continue to be levied at the Turkish rate of 11 per cent. *ad valorem* on all imports except those of Egyptian origin, which only pay 8 per cent. Owing to the opening of through railway connection with Egypt, the Turkish Customs organisation has had to be modified. Custom-houses have been opened at Gaza, Beersheba, Ludd, Jerusalem, and Tul Keram, in addition to Jaffa and Haifa. The revenue depends on the amount of truckage allowed for goods traffic on the Palestine Military Railway and on the trade restrictions in force. It is thought that, although the troops have passed beyond the limits of the territory, the volume of imports will be maintained, owing to the increase in the population due to the inclusion of the new districts. At the same time it is pointed out that as there is no Customs line between the three zones, future results must depend largely on the efficiency and co-operation of the separate Customs services in those areas, and that a unification of the service throughout the three territories subject to the Commander-in-Chief is the only satisfactory alternative to a Customs line between them.

Judicial receipts show a great improvement compared with what they were under the previous regime. The revenue derived from court and notary public fees for the few months that the Courts have been open are more than the Turks obtained during the whole year. This, the report remarks, is due to more regular procedure and greater confidence on the part of the public.

The administration is considerably hampered by the assignments which have been made to the Ottoman Public Debt. Thus, the tithes of eight of the districts are assigned to special loans under a kilometric guarantee for railways in other parts of Turkey, and about £E150,000 will annually be lost from the revenues which should ordinarily go towards the cost of government. Collections of the Customs of over 8 per cent. are due to the Public Debt, whilst the taxes on salt, tobacco, tombac, fisheries, and explosives are all assigned to the same object. The report points out that the withdrawal of the whole of the assigned revenues deprives the administration of much of its rightful income, and that before the war the debt returned to the Ottoman Government 75 per cent. of the surplus over the requirements of the bondholders. In 1914 this surplus amounted to about one-third of the total collection, and it has been proposed that an apportionment on that basis should be made to the O.E.T.A. It is added that if the future of that administration were assured, it would be possible to capitalise these revenues by means of a loan, just as the Tripoli assignments were capitalised by the Italian Government.

(To be continued.)

OLD INDIAN LEGENDS.

On January 14, before the Royal Asiatic Society, Mr. F. E. Pargiter lectured on the Haihayas and King Sagara. The Haihayas, he said, were a branch of the Aryan race that entered India in very early times. One branch of this race occupied the territory which later became the country of the Mahrattas, of whom the Haihayas were in many ways the predecessors. They were very warlike, and overthrew the whole of the kingdoms in the Ganges and Jumna region, pushed their conquests as far as Benares, and attacked the kingdom of Oude. The Haihayas, aided by five other tribes, attacked Bahu, the King of that country, and wrested it from him. Bahu thereupon abandoned his capital, entered the forest with his Queen, Yadava, and followed an austere life. One day he set out to fetch water and died on the way through old age. Yadava followed him, but her co-wife gave her poison, in order to destroy her future child. She made Bahu's funeral pyre and placed his body thereon. Then Auwa Bharangava took pity on her and brought her to his hermitage, where she gave birth to a son, bearing marks of the poison, and named Sagara. The son grew up, slew the Haihayas, and attacked the tribes who had assisted them. These tribes fled to Vasishta for protection, who prevailed on Sagara to spare their lives. Though Sagara spared their lives, he destroyed their laws of religion and changed their mode of dress, making one tribe shave half the head, another grow beards, and so on.

Mr. Pargiter told this and other old-world legends showing how, through the lack of the historical sense and a love of the marvellous in ancient India, stories originally simple developed into the most impossible myths.

The Alexandria Municipal Horse Butchery is now finding more favour in Alexandria, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. When it first started two horses were killed daily, but now five or six are killed every day.

Friends of Armenia in Melbourne have given a further sum of £1,000 (making in all £7,750) to the Armenian Refugees Fund, and the Melbourne Syrian Relief Fund has given £3,750 to the Syrian and Palestine Relief Fund.

Father Francis Lamb, of Gerrard's Cross, Buckinghamshire, Vicar-Provincial of the Barefooted Carmelites, has arrived at Malta on his way to Palestine to take up his ecclesiastical duties at Mount Carmel. The position which Father Lamb is to occupy was last held by a German.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

OMAR KHAYYAM.

The publication of General Milne's dispatch covering the final operations on the Macedonian front—or the British share in them—must have afforded considerable satisfaction to those who held that our force in that theatre of the war had been neglected, so to say. For one thing, it is satisfactory to find that the existence of malaria is at last fully acknowledged; and the General's remark that the majority of his officers and men "will return to their homes with constitutions shattered by a prolonged stay in this malarious and inhospitable country should finally dispose of the idea that the "Salonika show" was "a picnic." A picnic! Talk to some of the men who went through it all; see them when the malaria bowls them over again here in England! Then talk about "a picnic" if you can find the face to do it. But it will require a face of brass.

***

As a matter of fact, if many people at home held the "picnic" theory, they were hardly to blame. We heard next to nothing of what our men were doing in that part of the world, and what we did hear seemed to be passed on to us by someone filled with concentrated Mark Tapleyism. The Bulgarians and our men apparently spent their time in playing schoolboy pranks on one another; and as to the climate—it was delightful. I am told that, officially, malaria was never recognised, and that any medico who had ventured to diagnose it would have been promptly "downed." So there were thousands of cases with symptoms "n.d." Some day we may learn why it was thought necessary to follow this Machiavellian course instead of telling the plain truth and letting us know what our men were putting up with. For it is tolerably safe to say that our friend the enemy was not deceived by our Tapleys and their weird optimism; and the men on the spot used up a lot of energy in endeavouring to express their opinion about it.

***

On the whole, the dispatch is written with more sympathy, a more human touch, than might have been expected. But it does not move me as some of the narratives of the fighting out on this front have moved me when told by officers and men who took part in it. Doubtless that is natural enough. But I should like to read in further detail the fine story of the 22nd Division and its doings in these particular operations. It would no doubt leave me unable to speak for a time, as I was left when I first heard part of it; but it is a glorious tale. I am sorry, too, that the wonderful achievement of "King Constantine's Own" has not been made more widely known. Those rather untidy-looking and ominously-named heroes covered themselves with undying glory and won the whole-hearted praise of the British who saw them accomplish "the impossible." Out of some 3,000 of them less than 400 survived; and of 121 officers not a dozen. These figures speak for themselves. I hope that some day we shall have a full account of the K.C.O.'s exploit from one of the British who witnessed it.

***

Lower Mesopotamia is becoming a most frightfully sporting place. On the introduction of the British Army it has taken very kindly to the Race Meeting; while the Cattle Show and the Horse Show have made such favourable first impressions that they look as if they had come to stay. And now, I observe, the Busreh Hounds are in full cry, so to say. Really, the old "Garden of Eden" (Arab style) bids fair to become a suitable refuge for the old type of British Squire when he is driven from home and his favourite Coverts by the advance of the Allotment Holder. In a description of the opening meet of the season, given in the *Busreh Times*, I read: "The Master, Mr. Fenwick, took his hounds to draw the ground round Dead Horse Mounds, and a big jackal was soon seen stealing away in the direction of Zobeir. Hounds soon picked up the line and went away at a great pace. The jack reached the railway line about two miles from Zobeir and held this line to within about a mile of the town, where he found a convenient earth and went to ground. Returning, another jack was put up, and he took us back to the gardens at the back of the Remount Depôt, where he was lost." The Mesopotamian *Wowee* seems to have lost none of his cunning since I knew him well!

CORSAIR.

The motor drivers belonging to the Elsie Inglis Unit have been personally decorated by the Crown Prince of Serbia, who has also issued medals to those invalided home. The staff at the London office of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, at 66, Victoria Street, have received Serbian Red Cross Medals, sent by M. Jovanovitch, the Serbian Minister in London, in recognition of their work of organisation for the London units.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

TURKEY'S PRISONERS OF WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to the great hardships suffered by our troops taken at Kut, will you kindly allow me space to point out that the real culprit in the case is undoubtedly General Liman von Sanders?

The rations that a Turkish soldier would consider ample, and even luxurious, would spell almost starvation to a Briton, while the hardships and neglect that the Ottoman rank and file are subjected to when on active service would tend to blind them to the sufferings of their prisoners, as they themselves know no better treatment.

It is perfectly obvious that the whole conduct of the Turkish armies in the field was in the hands of the German Mission; and General Sanders, knowing that Kut was about to fall, culpably failed in his duty in not making adequate preparation for the reception, feeding, and transport of so large a number of European prisoners.—I am, &c.,

ERNEST H. GRIFFIN
(Late Surgeon to the British Red Crescent Mission in Tripolitania).

Royal Automobile Club, S.W., Jan. 23.

PRICES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have to-day received a letter from an old friend in Constantinople, some extracts from which may, I think, be of interest to your readers. The writer is an entirely reliable non-Turkish Ottoman subject, who has lived for years in this country, and one in whose credibility I place every confidence. Writing on January 4, he says:—

"We have at last been able to survive this terrible war. It was too late when we found ourselves under the sway of brigands. These pirates have inflicted upon us all sorts of misery and slavery. We have been plundered, extorted and robbed, until we were left with neither shirt nor shoes. We even starved, not for want of provisions, which are in abundance, but for the unheard-of rise of their prices. Bread, which was before the war one piastre (2d.) became 77 piastres, macaroni rose from 3 (the oke) up to 100 piastres, sugar from 2½ to 260 piastres, shoes from 60 piastres to 2,200 piastres, and so on. Armenians, Greeks and other Christian subjects have been killed and starved by hundred thousands. We are still suffering from the increase of prices."—I am, etc.,

H. CHARLES WOODS.

Reuter's Agency announces that a Greek-Armenian Committee has been formed in London for joint action for the liberation of the Greek and Armenian populations from the Turkish yoke. A Memorial Service for the Armenians and Greeks massacred during the year by the Turks and a mass meeting have been arranged for February 2.

According to information received from Madrid, the Spanish Government, in pursuance of its policy of true friendship for France in Morocco, is obliging all Moors who have taken part in the recent insurrection in the French zone to recross the border as soon as they seek refuge in the Spanish Protectorate. The other day, Reuter's Agency learns, the Spanish military authorities at Melilla handed over a group of sixty-one rebels to the French authorities at the frontier post of Beni-Hassen.

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

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

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

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Constantinople and the Moslem World.

Sir Valentine Chirol begins an instructive article, "Islam and the Future of Constantinople," which he contributes to the *Fortnightly Review*, by declaring that: "One of the great opportunities created by the war for the betterment of the world will be lost if the Peace Conference fails to put an end to Turkish rule in Constantinople, which has proved as harmful to the general interests and reputation of Islam as it has been disastrous to the subject races of the Ottoman Empire." One of the fundamental considerations that is usually ignored by those who plead for the maintenance of Turkish rule in Constantinople is this fact:—

If Constantinople remains the seat of Turkish government, the new Turkish State that emerges from the Peace Conference will be fatally handicapped by all the old traditions of intrigue and corruption which will inevitably cling, like a robe of Nessus, to its rulers so long as they live and move and have their being in the poisoned atmosphere of Stambul. No worse service could be done to the simple, honest, and industrial Turkish population of Asia Minor who have suffered in the past only less than their Christian fellow-subjects from Constantinople misgovernment, and themselves detest it. In the course of my own travels, I have frequently heard Constantinople denounced almost as fiercely by quiet, law-abiding Turkish Mohammedans as by Armenians or Greeks.

Sir Valentine recalls an incident in a journey he made in 1877-8, soon after the Russo-Turkish War. He was the guest of a well-to-do Turk at Ghediz, "a small and almost entirely Turkish Mohammedan town on the borders of the Brussa and Smyrna vilayets."

My host had bidden four other citizens of Ghediz to meet me, all good Turks and good Mohammedans; one was the mollah of the chief mosque; another the kazi, or religious judge. The fare was excellent, though we ate it mostly with our fingers, squatting on the floor round a common dish, and, as I knew enough Turkish to carry on conversation, we soon got on to communicative terms. The first outburst came when I happened to mention the Commission that was then sitting at Constantinople to reorganise the bankrupt finances of Turkey and create a new administration of the Public Debt. "Yes, the Public Debt!" exclaimed angrily the mollah. "The debt is the only thing that is called 'public' in this country. Everything else is called Humayuni (Imperial). The army is Imperial, the Law Courts are Imperial, the revenue is Imperial, the Palace is Imperial, but the debt is the 'public' debt—the debt which the big folk have contracted and squandered, but which we, the small folk, have to shoulder and pay." Then they all let themselves go, and with many invocations of God and of His Prophet they vied with each other in denouncing the whole system of government and the Padishah, the Sultan, himself.

After recalling how Germany dragged Turkey into the war, in accordance with William II.'s long-prepared plans, the author goes on to say:

Surely neither in our own interests nor in those of the helpless Turkish population whom their Constantinople rulers have plunged into ruin can we afford to forget the costly lesson of the past. For a small Turkish State within its own natural and ethnical boundaries in Asia Minor there should be a peaceable and prosperous future. It will have considerable resources, mineral as well as agricultural, which can be enormously developed if its revenues cease to be squandered on the maintenance of an army and navy that will no longer be required when the ambitious policy for which Constantinople has hitherto stood shall have been finally discarded. Freed from the predatory influence and sinister wirepulling of the Constantinople official, often himself not a Turk, the people will have a chance of showing the many good qualities they possess—industry, honesty, thrift, and endurance, and, when racial and religious passions cease to be periodically inflamed from Constantinople, a kindly and tolerant disposition.

In connection with the attitude lately taken up by certain Moslems in India towards Turkey, we quote as follows:—

In India itself Pan-Islamism aroused only a slight platonic interest amongst the more conservative Mohammedans of the old school, and such sympathy as they had with Turkey was to a great extent alienated by the Turkish Revolution of 1908 and the advent to power of the Committee of Union and Progress, on most of whom religion sat very lightly. But, on the other hand, the aggressive nationalism of the "Young Turks" appealed strongly to the new school of Indian Mohammedans who were gravitating towards the more advanced forms of Indian nationalism. During the Balkan wars some of the "young Mohammedan" leaders raised subscriptions in India and conducted missions to Constantinople, ostensibly for the Turkish sick and wounded, and though the appeal to the Indian public was made on religious grounds, it had a distinctly political and often anti-British flavour. An instructive reference to this movement is made in the report, recently published, of the Committee on Sedition in India, over which Mr. Justice Rowlatt was sent out to preside in Calcutta last winter. . . .

. . . But the loyalty of the vast majority of the Indian Mohammedans, princes and people, never wavered, though many were profoundly grieved to see a Mohammedan Power plunging, at Germany's bidding, into war against Great Britain, who had twice saved it from destruction, and the Indian Mohammedan troops proved their staunchness as well as their gallantry whenever they faced their Turkish co-religionists in the battlefield.

The attempt to turn Pan-Islamism and, later, Pan-Turanianism, to account against the Allies failed ignominously, but—

Because on this occasion the attempt made to prostitute the religious authority of the Ottoman Sultanate to purposes of political aggression has failed, it would be folly to forget that it was made, and that it could only be made, as the culminating effort of a long and active propaganda from Constantinople which had sought to imbue the Mohammedan world with the belief that Turkey was the appointed sword of Islam. There can be no better or more permanent safeguard against any revival of that insidious propaganda than the removal of the seat of Ottoman sovereignty from Constantinople. How insidious it has been is shown sufficiently when Indian Mohammedans, whose own loyalty is above suspicion, are found to argue quite seriously that Constantinople is "the city of Islam"—Islambol—held in trust by the Ottoman Sultans for the world of Islam. The argument is ridiculous, for the Turks themselves do not call it Islambol, but Istambul (a corruption of the old vernacular Greek words *ἐς τὰν βόλιν*), and spell it Istambul on their coins. But if there were anything in it, our reply would lose none of its force. It would be simply that the Ottoman Sultans have proved faithless to their trust by misusing Constantinople as a base for secret machinations and finally for open war against the very Power to whom they have owed their salvation in the last century, and under whose just and tolerant rule a very large proportion of the Mohammedan population of the globe has enjoyed much greater security and prosperity and freedom than the Mohammedans of Turkey have known under their Constantinople rulers.

In the Market of Mosul.

From "Mosul—Niniveh," an article contributed to *Chambers's Journal* (January) by Louise Peralta, we take the following picture of a scene in the markets of Mosul:—

"My soul has borrowed a portion of pain from hell!" In the great Chauk of the town, sitting cross-legged in front of his piles of sacks of gall-nuts, the mouthpiece of a hookah between his lips, a Khorasani thus expresses the anguish with which he is wrung by the ridiculously low price hazarded by a would-be buyer. Surrounded by possible customers, a trader in shawls is appraising and bargaining over his stock, great bales of which take up nearly half a side of the vast, open courtyard, giving on the Chauk, of the Khan-el-Khalili, the largest of Mosul's score of caravanserais. A crisp odour of roasting herbs tells of the *kebaks* [kebobs?] that are being prepared for supper, and the animals are already at their evening meal, the camels kneeling in the centre of the courtyard of each great khan, and eating daintily the durra served them on a clean white cloth. The beasts that carry the merchants and their merchandise are always objects of interest to the people of Mosul. In the markets everywhere in the Middle East the Arab pony of the Persian Gulf always fetches its value. Though not equal to the pure Arab, it is a most serviceable as well as a handsome animal. The big-boned, clumsy-looking Atak horse is bought in great numbers in the *kafilas* because of its marvellous powers of endurance. But the favourite is the Turkoman horse of Khorasan, which is strong, fleet, of an extraordinary intelligence and devotedly attached to its master. The Khorasan camel is also found in large numbers in the *kafilas*. Of great size and strength, it will carry six to seven hundred pounds to the three hundred and fifty or four hundred of the Persian and the Indian camel. At the end of the ten or twelve days of trafficking in the Chauk there will be a sale and exchange of beasts, when the ungainly but strong and docile cross between the two hump-backed Bactrian and the one-humped Arabian camel will be in huge demand.

A PICTURE OF FAMINE.

A story told by a British soldier who visited Beyrout, since its occupation, throws a terrible light upon the condition of the children in Syria. "Some of us were in the town band enclosure on a nice lawn, which was surrounded by high iron railings just six inches apart (measured). Two—well, of those morsels of humanity, passing along the road, walked across to us *between the railings!* One was about twelve and the other perhaps five. The elder had no difficulty in getting between the railings, but the little one's head was so huge it had to be pulled through, making him whimper. Neither had a stitch of clothes on." A high naval officer speaks of finding "little skeleton babies moaning alone under the walls and doorways." An American report mentions that during the third year of Syria's distress under Turkish control, cases of even cannibalism occurred in the awful scarcity and high prices of food.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE CRADLE OF THE WAR.*

In view of the German Minister's statement to the British Ambassador at Berlin on the outbreak of the war that Germany intended to seize the French colonies in Africa, it might be possible to dispute Mr. Charles Woods' thesis that Germany made the war in order to secure the Near East. Presumably, the dominance of the Balkans was to be Austria's share of the spoil, secured under German direction from Berlin; but in the long run no doubt Germany would have secured the bulk of the profit from her "brilliant second." That is perhaps the one fundamental criticism of the record of Balkan politics which Mr. Woods has assembled in "The Cradle of the War."

It is necessarily a long and intricate story which Mr. Charles Woods tells. He follows the politics of the Balkans and Asia Minor from the Treaty of 1878, and carries the record down to July, 1918, giving roughly a chapter to each of the various countries covered by his purview. It would be easy, of course, to point out omissions in so tangled a record; we have failed, for example, to note any reference to the absurd offer of Cyprus to Greece by Sir Edward Grey in October, 1915, and Mr. Woods appears to have missed the minatory telegrams of the ex-Kaiser to the ex-King of Greece on the outbreak of the war, in which "the husband of my sister" was exhorted to do his duty in that state of life unto which it had pleased Prussia to call him. But, on the whole, there is a great deal of information in the historical or main part of this book.

Mr. Woods makes certain suggestions as to the settlement of the Near Eastern problem; but it was unfortunate for the completeness of his argument that he did not delay the writing of this final chapter until after the Armistice, for events have moved fast, and although they may not vitiate his conclusions, they give an air of inconclusiveness to these last pages which the author would no doubt have avoided had he foreseen the sudden collapse of Germany.

As to his general conclusions, it may be said that Mr. Woods does not appear to advocate a Balkan League, such as was advised in certain quarters in England not long ago; possibly he remembers too clearly the failure of the previous League, and knows the Balkans too well to believe that old differences will entirely disappear when the League of Nations is constituted by the peacemakers of Paris. His discussion of the settlement proceeds frankly on a territorial basis. We have not space to follow his review of the new work throughout, but we may note his conclusion that Greece stands to lose most and gain least of all the Balkan States in the re-partition.

On these matters he is clear and definite in his recommendations; but his treatment of the future of Constantinople is a little hesitating. Apparently the reason for the rather disappointing section devoted to this admittedly complex question is the fact that Constantinople transcends Balkan politics and raises questions both of Russian and of extra-European problems. Frankly, we should have liked to see these wider matters discussed in some detail, and they would have fitted in well with the plan of the book, which includes the Armenian massacres (of some of which Mr. Woods was an eye-witness). Probably another fifty pages would have covered the whole of the ground necessary, and it seems a pity that this was not done.

Elsewhere Mr. Woods discusses and approves the suggestion of forming a barrier of anti-German States out of Poland, Yugoslavia, and Bohemia. He betrays, however, a not unnatural fear as to their future stability and readiness to agree with each other—a fear which has already received a certain amount of support from the telegrams of the last few days. On the other hand, he does not appear to rate the quarrel between Italians and both Greeks and Yugoslavs at quite sufficient importance; but at least he preserves a greater appearance of impartiality in that vexed controversy than most of the protagonists on either side. His treatment of the Albanian question will therefore probably displease the zealots.

It should be added that the book contains some good illustrations and more than one excellent map.

TWO BORN LEADERS.*

Brillat-Savarin tells us that cooks are born, not made—a dictum which applies with equal force to the council chamber and the kitchen. No education, however specialised, can implant qualities in a man which are not a part of his "heritage," in biological parlance. This fact is exemplified in the careers of President Wilson and M Georges Clemenceau. Both of them abandoned the calm water of a learned profession for the Maelstrom of party politics. Mr. Wilson began active life as a professor, and became president of Princeton University. On discovering that he possessed the priceless gift of leadership, he entered the political arena, and within a very few years succeeded to the great office once held by Washington and Lincoln. M. Clemenceau practised as a physician for twenty years, and was middle-aged ere he stepped into the limelight. Each of these great men wields a ready pen, and is a master of delicate irony. Each would have gained enduring fame as a man of letters if he had not chosen to be a man of action. Each has idealism, intuitive foresight and perfervid energy inherited from his Celtic forebears. But here the parallel between them ends. Inexhaustive patience is the key of President Wilson's character. He personifies the Horatian *vir justus et tenax propositi*, who yields not an inch to popular clamour, is impervious to obloquy, and defers action until its success is assured. His policy during the world-war is, perhaps, the most striking instance of statecraft on record. M. Clemenceau was for two decades the stormy petrel of French politics. Mayor of Montmartre during the Siege of Paris and the Commune, he brought the same qualities to bear on the Chamber of Deputies as had enabled him to dominate his turbulent fellow-citizens. Five Ministries in succession succumbed to his sledge-hammer blows. But Clemenceau is no Bolshevik. He has always had a clear idea of the measures required to save France from ruin, and the constructive genius required for executing them. So, when the fortunes of his country were at their lowest ebb, when defeatism was rampant, and a general collapse seemed inevitable, France turned instinctively to the *vieux tigre;* and vested him with the authority of a Dictator.

It cannot be said that the most recent biographies of these eminent statesmen are in any sense satisfactory performances. They err by extreme brevity, and convey an indistinct impression of their subjects' careers. Mr. Archer's account of the American President's Mexican policy justifies the current opinion that it was feeble and vacillating. But Mr. Wilson undoubtedly chose the lesser of two evils in withdrawing his hand from the Mexican hornets' nest. Foreseeing that America would be drawn into the vortex of the world-war, he deliberately vetoed an adventure which would paralyse her efforts on behalf of civilisation.

F. H. S.

* "The Cradle of the War: The Near East and Pan-Germanism." By H. Charles Woods, F.R.G.S. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

* "The Peace President," by William Archer. (London: Hutchinson and Co.) 7s 6d.) "Clemenceau," par Camille Dueray. (Paris: Payot and Cie, 1918. 2 francs.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Notre Expansion Coloniale en Afrique de 1870 à nos Jours." By Paul Gaffarel. (Paris: Librairie Felix Alcan. 5 frs. 50 c.)

"Through Egypt in War Time." By Martin S. Briggs. Illustrated. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 21s. net.)

"Love and the Crescent." By A. C. Inchbold. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s. 9d. net.)

"Bulgaria." By C. Clenton Logio. (London: William Heinemann. 10s. net.)

"The Greek Army and the Recent Balkan Offensive." (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1s. 6d. net.)

"Watson Pasha." By Stanley Lane-Poole, Litt.D. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d net.)

"The Turkish Problem." By Count Léon Ostrorog. Translated by Winifred Stephens. (London: Chatto and Windus. 6s. net.)

ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

The Armenian Bureau has received a communication from Nubar Pasha, President of the Armenian National Delegation in Paris, in which he writes:—"Heartrending letters and despatches are daily received by the National Delegation from Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, and Caucasus, describing the tragic situation created for the Armenian deportees and refugees, who are in need of everything, and are dying by thousands for want of help. Likewise, the Armenians of the Caucasus are threatened with famine and beg immediate succour. General Clayton cables that £25,000 a month is needed for Armenian refugees in Syria alone.

"In view of this critical situation, the National Delegation, considering that we have arrived at a decisive moment when the utmost efforts are imperative, appeals to the whole nation to set on foot fresh funds everywhere, or to give generous support to those already opened."

Sir Alexander McRobert presided at the distribution of certificates of the City of Guilds and London Institute to the successful candidates of the Government School of Dyeing and Printing, Cawnpore, on December 12. He congratulated the students on the profession they had chosen, and eulogised the work and services of the Principal of the School, Mr. G. P. Srivastava, Industrial Chemist to the U.P. Government.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. January 31	1919. January. 18	Friday	1337. Rabia II. 29	5679. Shebat 30
February 1	19	Saturday.....	30	Adari. 1
2	20	Sunday	Jumada I. 1	2
3	21	Monday	2	3
4	22	Tuesday	3	4
5	23	Wednesday	4	5
6	24	Thursday	5	6

Dr. Robert S. Frew has returned to London.

The Rev. H. W. Brett, British Chaplain at Smyrna, has arrived in London.

Mr. Locke, manager of the Bank of Roumania, has returned to England after a brief visit to Roumania.

On January 21, in Cairo, the wife of Mr. A. P. Bolland, of the Sudan Civil Service, gave birth to a son.

Cardinal Bourne arrived at Jerusalem on January 18 and, says Reuter, went on the following day to Bethlehem.

Colonel Boyle and Captain Capsa, who were specially attached to the suite of Prince Nicolas of Roumania, left London on Saturday for Paris.

On January 23, at St. Mary-le-Tower Vicarage, Ipswich, the wife of Captain H. L. R. Watt, attached to the Egyptian Army, gave birth to a daughter.

Sir Reginald Wingate left Cairo on Tuesday of last week for Europe. Sir Milne Cheetham is acting as High Commissioner during Sir Reginald's short absence.

In honour of the visit of the provincial Government to Delhi Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, on January 14, gave his first large State party since the outbreak of war.

The engagement is announced of Captain Henry Lewis-Barclay, Indian Army, and Isabel Clare (Lala), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Layton H. Lucy, Oakleigh Park, Whetstone.

A New Year's gift of £5,000 has been given by the Maharaja of Jaipur to the King, and his Majesty has decided that the sum shall be utilised on behalf of the families of Indian Sepoys.

Colonel Francis D. Boyd, C.M.G., F.R.C.P.Ed., A.M.S., having relinquished his post as Consulting Physician to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, has returned to 22, Manor Place, Edinburgh.

A Reuter Melbourne message states that the names of General Birdwood and Sir Ian Hamilton have been mentioned in connection with the Governorship of Victoria on the expiration of Sir Arthur Stanley's term of office.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania took up his residence at Eton last Friday in order to complete his studies. He is in his sixteenth year. Lieutenant-Colonel Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, accompanied him to Eton.

The Egypt Exploration Fund is arranging for two lectures to be given by Miss W. S. Blackman on "The Material Culture of Ancient Egypt and Some Comparisons Amongst Present Day Primitive Peoples." The dates will be announced later.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Basil Ivor Jones, M.C., Indian Army, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Jones, of Lahore, India, and Evelyn, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Gates, of 5, Manson Place, Kensington.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, and Head of the Roumanian Government Mission, left Hendon on Tuesday morning by aeroplane for Paris. He carried despatches for the Roumanian Delegates attending the Peace Conference.

The University of London has arranged for three lectures to be delivered at King's College on Tuesdays, February 4, 11, and 18, by Monsieur M. Beza, of the Roumanian Legation. The first of the series will be on "English Influences on Roumanian Literature," the second on "National Unity of the Roumanians," and the third on Roumanian Folk Poetry in Relation to the Folk Poetry of the Balkans." Sir Henry Newbolt will preside at the first lecture, the Earl of Beesborough at the second, and Mr. Lawrence Binyon at the third. The lectures will begin at 5.30 p.m., and admission will be free.

Under the auspices of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts, the Rev. J. J. Pool will on February 10 lecture on "Cleopatra of Egypt—Queen and Lover." The lecture will be given at the rooms of the Société, 8, Taviton Street, Gordon Square, at 3.30 p.m.

The engagement is announced between Captain W. Hugh B. R. Kennedy, the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Myles Kennedy, of Stone Cross, Ulverston, and Violet Enid, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wilson, of Stainburn, Workington, Cumberland.

The marriage of Claude P. W. Lloyd, M.A., Indian Educational Service (Lieutenant, I.A.R.O.) and Eileen Muriel, widow of Captain P. B. Maxwell, East Yorks Regiment (late 35th Sikhs), and only daughter of General Sir Alexander and Lady Hamilton Gordon, of Lynwood, Farnborough, Hants, took place on January 23 at the Parish Church, Farnborough.

The marriage arranged between Captain Kenneth Freeland, R.A., only son of Commander W. F. E. Freeland, R.N., and Mrs Freeland, Stanway, Camberley, and Violet, elder daughter of Colonel G. J. H. Bell, C.I.E., I.M.S., and Mrs Bell, 84, Lancaster Gate, will take place at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, on Wednesday, Feruary 12, at 2.30 o'clock.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at a later date between Miss Marguerite Alysoun Ramsay Cowie, daughter of Brigadier-General A. H. Cowie, C.M.G., R.E., and of Mrs. K. E. Cowie, of New Hall, Bodenham, Salisbury, and Major Edward Hastings Impey, M.C., 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment (seconded Machine-Gun Corps), son of Lieutenant-Colonel L. Impey, C.S.I., C.I.E.

A reception took place on Monday evening at the Grafton Galleries in celebration of the emancipation of Serbia and the union of the Serbo-Croat-Slovene peoples. The gathering was arranged by friends of Serbia, and among those present were Lady Grogan, Mrs. Carrington-Wilde, and Mrs. Seton-Watson, representing the Serbian Relief Fund; Mr. F. Hastings, Miss M. Henderson, Lady Swaythling, Mr. James Barry and Dr. May Dickinson Berry, and Miss Hall.

The following has been issued by the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration in Palestine:—The Military Governor, Jerusalem, has the honour to acknowledge with sincere thanks the following donations to the Pro-Jerusalem Society, the aim of which is to preserve the ancient and traditional character, together with the indigenous arts and crafts, of the Holy City:—Messrs. J. Smouha and Co., £E600; Messrs. Btesh Brothers, £E500; the Syrian Community of Egypt, £E400; Morum's Oriental Stores, £E100; Dr. Faris Nimr, £E50; Dr. Sarruf, £E50; the American Colony of Jerusalem, £E25; Messrs. Marache Brothers, £E25; Mr. Solomon Angel, £E20; Mr. Benham (Norton's Pharmacy), £E10.

The *London Gazette* announces that T./Lt. Alfred Edward Holton, No. 3 Gun How. Bde., R.M.A., has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On two consecutive nights he brought his gun into action under heavy fire. During the operations he had worked ceaselessly, co-operating in four mounts and dismounts of a 15-in. howitzer, guiding it over shell-pitted roads with old and inadequate transport. He had in addition kept the battery unusually well supplied with ammunition. His management and keenness helped to keep the gun in close touch with the advance." Lieutenant Holton is the son of Mr. F. C. Holton, assistant to General Manager of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

Mr. Chas. Nissim, of Knightsbridge, S.W., and of Bombay, who died on November 3, aged seventy-four, left estate of the gross value of £12,569, with net personalty £12,108. The testator left 5,000 rupees for the poor of Bombay; 10,000 rupees for the payment of ten Jewish men to read prayers for a week at the house where he may die, for the payment of ten Jewish men, to be chosen by the Rabbi at Jerusalem, to say prayers day and night for twelve months, for distribution among the poor of Baghdad and for distribution to persons belonging to the Jewish community of Bombay on the seventh, twenty-first, and thirtieth days after his death, and the eleventh and twelfth months after his death, and for distribution among persons of the Jewish community in Jerusalem.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. Polychroniadis, until recently Chargé d'Affaires of the Greek Legation at The Hague, has been appointed First Secretary to the Legation in London.

Mr. William Strachan Coutts, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, in the place of Mr. Edmund Pelly Chapman, Indian Civil Service, who has resigned.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Lionel Davidson, C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras in succession to the late Mr. Herbert Francis Webb Gilman, C.S.I., Indian Civil Service.

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The Council of Legal Education announce the appointment of Captain Lindesay John Robertson, R.A.F., barrister-at-law, formerly Professor of Hindu Law, and afterwards Principal of the Law School, Bombay University, to be Lecturer in Hindu and Mohammedan Law at the Inns of Court, in place of the late Sir Frederick A. Robertson.

Captain A. F. P. Knapp, North Lancashire Regiment, and Captain P. C. Snatt, Liverpool Regiment, have been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officers with the temporary rank of Bimbashi. The first has been attached to the 12th Sudanese for duty and the second has been appointed Commandant Signalling School.

OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN WATSON, V.C.

General Sir John Watson, V.C., G.C.B., died at Finchampstead on January 23, in his ninetieth year. He entered the Bombay Army in February, 1848, serving during the Punjab campaign of that and the following year. For this service he received the medal with two clasps, and obtained a second medal for fighting in the Bozdar campaign of 1857. As a lieutenant he took part in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, and was present at the siege of Delhi, the second relief of Lucknow, and many other engagements, being wounded on three occasions. He was promoted captain in 1861, and the same year had his brevet majority. At the end of 1863 he served during the expedition against hill tribes on the North-West Frontier under General Chamberlain, and afterwards under General Garvock. In 1870 he became a brevet colonel. From 1871 to 1877 he was in command of the two regiments of Central India Horse, and was also Political Agent for Western Malwa. Next he was appointed Resident and Agent to the Governor-General at Gwalior, and acted as Agent for Central India. In April, 1878, he was given command of the cavalry brigade of the Malta Expeditionary Force. During the Afghan War he had political charge of the district of Kuram, and commanded the Kuram Field Force. In 1881 he was promoted to major-general, and in the following January he became Resident and Agent to the Governor-General, Baroda. He retired from the Foreign Department of the Government of India in 1886. He reached the rank of lieutenant-general in 1887 and that of general in 1891. He was promoted G.C.B. in 1902, and since 1904 has been colonel of the 13th Duke of Connaught's Lancers.

Colonel W. P. Davison, who died suddenly at the County Infirmary, Armagh, on January 22, served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1884.

M. Louis Rambert, late member of the Swiss National Council, has died at Constantinople. He had been director of the Ottoman Tobacco Régie since 1900.

Lady Lumsden died on the 21st inst. at Murdan, Murtle, near Aberdeen. She was the widow of General Sir Harry Lumsden, K.C.S.I., who died in 1896.

Artin Pasha, who was Egyptian Under-Secretary of Education from 1884 to 1906, has died at the age of seventy-seven. He was an Armenian, and had held various posts in the Egyptian Government.

Major-General Alan Murray, who, it is announced, died last week at The Grange, Washbrook, saw service in the Indian Mutiny. He took part in the siege and capture of Delhi, and the actions of Bolundshuhur and Agra, and was present at the second relief of Lucknow.

Mr. Robert Carstairs, late of the Indian Civil Service, has died at Edinburgh at the age of sixty-five. He went to India in 1874, became a Commissioner in 1902, and retired in 1903. He was the author of "British Work in India" and "A Plea for the Better Local Government of Bengal."

Mr. James Crawfurd, who died last week at Thornwood, Uddington, Lanark, aged seventy-three, joined the Indian Civil Service in 1868. He was appointed officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department in 1875, and a year later became Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal. Mr. Crawfurd was afterwards first Inspector of Registration Offices, Registrar of the High Court, and from 1885 till his retirement in 1894 District and Sessions Judge.

A Reuter's message from Perugia reports the death in that city, on January 27, of Ismail Kemal Bey, formerly President of the Albanian Provisional Government. He was a native of Valona, and had held office in Tripoli under Abdul Hamid, but he first came into prominence after the Turkish Revolution, when he became leader of the Albanian party in the Ottoman Meiliss. He was President of the Albanian Government until Prince Wilhelm of Wied was chosen as Mpret, when he withdrew to Italy.

A correspondent writes:—The death on January 9 (announced in your columns on January 17) of Mr. Laurence G. Binns, of Constantinople, will cause deep regret amongst former residents of that city. Himself one of the oldest British residents, having been born in Bebek on October 31, 1849, he lived all his life, except for the few years spent in England for the purpose of his education, in that little town on the shores of the Bosphorus, and though so far removed from the homeland, a truer and more enthusiastic Briton in heart and spirit it would have been difficult to find. Genial and charming in manner and sympathetic in character, Mr. Binns was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was very public-spirited, and took an active interest in local charities, notably during the Russo-Turkish War in 1878-80 and during the Balkan War in 1912-13, when he rendered willing and able assistance to British war relief committees—at the earlier date under the late Mr. Wrench, H.M. Consul-General at Constantinople; at the later date under Lady Lowther. It was on the outbreak of hostilities between Turkey and the Allied Powers that Mr. Binns was obliged to quit the home of his boyhood and leave behind him those sunny Eastern skies which he loved so well. His loss will be keenly felt, and to many of those who ultimately return to Constantinople it will create a blank which will not easily be filled.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

DEATH.

ALLEN.—At Cawnpore, on Saturday, January 25, very suddenly, Henry Deacon Allen, second son of the late Sir George William Allen, K.C.I.E., of "Freechase," Warninglid, Sussex, and dearly loved husband of Petronella Allen. (By telegram.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A first instalment of £80,000 has been placed by the Greek Government at the disposal of the Foreign Minister for the help of distressed Greeks in Turkey.

From Constantinople it is reported that Kiamil Mahmud Pasha, commanding the Third Turkish Army, has been arrested on a charge of massacring Greeks and Armenians.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* states that the Government has refused to renew its contract with the two State executioners, thus tacitly abolishing capital punishment.

The Postmaster-General gives notice that the mail service to Roumania has been resumed for all classes of postal packets, except parcels. The time of transit will be longer than under normal conditions.

The hearing has been begun by Mr. Justice Darling, with a special jury, of a libel action brought by Mr. Bal Gangadhur Tilak, a Hindu, against Sir Valentine Chirol because of passages in his book, "Indian Unrest."

General Allenby has issued a special Order of the Day reminding all ranks of the Expeditionary Force in Egypt during the trying and unavoidably extended period of demobilisation that the good name of the British Army depends on the individual conduct of each member.

Four lectures on malaria will be delivered at noon on January 31, February 7, 14, and 21, 1919, in the lecture theatre of the Medical School at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E., by Colonel Sir Ronald Ross, consultant in malaria at the War Office and physician for tropical diseases, King's College Hospital. Officers and men of the R.A.M.C. will be welcome. Microscope specimens and lantern slides will be shown at the third and fourth lectures.

The Roumanian Military Attaché has issued a notice to all Roumanian officers, N.C.O.'s, and privates resident in Great Britain that they must forward their addresses to Lieutenant-Colonel Arion, Roumanian Military Attaché, Canada House, Kingsway, W.C.2. All those not complying with this order will be considered as not having fulfilled their military obligations.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1919.

THE CONFERENCE AND MOROCCO

Although the question may not arise directly out of the war, it is possible that the Allied Conference, while engaged in settling international controversies with a view to establishing peace on a sound basis, will be invited to record some decision regarding the future of Morocco. In point of fact, Morocco has played practically the same part as Persia during the last four years, with Spain by virtue of its zone of influence in the rôle of Turkey as the cat's-paw of Germany. Just as German agents stirred up Persian tribes to attack the British, so, thanks to the remissness of the Spanish authorities, they have been able to work upon the tribesmen of Morocco in order to embarrass the French in their protectorate. For the Turks there was the excuse that they were the allies of the Germans, and were merely pooling their resources in aiding German agents to put a spoke in Great Britain's wheel in Persia. Spain, on the other hand, was a neutral State, and was morally bound not to show favour to one group of belligerents to the prejudice of the other. Spanish officials, however, contrived to turn a blind eye to German intrigue as long as the issue of the war seemed to be in the balance, with the result that the French protectorate of Morocco has been in a continual state of ferment, and now calls for an organised campaign against the tribesmen who have been stirred up to revolt by German agency. It is no wonder, therefore, that France should press for a more satisfactory regulation of the Moroccan question than the one which has enabled Spain to lend herself to German machinations. With the final defeat of Germany the Spanish Government has begun to appreciate the seriousness of the position. Negotiations have been opened with France, and as an earnest of its good intentions it is sending General Berenguer, the present Minister of War, on a mission to the Spanish zone for the purpose of dealing on the spot with German activities. France, however, it may be expected, will require a more drastic solution of the problem than a belated attempt to cope with a single phase of a bad system. In these days of "acid tests" Spain will clearly be called upon to submit to a settlement less dependent on the good will of local officials if she wishes to regain the confidence of the Allied Powers, and the Paris Conference will do well to remove Morocco, as far as may be, out of the sphere of international rivalries.

The trouble in Morocco is the familiar one which sooner or later crops up where a progressive and an unprogressive people rub shoulders together. By the Franco-Spanish Treaty of 1912 the greater part of Morocco is now a French protectorate, but a narrow strip of territory along the northern seaboard, which is the Spanish zone, shuts off France from her natural outlet at Tangier. The port itself is internationalised; but the surrounding country depends for its development on the standard set in the Spanish protectorate as a whole, and has no share in the general progress of the French sphere. As the Spanish Government has not been able to establish effective occupation over more than a fraction of the territory entrusted to its protection, and that at an annual cost to the Spanish Exchequer of £8,500,000, the lawless condition of the zone is a menace to the safety of Tangier itself and a source of trouble to the French protectorate. During the war German agents have known how to take full advantage of this state of affairs, and it is not easy to see how satisfactory relations can be established between France and Spain in regard to Morocco until the tribesmen throughout the Spanish zone have been brought under civilising influences. In the event of the question being submitted to the Conference, Spain will, no doubt, be required to show what likelihood there is of her proving equal to her responsibilities in this direction; for even if Tangier should retain its present international status, the Allied Powers have a distinct interest in securing for the immediate neighbourhood a safer and more peaceful existence than it has known during the last four years. But it is common knowledge that the French have other views in regard to the future of Tangier. They desire to see the port restored to the sovereignty of the Sultan of Morocco, and to secure access to it by a route passing, throughout its length, through French Protectorate territory. So keenly is this solution canvassed that in some circles the hope has been entertained that the Powers concerned would agree to a general exchange that would give Gibraltar to Spain, Ceuta, on the African coast, to Great Britain, and the rest of the Spanish zone with Tangier to France. A less radical settlement is more feasible and should prove quite satisfactory. Spain's claim to part at least of the zone is not arbitrary; she has ninety thousand of her citizens there, as compared with less than forty thousand French, and seventy per cent. of the commerce of the zone belongs to her. But her failure in the past to exercise adequate supervision over the territory suggests that she may be more successful with a restricted responsibility.

The Paris Conference could find all the justification it needs for examining the Morocco question in the fact that the French are at present engaged in a campaign against the tribesmen of the interior. France cannot fail to respect the desire to see the world at peace when the Conference ends, and will be prepared to lay her solution of the Moroccan problem before the delegates. The interests of the tribesmen call for a speedy pacification of the whole country, and it would be well within the province of the Conference to point out that this can be attained by transferring some of Spain's responsibilities to France. Tangier, which at present suffers from an international status, has a special concern for the Allied Powers. Much has been talked about internationalisation during the last twelve months, and there was a danger at one time that the Allies might be tempted to experiment further with the system. The prominence recently given to Tangier will, it is to be hoped, save the world from fresh mistakes of this kind. Divided control has never yet been a success, whether in Egypt, Tangier, the New Hebrides, or Crete. In Tangier it has been conspicuously unsuccessful, and the port stands in great need of enlightened government. Great Britain, it so happens, has a double interest in its future. The chief obstacle in the past to France's possession of the town is the traditional policy that would not allow Britons to tolerate the presence of a Great Power on the African mainland immediately opposite Gibraltar. More recently there has been a natural desire on the part of the British Government not to sacrifice prematurely certain pawns that might be useful for the regulation of the British status in Egypt. For this reason the question of abolishing the present regime at Tangier, and with it consular jurisdiction, has been linked with the question of the Egyptian capitulations. Now that the position in Egypt is within sight of being adjusted, one difficulty in regard to Tangier will have been removed. The other can be met by an agreement that Tangier shall remain unfortified as well as a free port. The French could advance no objections to these restrictions; their ambitions in Morocco are essentially commercial, and it would be entirely alien to the spirit which is regarded as actuating the Allied Powers to seek to introduce at this stage new factors into the international position in the Mediterranean.

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A TURKISH PICNIC.

One would hardly choose a cemetery for a picnic in the suburbs of London; but at Cairo nothing can surpass in picturesqueness the group of tomb-mosques outside the eastern city walls, and the Pyramids, so often the scene of gay meetings, are but glorified mausolea. One of the best Turkish lunch parties at which I have ever assisted—not excepting several on the Bosphorus—was at the so-called "Tombs of the Khalifs," which, travellers soon learn from their guide books, are not tombs of Khalifs at all, but those of turbulent Circassian Mamelukes who reigned as Sultans in the 14th-16th centuries, who fought, and squandered, and spoiled the Egyptians, but left the most beautiful burial ground in the world.

Our host was Ibrahim Bey Tewfik. Two fair Americans visiting Cairo had casually expressed a wish that they could see what a Turkish dinner was like, and Ibrahim at once responded with a courteous invitation. The question was where the entertainment should take place; and, after some deliberation, it was decided that it should be on this border of the eastern desert.

Our host, Ibrahim Bey, had been among a batch of Egyptians sent to France and England for education. One of the most polished and Europeanized of Cairenes, he was as much at home on the boulevards of Paris as in the Ismailieh quarter of Cairo: a favourite in European society, and a favoured *protégé* of the Khedive Ismail. When, in 1869, the Empress Eugenie, a guest of Ismaïl at the opening of the Suez Canal, expressed a desire to witness an Egyptian wedding, the Khedive lost no time in gratifying her wish. Ibrahim was selected as the bridegroom, the choice of a bride being easily arranged within the Viceregal harem. The marriage was carried out on a lavish scale. The fact that the bridegroom did not at all appreciate the selection was of little account; though perhaps it tended to increase the Khedive's partiality towards him. Ibrahim was a man of rather extravagant habits. The Viceroy paid his debts several times, but at length intimated that the limit had been reached. During a visit to Egypt some years later I found Ibrahim a full-blown Pasha, and Governor of Port Said.

Our road took us through the great rubbish heaps east of Cairo upon which the bones of Fatemite Khalifs are said to have been thrown by their Sunni successors. On reaching the group of mosques, we found that an admirable nook had been chosen near the great edifice of Sultan Barkouk, which is one of the handsomest of the series, with its two striking domes, adorned with chevron mouldings, and its two minarets. This Barkouk was a typical adventurer of the period. A slave, he rose to importance by his ability, conspired and seized sovereign power in due course, ruled with a rod of iron, was driven out, imprisoned, and just escaped being strangled, returned with a powerful force to Cairo, "bathed the city in blood," became a model ruler, and died in A.D. 1388, beloved and regretted, it is said, by all his people. We had much beside this mosque to admire. At a short distance from it stands that gem of Moslem architecture the mosque of Kaït Bey, a structure which, according to Fergusson, is "perhaps unrivalled by anything in Egypt, and far surpasses the Alhambra or any Western buildings of its age." It well repays very careful study of details, both within and without. The guardian was an old man of over 80, with a venerable beard, who remembered Napoleon. He described him as "a small and sallow man," with an alert manner and a stoop, who stamped his foot, in a manner which the old man imitated. Time has given a splendid tint to the lacework of varied tracery on domes and minarets, which glowed in the winter sun.

The heat was now tempered by a cool breeze. Groups of small Arab children followed us, many of them in the garb of nature. Trains of camels passed noiselessly. The silence was only broken by occasional booming from the Mokattam hill, where limestone was being blasted in quarries that have supplied building stone from the days of remote Pharaohs.

Our host had, we found, taken great pains in his hospitable arrangements, and his cook was quite equal to the occasion. Lunch was admirably served by the Bey's Egyptian and Nubian servants, and the menu was about as follows:—

Ekshili shurba	Slightly acid soup
Sussuz kufté	Minced meat croquettes
Imam bayaldi	"The Imam (prayer leader) fainted." Egg-plant stew
Orman kebábe	Stuffed sheep roasted whole
Tavak piláf	Chicken piláf (rice)
Serai lokmasi	Palace morsels (sweet cakes)
Baklevé	Sweet flake pastry
Yusuf Effendi oranges.	Hejaz dates
Rahát lokum	"Turkish delight" (from Hajji Bekir, of Constantinople)

Turkish coffee
Turkish Cigarettes

Rose water was poured over the hands.

An Ottoman dinner is now often a very good, but comparatively uninteresting, combination of Eastern and Western cookery. In Cairo there is, I believe, no place where you can go and order a Turkish or Arab meal. Mark Twain's experiences were not, if I remember rightly, favourable. At Constantinople you may make a very good choice of Oriental dishes at some of the well-stocked cookshops; e.g., at Scutari, across the Bosphorus. Many Turks, by the way, still prefer to drink water at meals; and at a Turkish dinner party you may still hear a Pasha discuss the qualities of different springs in the Ottoman Empire, just as a French connoisseur may discourse on the different virtues of different choice vintages.

Our return ride brought us through the "Gate of Victory," or *Bab en-Nasr* (eleventh century), one of the most interesting points in the city walls, near the great ruined mosque of Sultan Hakin. You can ascend its staircase, and then traverse the walls to the great "Gate of Conquests," or *Bab-el-Futoúh*. This part of the old walls is seldom visited, but it well repays inspection. When Napoleon occupied Cairo, French troops held it for defence, and French names are cut in the different towers and at other points.

R. M.

THE PRINCE'S ISLANDS.

A correspondent sends us the following extracts from "Constantinople and the Seven Churches of Asia Minor," by the Rev. Robert Walsh, LL.D., Chaplain to the British Embassy. They are of interest at the present time in view of the conference with Russian representatives which it is proposed to hold at the Prince's Islands:—

"The Cyclades of the Propontis was anciently called Demonesca, or the 'Islands of the Spirits,' but under the Lower Empire they assumed another denomination. Irene, the widow of Flavius Leo, had put out the eyes of her son in order that she herself might reign in his place; for this she was banished by his successor to these islands, and, having built a monastry on one of them to atone for her guilt, and erected edifices where females of the Imperial family were educated, the group was called, therefore, after her, the 'Princess' Islands.' The largest island is Prinkipo, meaning the residence of a princess. The next in importance is Halki, or Chalki, from its copper mines.

"The enterprising Queen Elizabeth, among other explorers, sent Harebone to open a communication with the East. She wrote a Latin letter addressed 'Augustissimo invictissmoque principi Sultan Murad Can,' in which she seems not only to prize highly the incipient reformation in England, but also to recommend herself to the Turk by a principle common to Islamism, 'an unconquerable opposition to idolatry.' Her letter was well received, and Sir E. Barton was appointed her first resident Ambassador. He accompanied Amurath in his Hungarian wars, and died on his return to Constantinople. He was buried in the Island of Halki, and his monument still exists in a Greek convent. Hence originated an English resident at Constantinople."

Our correspondent adds that the tomb referred to, which stands just outside the monastery gates, is in a very bad state of repair. The British authorities, he suggests, should put it in a better condition, having the marble repolished and the lettering of the inscription restored.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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In the interesting particulars of Roumania's present position which are given on another page there is one passage to which I wish to draw special attention, and that is the reference to the prospects for British trade with that country. Even now, despite the influence of the Serbian and Greek missions, the impression still obtains in some quarters that the Balkan market is too difficult to enter, and that it is impossible to develop our trade there to a satisfactory extent. Perhaps those who are of this opinion—and they are happily decreasing in number—will change their minds when they learn that in Roumania a most attractive opening awaits British traders, and that business people there "are simply asking for us to come in." Whether we take advantage of this opening or not depends entirely on the enterprise of merchants and manufacturers. In the circumstances it is, of course, unthinkable that they should not throw themselves whole-heartedly into the task of developing their trade with Roumania, and I am confident they will do their best to meet the situation.

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In this connection I must lay stress on the point that the growing desire for trade with Great Britain is not confined to Roumania. The case is precisely the same with regard to Greece and Serbia, who are only too anxious to increase their trade relations with us provided they are afforded the requisite facilities; and altogether the outlook for the British trader in the Balkans is exceptionally satisfactory at the present time.

***

I drew attention in these columns recently to the unfortunate position that had arisen in regard to trade with India owing to the fact that traders there are in a position to obtain their requirements at low prices from other countries, and wish, therefore, to cancel contracts for goods ordered here during the war, very possibly many months ago, and not delivered owing to war-time conditions. The question has been taken up by the London Chamber of Commerce, which, at the request of various indent merchants interested in the Indian trade, arranged a meeting for January 30 with a view to discussing the possibility of joint action. I shall be interested to learn whether the meeting favoured the suggestion I referred to—that a system of licences should be instituted for imports into India by which preference would be given to the oldest contracts, and goods ordered subsequent to the armistice would not be released until all former orders had been carried out. It seems the best way out of the difficulty.

***

The latest news of the Bombay cotton strike is that while work has not yet been fully resumed the strike shows signs of terminating. We are still left to imagine the causes of the strike, but we now know something of its development through the publication of a letter by the Millowners' Association, which points out that the workpeople made no statement of their alleged grievances before leaving their work, and, further, gave no notice that they intended to strike. Presumably their demands, which I mentioned last week, for an increase in pay and a bonus for the Armistice, were in the nature of a second thought. There is nothing essentially peculiar in this process, for we on this side the "Black Water" are quite familiar with the spectacle of strikers trying very hard to find some reason for their action.

***

The view is held here that while no doubt various factors have contributed to the strike the main cause has probably been the economic position. India has been forced to depend more and more upon her own resources for the supply of lower-grade cotton goods, and the shortage, combined with a movement on the part of dealers to get control of supplies, sent prices up to a high level. This has undoubtedly been a source of hardship to the Bombay workpeople. Another matter which has had an increasing incidence has been the gradual rise in food prices. On the top of this came the bad monsoon, which affected Bombay in particular. Conditions in that Presidency, it is pointed out, have not been particularly favourable to the workers, so that there is no reason whatever for drawing any conclusions as to labour developments in India from this strike. It is rather to be looked upon as an isolated occurrence due to local factors.

***

Some valuable details regarding the Taurus section of the Baghdad Railway have been given by the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*. The railway between Bozanti, in the Taurus, and Aleppo is on the whole in first-class condition, he says, and trains can run all the way, but the tunnels need lining with masonry, otherwise they will fall in after heavy rains. The tunnel work has been finished on the Amanus range, and the track is laid and well ballasted for heavy trains to run at forty-five miles per hour, while there is ample rolling stock and material to meet present needs.

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An interesting point emphasised by the correspondent is that the original estimate for the Taurus tunnel has been largely exceeded owing to the urgency of the work due to the war. "How this huge capital outlay is to be paid," he adds "is a matter for settlement between the Ottoman and German Governments and the railway company, which, though nominally an international corporation registered in Switzerland, is actually backed by the Deutsche Bank. Future traffic through the Taurus cannot hope to pay the enormous outlay, which was only justified on strategic grounds. The commercial price will therefore have to be based on the economic value, without taking into account the original cost."

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The correspondent also briefly touches on the rich economic possibilities of the region touched by that part of the railway, and says that in the Adana vilayet it is probable that, other things being equal, more progress could be made than in Palestine and Syria. Besides the rich soil, which is capable of yielding two or three crops a year, he points out that there are many mines in the area. "Coal is also found in the vicinity, but the quality has not yet been proved. Forests are plentiful and magnificent, and all the requirements of Egypt could be supplied if cutting were organised and the necessary shipping could be provided. . . . Irrigation possibilities should prove interesting to engineers as well as to financiers. Much cotton is grown, and there are cotton factories in Adana; indeed, if aeroplanes had dropped bombs on a certain factory in that town most of the Turkish Army would have been without clothing. There are over three hundred steam ploughs in the country, and there is room for more; but what is wanted is some firm for organising repair shops."

***

The first report of the British Trade Corporation covering a full year's operations, which has just been issued, makes a good showing, the profit being £71,600, against a profit of £9,700 for the period from April 21 to December 21, 1917. During the year commercial conditions remained unfavourable to the development of its activities in connection with the financing of overseas trade, but it is pointed out that arrangements have been made in various directions which, it is anticipated, will bear fruit in the near future. As regards the balance-sheet, it may be noted that the assets total £3,950,000, of which cash and money at call amount to £685,300, British Treasury bills £1,000,000, and investments £572,900. The item bills discounted, loans and advances, amounts to £1,090,000, and this and also the amount of £367,200 invested in subsidiary companies may be expected to increase rapidly with the war out of the way.

COMMENTATOR.

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Conditions in Roumania.

Eagerness for British Goods.

The following particulars of the present situation in Roumania have been received from a valued correspondent:—

With regard to the oil industry, it appears that the machinery is in fairly satisfactory condition. The Germans did everything in their power to put the fields in working order, and they succeeded in raising the production of oil to three-quarters of the pre-war standard. The result is that now there is an abundant surplus of oil. All available receptacles are full; and some oil is going to waste.

The immediate outlook for the resumption of other exports from Roumania is not good. The potential position, however, is excellent. Next year there should be a little maize and wheat for export. But there is, of course, the possibility that the position may improve in this respect.

At present communications simply do not exist. There is no railway material, or very little. In the absence of communications towns fifty miles apart are completely cut off from one another.

There is some food in the country, but little of it reaches the towns. Prices have risen enormously, and what can be procured is very expensive. The purchasing value of a lei (franc) is about 1d.

There is now a total lack of organisation, or rather complete disorganisation. In such circumstances it is inevitable that unrest should manifest itself, arising mainly from the shortcomings in regard to distribution. If this unrest should come to a head, there is little fear of its being tinged with Bolshevism.

During their occupation of Roumanian territory the Germans took all they could, but paid high prices (in paper money) for everything. They had a printing press in the country, which turned out notes freely, the amount put into circulation being estimated at 2½ milliards of francs. They turned the fruit of the country into jam, of which they obtained enough to feed the entire German Army, with the result that little jam is to be had now.

Measures are being taken against all German interests in Roumania. Returns have been called for for all German property, which it is the intention of the country to sequestrate or put under control.

As to the opening for British trade in Roumania, if merchants and manufacturers here care to avail themselves of their opportunities, a most attractive market awaits them. Nothing can better describe the position than the statement that business people in Roumania are simply asking for us to come in. There is no need to hold an exhibition of British goods in the country in order to develop trade. It is simply a question of taking steps to find out what are the Roumanians' wants, and supplying the goods at the earliest possible moment. The apparent difficulty in connection with the resumption of trade, that of financing imports until the export trade reaches its former level, will doubtless be met by the money that will have to be made available for the work of reconstruction.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 23:—

Widespread general rain in Central India, Central Provinces, United Provinces, East Punjab, and East Rajputana. Also general rain in Madras, Baluchistan, Assam, and Bengal. Local rain in Bihar and Orissa.

Fully good Broach, April-May, quoted 605 rupees a candy. Piece goods quiet. Calcutta gunny market quiet; sellers optimistic. No change in raw jute market since last week.

Work not yet fully resumed in Bombay mills, though strike shows signs of terminating.

A new saw-mills company has been floated in Calcutta (capital 250,000 rupees). Managing agents, Messrs. Linton, Molesworth and Co.

Messrs. Marshall, Sons and Co. is under conversion into a limited company with a factory near Calcutta for manufacturing tea machinery. Capital, 40 lakhs; 2½ lakhs over subscribed.

The detailed survey instead of the original reconnaissance survey has been sanctioned of the Chord line from Perbatipur to Bonarpara (metre gauge), Eastern Bengal Railway, Dinajpur and Rangpur districts.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY DEBENTURES.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Co. has informed holders of debenture bonds to bearer falling due on February 2 that the directors, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, are prepared to renew such debentures at £99 10s. per £100 (10s. per cent. discount) for a further period of two years, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum interest.

A branch of the Eastern Bank, Limited, has been opened at Hillah (Mesopotamia).

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has consented to receive a deputation from the Federation of British Industries on the question of the excess profits tax and other matters.

EGYPT'S COMMERCE.

Decreased Exports in November.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 1.

The trade returns for November just published by the Egyptian Customs Administration show a large falling off in exports, whilst imports are comparatively stationary. During the month imports totalled £E3,279,261 and exports £E2,269,454, as against £E3,272,514 and £E4,720,099 respectively a year ago. The total for the eleven months is, imports £E44,315,469, and exports £E41,212,421, compared with £E28,296,924 and £E34,56,248 at the end of November, 1917.

The principal imports during the month were: Cheese £E65,135, meat £E501,951, hides and skins £E42,49, vegetable oils £E93,162, stationery £E57,357, coal £E667,129, medicinal products and preparations £E45,829, cotton piece goods £E338,467, silks and ribbons £E46,539, sacks £E156,397, ready-made underclothing etc. £E105,760, manufactured iron and steel £E125,411, and tobacco £E278,356. The chief diminution was in "textiles," which in the aggregate fell off by one third, or £E570,993 (practically all in cotton piece goods) and manufactured iron and steel, which fell by one half. Coal imports increased by £E391,795, in value and 36,393 tons in quantity.

The main exports were: Hides and skins, etc. £E74,900, rice £E35,098, cotton seed £E159,267, sugar £E93,418, liquid fuel £E28,294, cotton £E1,659,330, and cigarettes £E94,151. Cotton exports fell off by £E2,549,201 and thus were mainly responsible for the diminution in the month's total. Liquid fuel, rice, sugar, and cigarettes all showed slight increases.

Great Britain's share of the imports fell off by 15 per cent. to £E1,318,512, that of France diminished by 50 per cent. and that of Italy by 20 per cent. On the other hand Japan increased by 50 per cent. to £E151,244 (matches, silks and ribbons, ready-made underclothing and tobacco), America more than doubled (manufactured iron and steel and hides and skins, etc.), and Australia rose from £E153,113 to £E572,495 (cheese and meat). Under exports the share of the United Kingdom fell by 50 per cent. to £E1,741,584 and that of the United States dwindled from over three quarters of a million to nothing. France doubled her purchases to £E165,605 (cotton seed and cotton), Greece to £E99,574 (hides and skins and cotton), but Italy fel from £E286,058 to practically nil. The main cause of these decreases was cotton, of which the United Kingdom took £E1,553,352, or 94 per cent.

Trade with the Sudan during the month came to £E399,825, of which £E216,988 were imports into Egypt and £E182,837 exports to the Sudan. In both cases there was a considerable increase in the values as compared with the same month in 1918. The chief imports into Egypt were livestock £E142,025 (29,912 head), cereals £E22,480, and gums £E14,218, whilst the principal exports to the Sudan were sugar £E42,069, and cotton piece goods £E48,349.

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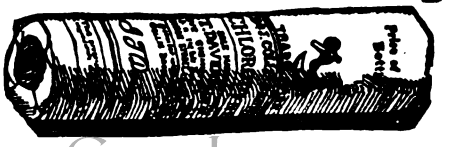
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THE MOROCCO MARKET.

Post-War Requirements.

An interesting report has just been published from the acting British Consul at Casablanca, in which he says that the manufacture locally of agricultural implements, such as light iron ploughs and motor tractors, which in normal times are imported from France and the United States, was remarked upon at the last "Concours Agricole," held last October at Casablanca. Several of these were on exhibition, and it was noticed that the tractors were copied from the American tractors of a well-known type.

A factory of tallow candles has been started at Marrakesh and the product put on this market. Soap factories have also sprung into existence in several of the towns, and small foundry shops are also producing articles which it is difficult to procure from Europe at present. It is not expected, however, that these small concerns can, even if permanent, affect the importation from foreign countries.

Great Shortage of Stocks.

Stocks of most manufactured articles, excepting cotton goods, are very short as compared with normal pre-war periods, and the future demand will not be immediately affected through increase of price.

Exports have increased generally during the war owing to intensified production of cereals and other grains. Exports to the United Kingdom are greatly reduced owing to shortage of tonnage and war restrictions, falling from 12¼ million francs in 1915 to 6¼ million francs in 1916, whereas exports to France rose from 32½ million francs in 1915 to 56 million francs in 1916.

Imports from countries other than the United Kingdom increased from 149 million francs in 1913 to 172 million francs in 1916. This general increase is mainly in the French imports. Other foreign countries whose imports increased were the United States, Portugal, and Italy.

Sugar, flour, wine, woollen cloths, copper and brass wire and sheets, cement, gasoline, machinery, candles, and soap come from France; flour, gasoline, machinery, motor-cars from the United States; wines, alcohol, cottons, silks, woollen cloth, cotton thread, and soaps from Italy.

At the same time, it may be observed that although the total imports from Great Britain show a decrease as compared with the normal pre-war period, yet on the other hand certain British manufactures, such as cotton goods, silks, woollen cloths, cotton thread, brass plates, cement, machinery, candles and soaps show a considerable increase in 1916 over pre-war importation. Imports of tea and coals from the United Kingdom also show a marked increase.

Future Competition.

With regard to machinery and motor-cars, the competition of the United States is likely to be permanent. The cotton and woollen goods from Italy are an unusual line of imports from the latter country, and the competition is not serious and will probably disappear after the war. The manufactured silks from the United Kingdom are also an exotic import, and it is only the high prices obtainable on this market which has made the United Kingdom figure as an importer of this class of goods.

The demand for manufactured articles after the war will be in the first instance for those articles which are looked upon as staple articles of importation, such as cotton goods, sugar, candles, soaps, building materials, woollen cloths, hardware, iron and ironware, boots and shoes, clothing, dyes and glassware.

In the machinery line there will be demands for agricultural machinery, such as threshing machines, winnowing machines, harvesters, and sickles and tractors. The motor machinery will also require supplies of petrol and gasoline and lubricating oils.

The railways in Morocco are so far State-owned, and such as exist are of the narrow gauge and have received most of their engines and rails from the United States. Manufacturers in the United Kingdom should be on the look-out for tenders, and send in their offers to the Protectorate authorities.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE AND EMPIRE TRADE.

Burma's Undeveloped Resources.

In a recent number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* a former Governor of Burma—Sir Harvey Adamson, K.C.S.I.—gave an account of this interesting but somewhat neglected dependency of the Empire. In the current number of the Journal Mr. A. S. Judge, lately chief collector of Customs, Burma, completes the story of the great and still largely undeveloped resources of this territory, in an article entitled "The Development of the Trade of Burma." Burma is of importance not only as an actual and potential source of supply of many industrial raw materials, but also as a market for British-made goods, and Mr. Judge points out that the total trade of the country already amounts to about £3 13s. 4d. per head of the population, which puts it almost on a level with Spain and Portugal, countries with a trade of £4 and £4 3s. per head of the population respectively.

Burma is the world's largest producer of rice, and occupies an important position as an exporter of timber, especially teak, oil-seeds, grain and pulse, cotton, tobacco, rubber, hides and skins. With regard to minerals, the most important product of Burma is petroleum, the exports of which have risen in value from £1,500,000 in 1903-4 to nearly £4,503,000 in 1916-17.

On all these and other subjects much information is given in this article, and attention is also directed to the nature of the chief imports into Burma, and there are many useful hints to the British manufacturer, which are the outcome of Mr. Judge's long residence in the country and the special facilities he enjoyed for acquiring a knowledge of its trade.

Cinchona Bark.

In the same number is an important article on "The Future of the Trade in Cinchona Bark." Everyone is familiar with the story of the introduction of cinchona trees from South America into India and Ceylon, and the development of a large export trade in cinchona bark from these British territories to Europe, a trade that also benefited London, which in those days was the world's cinchona market. Only those in the trade know, however, that India and Ceylon have long ceased to take anything but a very minor part in the production of cinchona bark, of which Java, and therefore Holland, has now a virtual monopoly, whilst Amsterdam has supplanted London as a market. The matter is of importance because quinine, which can only be got from cinchona bark, is the recognised remedy for malaria, and with its vast expanses of tropical territory the British Empire is probably the largest consumer of quinine in the world.

The article gives a full description of the position of the trade in cinchona bark and quinine, and shows the predominant position occupied by Holland and Java. The Germans were apparently making efforts to grow their own cinchona bark before the war, and there is appended to this article a report by the institute on bark grown in the conquered German territory in East Africa, as well as a report on bark from St. Helena, which proved to be of good quality, but, of course, is not available in large quantity.

Included in the contents of this issue is a note by Mr. G. C. Dudgeon dealing with the results of recent Egyptian researches on the "Pink Boll Worm Pest of Cotton."

SUDAN LETTER POST.

The Sudan Post Office calls attention to the delay and inconvenience which arise from sending articles liable to Customs duty to the Sudan by letter post. Under Sudan regulations articles liable to Customs duty (and these include almost all articles likely to be sent by post, except correspondence, printed matter, and bona-fide samples) may only be imported by parcel post. Such articles arriving by letter post are detained at Khartoum and are not released until certain formalities are complied with, which may include the attendance of the addressee to witness the opening of the packets.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal in 1918 amounted to 81,070,000 francs, against 63,120,000 francs in 1917, 89,044,276 francs in 1916, 93,957,468 francs in 1915, 122,139,714 francs in 1914, and 129,925,000 francs in 1913.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—January 21, 22, 23, 1,100,000 francs, against 830,000 francs.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Morava-Vardar Waterway.

In an interview with one of Reuter's correspondents in Paris last week, M. Paschitch, the Serbian Premier, discussed the question of a canal from the Danube to Salonika. The Serbs, he said, suggested that by rendering the Morava River navigable, which could easily be done, and by constructing a canal from the Morava to the Vardar, a splendid channel of communication with Central Europe would be provided, which would be much shorter than the present route through the Black Sea and the Bosphorus.

The great benefits which Serbia would derive by the utilisation of her rivers, and the technical possibilities for joining the Morava River to the Vardar River have been frequently discussed in these notes during the last two or three years. The statement of M. Paschitch, and the interest that is being shown in the subject, according to recent information, in certain quarters in Serbia, shows that the question is now receiving serious attention.

With regard to the union of the Morava and the Vardar reference has been made to the construction of a canal from Ristowal, via Kumanovo, to Uskub. This would effect the junction, and give Serbia a most valuable waterway running through the whole country from the Danube to the Gulf of Salonika. It has been suggested, we understand, that there are difficulties in the way of utilising the Morava and the Vardar waters. Of course, there are difficulties in everything. First, it is said that Serbia is now a poor country, and cannot afford great expenditure. But the enterprise is such a sound business undertaking that it is more than probable that friends of Serbia would be glad to undertake the carrying out of the scheme.

Greece's Agriculture.

The General Bank of Greece has recently established a new company, "The Agricultural Industries Company, Limited," with a capital of 3,000,000 frs. (£120,000), for the production and preparation of wines, cognac, liqueurs, alcohols, olive oils, etc., of the best qualities. The names of the directors of the company are those of prominent business men, financiers, merchants, and manufacturers who are well known throughout the Near East. The new company has already established two factories—one at Piræus, the port of Athens, and one at Calamata, the port for the vine, fig, and olive districts of the Peloponnesus. They are both equipped with the latest type of machinery and distilling apparatus for their purpose, all of which has been provided from France and Italy. Apropos of the latter fact, it is remarkable that British manufacturers have not yet been able to introduce their distilling apparatus to the Near East, where the demand for it is steadily increasing, and French and Italian manufacturers have the monopoly in those markets.

Technical Difficulties.

Another difficulty put forward is that many locks will be required, which would be a big item in the cost. Weirs and locks are, of course, necessary for the improvement of the navigation of a river, but it is not always understood that its cost should be considered as being the whole cost of many miles of navigable water. For instance, if there is a fall in a river in which six inches to the mile has to be corrected, a weir having a fall of ten feet would affect twenty miles of navigation and be the actual cost of all those miles, affording a means of communication the cheapest to make, the cheapest to use, and the least expensive to keep in repair of any ever suggested. Apart from this, there is the available water power from the falls, which is of great value owing to its capability of being carried by an electric wire to almost any distance.

Another suggested difficulty is, in the case of irrigation, that the lie of the land will prevent much of it from being watered. Of course, that is unavoidable, for water cannot be led to the whole surface of the country, but how much of the land has the benefit of the water will depend in a great measure upon the skill of the engineer.

The value of water power is greater now than it ever was before, from the convenient way in which it can be carried to a distance by the electric wire; while the water itself as a means of transport is fully admitted to be the cheapest means yet suggested.

Caspian-Black Sea Waterway.

We had referred to the plans for the construction of a canal to connect the Volga with the Don. The war and the consequent political troubles in Russia, it was supposed, prevented the carrying out of the scheme, but according to recent reports it appears that, in spite of the political troubles, a start has been made with the Volga-Don Canal. The project is of considerable interest, as it concerns the union of the Caspian Sea with the Black Sea, a question of great commercial importance in the Near East. The Volga is one of the chief routes for the carriage of the petroleum obtained on the Caspian Sea. The Volga-Don Canal establishes communication between the Caspian Sea and its adjacent regions and the Black Sea. The Don, which flows into the Sea of Azov below Rostow, makes a great bend with its centre stream, and approaches the Volga Canal at Zamzyn, and the canal will be cut at that point. The large Volga tank-ships, which carry oil to Petrograd, can sail to the Sea of Azov, whence the oil can be brought on sea-going ships to the Danube. The canal will also help the transport of the Donetz coal. From the engineering point of view the Volga-Don Canal is interesting, as there are very high gradients to surmount, and the depth must be sufficient for 1,000 ton vessels. The canal will be about 95 versts long, and contain thirteen locks of 100 metres length. The cost of construction is estimated at Rls. 328 million. Whether the work can be finished, as it is expected, in three years, must depend on political conditions in Russia.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

The one hundred and thirty-eighth half-yearly general meeting of the stockholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on January 24, at the offices, 48, Copthall-avenue, London Wall, Sir Charles H. Armstrong, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The chairman referred with great regret to the resignation from the Board of Mr. H. C. E. Wenden, owing to advancing years. They had offered the vacant seat to Mr. A. Muirhead, from whom they received a telegram of acceptance a few days ago. Mr. Muirhead was General Traffic Manager of the railway for many years, and was now Agent in India of the South Indian Railway, which appointment he was very shortly vacating. During the half-year the gross receipts were over 6¼ crores of rupees, which was a record figure, and, compared with the corresponding six months in 1917, the increase in gross receipts was just over one crore. Their expenditure, on the other hand, increased by 68 lakhs of rupees, and amounted to very nearly 3½ crores as compared with a little over 2¾ crores in the corresponding half-year. The net revenue was 2 crores 85 lakhs, against 2 crores 50 lakhs, an increase of 34.79 lakhs, or 13.94 per cent. The passenger traffic during the six months, notwithstanding the increased fares which were introduced from June 1, 1917, was heavy, and they also carried a very large number of troops. The excess on the corresponding half-year was half a million passengers and the additional revenue on the whole traffic was just over 25 lakhs of rupees. The goods traffic was heavier in public merchandise by 524,000 tons, and the increase in revenue under this head was 68½ lakhs of rupees. In coaching they increased 17.92 per cent., and in goods 19.78 per cent. So far as goods were concerned, they gained a good deal by conditions brought about by the war, which resulted in a considerable amount of traffic having been sent to Bombay for shipment instead of to Calcutta and Madras, where it would have gone if times had been normal. It was hardly likely that they would retain all this additional traffic, but they hoped, nevertheless, that some of it would continue to come to Bombay.

In the year which preceded the war their earnings from coaching were 2¾ crores of rupees, against 4¼ crores in the 12 months ending last September, and from goods 6 crores against 7.90 crores. Their total earnings had increased from 8.93 crores to 12.39 crores, the percentage increases being 56.21 in coaching, 30.11 in goods, and 38.59 per cent. in the total earnings. These figures were illustrative of the effort made by the G.I.P. Railway to cope with the new conditions brought about by the war, and he thought they might fairly congratulate themselves on the satisfactory results. In the carriage of coal and coke their receipts increased by a little over 3 lakhs of rupees. In the year before the war they carried for the public 810,000 tons coal, and their receipts were 29 lakhs of rupees. In the year which ended on September 30, they carried 1,822,000 tons, and their receipts were just over a crore of rupees. They carried also in addition for themselves 1½ million tons of coal, as against 982,000 tons in the year ending September 30, 1914. Coal now gave the highest receipts of any commodity carried, but it filled a very large number of wagons which could often be more profitably employed in other ways. This, so far as their own consumption is concerned, was a matter they kept very carefully before them, and now the war was over he hoped it might not be long before they were able to import oil in some quantity from the Anglo-Persian Oilfield. For this fuel they were making storage arrangements in Bombay and elsewhere, and when more tank steamers were available they hoped to be able to lay in a good supply. The question of electrification was still also before us, and they were hoping to receive before very long the report of their expert advisers on the whole subject. Their receipts from cotton were 4½ lakhs less than in the corresponding six months, and this was due to the crop having turned out much smaller than at one time seemed likely, owing to late rains which fell in October and November, 1917. He was sorry to have to report that the cotton prospects for the present year were also unsatisfactory. So far as could be estimated at present the crop was not likely to be more than 50 per cent. of a normal outturn, although in the Berars, which was an important district for them, it might be rather better than this.

Now that the war was over they were placing large orders for necessary supplies, but the cost of these would be far in excess of the prices current in pre-war days. These purchases, however, were urgently necessary, as so little had been done during the four years of the war. Other railways, not only in India, but elsewhere, were in a similar position, and early purchases must, therefore, be made if quick deliveries were to be obtained. There were still, however, considerable restrictions in connection with the output of steel and other materials required by railways, and he agreed with Lord Inchcape that the sooner the bulk of these restrictions were withdrawn the better for all concerned. Their expenditure on capital account had been only 18¼ lakhs of rupees, but some useful work had been done nevertheless, and they were now hoping that it would not be long before they were able to complete the doubling to Nagpur, as until this important work was finished, they would not be in a position to accept at all times all the traffic offered to them at Nagpur by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. They had been urging the completion of this doubling for some time, as they looked upon this work as very urgent and necessary as the Railway Board had recently sanctioned expenditure for dealing with increased traffic on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. In their workshops they had manufactured large supplies for the forces in Mesopotamia, East Africa, Egypt and Palestine. According to their latest information 148 men from their Indian staff had been fighting in the different theatres of the war. Of these he much regretted to say five had been killed in action, and three had been wounded; seven had also died on active service and fifteen were taken prisoners. The Military Cross and Distinguished Service Order had been awarded to three of the survivors and honours had also been conferred upon several of their officers who have remained in India in recognition of the good work they had done upon the line. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Managing Director (Mr. J. E. Dallas) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Major Sir Lawless Hepper (the agent), the heads of departments and members of the staff in India, and to the home staff; and a similar compliment to the chairman and the directors terminated the proceedings.

Land Bank of Egypt.

The report of the directors for the year ended September 30, read at the general meeting held in Alexandria on December 3, states:—

Continuing to enjoy, under the British Protectorate, favourable conditions such as no other belligerent country has known, Egypt's economic position has been maintained and improved. A succession of favourable Niles has enabled the land to yield varied crops, the price of which has reached a level hitherto unknown. The wise measures taken by the Government have reduced the cultivable area reserved to cotton, the principal export, but have had the truly gratifying result of developing specially the production of the cereals necessary for feeding the people and of inducing the cultivator to redouble his efforts to produce commodities of prime importance, avoiding also, as far as possible, the dangers of an undue concentration upon one crop. The cotton crop exceeded 6,300,000 quintals (Kantars), and the price obtained gave the produce an excellent return, despite the increased cost of labour and of certain indispensable materials, such as fuel. The total value of that crop was considerably more than £E50,000,000. The position of the Land Bank of Egypt, closely connected with that of the landed proprietors, has naturally been affected by the prosperity of the country. Receipts in cash have been exceptionally high; in view of the state of our finances, we have thought advisable to repay to the Crédit Foncier Egyptien the advance which that establishment had granted us in 1913 until the circumstances permitted an issue of shares. In using certain of its powers of disposal for the transfer of funds to Europe, by the advantageous state of the exchange or for investment in Government loans, easily realisable, the company has not been unmindful of its chief purpose. It has closely followed the resumption of transactions in mortgages, already begun last year, and has concluded a certain number of loans, observing, notwithstanding the marked rise in land values, the prudence necessary in the valuations of the securities offered. These loans number 91, for a sum of £E431,135.099, which, added to the existing loans and to our realisations by sales, brings the total of our transactions guaranteed by mortgage on vendor's privilege, to £E3,455,675.675. Our annuities in arrears have been reduced from £E378.501.032 to £E216,184.950, of which £E90.775.853 are arrears correctly so called, and £E125,409.105 are loans maturing during the year. The settlement of our property continues in satisfactory conditions, and, thanks to favourable circumstances, our account "real property expropriated" has fallen from £E222,974.330 to £E143,100.024. While continuing to set aside interest of which the recovery appears uncertain, the profits of the year are increased to £E326,997.576, against £E323,062.263 for the last year. Our general expenses are increased in consequence of the necessity for improving the position of our staff, who have shown great devotion to our interests, in granting them supplementary allowances. Various charges, such as general expenses, sundry taxes, etc., give a surplus of receipts on expenses of £E148,573,020. Your board proposes to strengthen the bank's position in the following manner:—(1) Provision for the amortisation of debentures, premiums, and charges, £E13,528.681; (2) amortisation of real property, movables, and brokerage on mortgages, £E5,409.578; (3) provision for risks on loans and the amortisation of the property, £E21,000, or a total of £E39.938.259. The net profit of £E108.634.761, to which is added the balance from the previous year, will allow of the distribution of a dividend of 8s. 6d. per ordinary share, and of £3 on the founders' shares. In expressing to those members of the staff in the Allied Armies our wishes for their happy return after the victory, definitely obtained to-day, we take the opportunity of thanking their colleagues who have assisted us with the greatest devotion. In the course of the past year we have had the sorrow of losing our president, M. Jules Charles Roux. You know the very important place he held in business circles. President or director of leading financial houses, he applied to his varied interests his unrivalled intelligence, his experience of men and affairs, and his energies. At the same time his kindness and courtesy made him one of the most notable and most appreciated personalities of our time. Director of our company from its foundation, he became its president in 1912, and since that time he followed more and more closely the development of our business. In honour of his memory your Board has set aside a sum for the award of 300 francs each year to the children of a sailor of the French mercantile marine who has died in the pursuit of his duty. We are confident that this meeting will decide to give us its support in this act of remembrance. To the family of our president we express our heartfelt regret and condolences. Associated with him since the opening of our business was our auditor, Mr. A. Gorra, whose loss we also have to deplore. He fulfilled perfectly the duties with which we entrusted him, and he leaves behind him the memory of a good man. We take this opportunity of

BRIAR HB PIPES
FOR ALL MARKETS.
ILLUSTRATED PRICE LISTS and Indents through European Houses.
HARWOOD BROTHERS, Briar Pipe Man'f'rs, 20/24, Richmond Street, LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND.

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expressing to his family our respectful sympathy.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

EXPENSES.

	£E.	£E.
General expenses	17,281.816	
Directors' fees	1,248	
Stamps on shares and debentures and sundry expenses..	16,884.589	
Interest on debentures	137,330,963	
Sundry interest	5,679.188	
		178,424.556

LIABILITIES.

Provision for debenture amortisation, premises and charges	13,528.681	
Provision for risks on loans	21,000	
Amortisation of brokerages on mortgage loans	868.339	
Provision for loss on furniture	584.470	
Provision for loss on premises	3,956.769	
		39,938.259
Balance		109,042.516
		327,405.331

RECEIPTS.

Interest on mortgages, short loans, sundry interests and repayments, etc	304,846·951
Sundries	22,150·625
Balance from year 1916/17	407·755
	327,405·331

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Societe Industrielle et Commerciale de Salonique.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Société Industrielle et Commerciale de Salonique, held on December 28 at Salonika, it was decided to ratify the proposals of the Council for the exchange of shares for 4,000 new shares issued out of a total of 10,000 new shares, the balance of 6,000 shares being distributed to the shareholders as a bonus. The new shares will have the right to dividends from 1918.

British Trade Corporation.

The report of the British Trade Corporation for the year ended December 31, the first complete year of the corporation's operations, states that owing to the war the commercial conditions existing during the greater part of the year have not been favourable to the development of the corporation's activities in connection with the finance of overseas trade. Arrangements have, however, been made in various directions which, it is anticipated, will bear fruit in the near future. Profit amounts to £71,589, which with £9,671 brought forward makes £81,260. After the payment of income-tax for 1917, writing off preliminary expenses, expenditure on premises, and depreciation on furniture, there remains £64,252. The directors recommend a dividend of 5s. per share (subject to income-tax), leaving £14,252 to be carried forward. Meeting, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., 6th proximo, 3 p.m.

London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.

The report of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank for the year ended December 31 states that, after paying interest to customers and all charges, making provision for bad debts and contingencies, allowing £272,106 for rebate on bills not due and £361,123 for war bonuses and payment to members of staff on active service, the net profit amounts to £2,206,202; £184,599 was brought forward, making £2,390,801. This the directors have appropriated as follows:—Interim dividend of 10 per cent. paid in August (less income-tax), £495,071; a further dividend of 10 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year (less income-tax), £478,169; to bank premises account, £300,000; to reserve, £600,000; to provision for bonus to staff to be paid in new shares, £140,000; balance carried forward, £377,560.

Bengal and North Western Railway.

The report of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Co. for the year ended September 30 last states that the net earnings of the joint undertaking amount to Rs.1,40,94,088, against Rs.1,29,87,327. The company's share is Rs.80,44,214 brought to account at the rate of 1s. 4d., against Rs.72,15,705 at the same rate in 1917. An ad interim dividend for the half-year ended March 31 of 3 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., was paid on the ordinary stock on July 29. After bringing forward the balance of £113,131, providing for interest on debenture and preference stocks, interim dividend and bonus, £35,000

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
RAOUL MALLET,
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall. | **MARSEILLES:** 38, Rue St. Ferreol.

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Seida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East).

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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for the sinking fund for redemption of capital in 1982, transferring £50,000 due to gain by exchange to reserve, and making other adjustments, there is left £237,681. The directors recommend a final dividend of £3 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent., on the ordinary stock, subject to income-tax at 4s. 9d. in £, absorbing £137,250, and to carry forward £100,431. The figures given are net after deducting income-tax, and the dividend with bonus recommended for the year is at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

The directors of the Bambrakelly (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Co. have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (actual) in respect of the year ending March 31 next, payable on 5th proximo. This is equivalent to 1s. per share. Warrants will be posted on 4th proximo to holders registered on that date.

The ordinary stock transfer books of the Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway Co., Ltd., will be closed from February 8 to 22, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing dividend warrants for the six months to September 30, 1918, payable to those shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories.—Transfer books of debenture stock and preference shares will be closed from February 1 to February 11, inclusive.

NEW COMPANIES.

Oriental Bank of Commerce.

The Oriental Bank of Commerce, Limited, has been registered with a capital of £100, in £10 shares, to carry on business as bankers, financiers, concessionnaires, merchants, agents, and underwriters. Power is also taken to carry on business as shipowners, etc.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the nine days ended January 9, were:—Cattle markets £1,673, general markets £823, total per year £2,496. The corresponding figures for the ten days ended January 10, were:—Cattle markets £1,054, general markets £727, total for year £1,781.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to October 31, 1918. (New Style January 14 to November 13, 1918):—

		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piraeus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Oct., 1918		3,557,633	2,5?2,000
Do. do. do 1917		3,648,269	1,060.000
Estimated receipts for 10 months (Law of Control)		24,083,333	8,916,666
Actual do. do. 1918		31,679,475	26,573,000
" " " 1917		28,009,521	10,5?9,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 10 months	1918	+ 7,596,142	+ 17,656,333
	1917	+ 3,926,188	+ 1,642,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

An uncertain feeling has continued to prevail in all quarters of the market, but it is believed in some directions that prices, after showing a considerable fall during the last few months, are now likely to steady somewhat. There is plenty of business waiting to be done when buyers arrive at the opinion that it is safe to operate. American cotton rates have hardened on the reduction of freights. The Government has not made any reduction in Egyptian cotton prices. Various rumours have been about as to the intention of the authorities. It is said, however, that there is not likely to be any restriction of acreage next season. There has been a more pronounced fall in Egyptian yarn quotations. The price of 60's twist is distinctly lower than a month ago. Users have purchased from hand to mouth. Some advices relating to piece goods in Egypt have been rather better. A few more bids have been mentioned, chiefly in sized shirtings. A considerable cloth inquiry has been met with for India, but only here and there have workable offers been met with. Moderate buying has occurred in bleaching goods and dyed materials for China. More manufacturers have been compelled to stop looms or force sales. American yarns are now rather firmer, but prices are distinctly lower on the week. There are indications of a larger turnover, but so far business has been confined to retail lots. Rather more testing of prices has transpired in export yarns.

The Government and Egyptian Cotton.

The decision of the British and Egyptian Governments to purchase the whole of the Egyptian cotton grown this season seems likely to result in a serious loss for the authorities. The scheme was announced last March, and it was then arranged that the whole of the crop for the season beginning August 1 should be taken over at a price based on 42 dollars per cantar and sold at 48 dollars per cantar. In a free market the article is in competition with American cotton, which has declined in price to a considerable extent during the last few months. The lower grades of Egyptian cotton are now practically unsaleable, as the finer qualities of American can be purchased much more cheaply. It remains to be seen what will be done by the authorities, but sooner or later there will have to be a break in prices. Nothing has yet been decided as to whether the control will come to an end next July, but owing to the turn of events, it seems very likely that free buying and selling at prices according to the state of supply and demand will not be allowed for some time to come. The action of the Government, although wise at the time, now seems to have been unfortunate, and it is feared that before matters could be adjusted a serious loss of money will have to be entailed by somebody or other. In the meantime growers in Egypt are very well satisfied with the position of affairs, as they are getting much higher prices than would have prevailed had there been a free market.

The sudden death, from heart failure, took place on January 23, of Mr. W. Hebberdine, O.B.E., secretary-accountant of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Electra House, E.C. He had done much to promote telegraphic and cable communication all over the world.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has again been an active market in Egyptian descriptions this week, and in most cases there is a further rise in prices to be recorded.

In Government stocks, however, there has been nothing doing owing to the lack of sellers. But the price of the 3½ Pref. Loan has improved ½, to 78½.

In Bank shares the feature has been a rise in National Banks of 15-16, to 22⅜, and Agricultural Banks are closing 9-32 up at 7. There is also an improvement of 1-16 in Agricultural Prefs., to 7 9-16.

In Railways there is no change to be recorded.

Amongst Land shares Aboukirs are fractionally harder at 25s. 3d. Béhéras are ¼ higher at 14, and Delta Lands have improved 1-32, to 17s. There has been a considerable business in these shares, as also in New Egyptians, which are again 9d. higher at 25s. 4½d. In Gharbieh Lands some few hundred shares have changed hands round the current price. Sidi Salems have improved 1-16, to 2⅜. at which price there is some further demand, but sellers are scarce. Sudan Plantations have again been a feature, and after rising to nearly 4½ close 3-16 up at 4 5-16. Crédit Union Foncières have had persistent buyers round the current level, but no shares have been offering. United Egyptian Lands are slightly lower at 3s. 4½d.

In Miscellaneous shares a fair amount of business has been done in Alex. Waters round the current level. Egyptian Markets have improved 3d., to 28s., and Salts and Sodas are 5-32 higher at 2 29-32. In Khedivial Mails the reactionary tendency of the Ordinary shares has continued, the price dropping ⅛, to 29s. 9d., but Prefs. are ⅛ better at 4⅜.

In Greek securities the only changes to record are a drop of 1 point in Monopolies, to 59 in 1902 and 1910 to 64, and in 1914 to 79.

Oil Shares.

The market has been much stronger. Anglo-Egyptians B have risen 11-32 to 3 5-16, and Burmahs are up to 8 15-16. British Burmahs have improved 1s. 3d. to 16s. 6d., but Anglo-Persian Preferences are unchanged at 26s. 9d.

Roumanians have been quiet. Roumanian Consols are 6d. better at 16s. 6d. Anglo-Roumanians remain at 9s. 9d., and Traians at 12s. 3d. are also about the same.

In Russians Ural Caspians are a shade stronger at 1 27-32. Bakus at 5s. 6d. are unchanged, as are Russian Generals. Russian Petroleums are 2s. 9d.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares are considerably lower at 5,295 francs. Other prices are: Egyptian Unified 93.50 (against 93.25), Serbian 1895s 61 (unchanged), Turkish Unifieds 70 (against 70.40), Banque d'Athenes 105 (against 104), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 785 (against 787), Land Bank of Egypt 189 (against 185.50), and Ottoman Banks 546 (against 549).

The December shipments of the Phosphates Tunisiens amounted to 18,863 tons, against 10,085 in 1917, making the total shipments in 1918 146,034 tons, against 101,254 tons for the preceding year.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanjue, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Jan. 21	Jan. 28
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90⅜	90⅜
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78	78½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	73	73
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	73	73
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60	59
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56	56
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	73	73
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	65	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	79
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	83½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7 3/32d	7 1/16
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16⅜	16⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	6½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅝	7⅝
British Trade Corporation	—	9⅞	9⅝
Chartered Bank of India	65	—	68½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	—	18⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21 9/16	22½
National Bank of India	43	—	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8 7/16	8 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/-	25/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	13⅜	14
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/4½	17/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/6	16/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/7	25/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	1 1/16	2 1/16	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	4⅜	4 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	71/6	71/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/6	3/4½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 1/16	12 1/16
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 405.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near East, as was inevitable, has begun to figure prominently in the deliberations of the Paris Conference. During the past week a provisional arrangement, in the wording of the *communiqué*, was reached for dealing with the occupied territory of Turkey in Asia. M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, made a detailed statement of Roumanian claims, and M. Venizelos expounded the claims of Greece. The nature of the decisions regarding Turkey has not been divulged, but the Conference or the Council of the Great Powers has announced that the Military Representatives of the Allied and Associated Powers at Versailles are to be asked to meet at once and present a report as to the most equitable and economical distribution among those Powers of the burden of supplying military forces for the purpose of maintaining order in the Turkish Empire pending the decisions of the Peace Conference regarding the Government of Turkish territory.

These precautions in regard to Turkey are eminently sound, although they expose the Conference to the retort that Allied troops are required quite as urgently in other regions awaiting the decisions of the Peace Conference. The work, however, in these other places can be done, for the most part effectually, by military missions in contradistinction to bodies of troops. Turkey would seem to have suffered from the failure of the British to reach Constantinople on the heels of the armistice. Too long an interval was allowed to lapse between the signing of the armistice and the ocular demonstration of the completeness of the British victory. The Germans and their tools of the Committee of Union and Progress had time to discount their own discomfiture; and even when the Allied authorities reached Constantinople their omission to provide a spectacular display of strength and their general moderation only served to confirm in the mind of the ignorant Turk the pretensions of his rulers to having secured a peace "by agreement." But the experience of the Caucasus has shown that there is a pressing need for the presence of Allied forces in districts where the Turkish soldiery is called upon to abandon its war conduct for behaviour more consonant with peace conditions. Particularly is this the case in Armenia.

It is of good augury for the future that the Balkan delegates are winning golden opinions at the Conference for the conciliatory attitude that they are displaying in presenting statements of their claims. There has been no abatement in the sum total of the demands, but it is understood that they are urged without heat, and the spokesmen have been at pains to conciliate the opposite point of view. This was only to be expected, inasmuch as the delegates are responsible statesmen and are in the presence of a tribunal which necessarily commands their respect. To submit to the Conference some of the statements that have done duty for arguments in propagandist utterances and literature would have been too cynical a proceeding. It was, perhaps, not to be expected in the circumstances that any attempt would be made to claim only the irreducible minimum. The Conference had already shown a partiality for compromise, and the temptation to leave a margin for reduction in the statement of claims would be too strong to resist.

Thus Roumania has asked for the whole of the Banat, and Greece for unbroken land communication with Constantinople. But in making these claims much would depend on the spokesman's whole manner of address, and it is this, we gather, that has so favourably impressed the Conference. The belief expressed in these columns in the statesmanship, and, consequently, reasonableness, of the Balkan Premiers has not been belied; and it may be taken for granted that if the final decisions of the Conference are in accord with strict justice, based upon the principles of nationality, and are carefully explained, the same men will give them their loyal and wholehearted support.

Cyprus, as was not unexpected, is included in the Greek claims. On the strength of the conciliatory spirit in which the discussions in Paris are being carried on, it is permissible here to indicate part, at least, of the other side of the question. Great Britain is not likely to claim the retention of Cyprus merely for the lust of possession. The Conference, therefore, should require to be convinced that a change of ownership will be in the interests of the island and of the whole population. It is perfectly true that the majority of the inhabitants are Greek. The Greeks are a colonising nation, and from the earliest times have settled in Cyprus; but at no time in its history since the time of Alexander the Great has the island been connected politically with Greece proper. Consequently, the Archbishop of Cyprus, in speaking on a deputation to the Secretary of State to the Colonies, of the "return of Cyprus to the

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maternal bosom of Hellas," provided an instance of that propagandist hyperbole which, it is to be hoped, the Paris Conference has been spared. The Cypriot prelate, of course, knows better, but his record goes to prove that he would with equal assurance have agitated for the return of India or part of London to the maternal bosom of Hellas, if by chance either of these places had happened to be within his see.

If history is to be invoked, the claims of Egypt upon Cyprus are decisive. As far as Greece is concerned, the different city-states of the island were altogether independent of Hellas, both at the time of Alexander's conquest and when Cyprus became a Roman province. With all the neighbouring countries it was incorporated in the Byzantine Empire, but it was already completely separated from that empire when it was conquered by Richard I., from whom the island passed by sale to the Knights Templars and subsequently to a dynasty of Frank kings. It then became a dependency of Venice, until it was conquered by the Turks in 1571. Ancient history is not likely to carry weight with the Paris Conference, but it seems necessary to controvert the mistaken idea that the history of Cyprus is on all fours with that of Serbia or Greece herself, with the exception that it has not yet been restored to its former "owners."

The present-day problem in connection with the island turns on the fate of the Turkish minority among the islanders. They have proved themselves loyal British subjects, and have made up their minds that they will not pass under the jurisdiction of their Greek fellow-citizens. It is idle to suppose that there would be peace in Cyprus for a week, if the British administration were withdrawn. From the Greek point of view this fact is unfortunate, but it has to be faced. Is it, therefore, better to continue the existing regime, which at least secures peace on the island, or to run the risk of arousing afresh the fierce antagonism between Greek and Turk, and so perpetuating unrest in the Near East? President Wilson has himself set a precedent in these matters. He has expressed his regret to the Italian nation that he is unable to hand over New York to it, and Great Britain might with equal force adopt the same line of argument to the Greeks in respect of Cyprus and Alexandria.

There has been no unseemly haste in publishing the names of the Committee on the reform of the India Office, for it was on October 23 that Lord Islington stated that a Committee "had now been appointed," and it was on January 31 that its constitution was announced. On the whole we should describe the list as adequate, but not inspiring; there is undoubtedly some force in the objection which has already been taken to the appointment as chairman of the Marquess of Crewe, who not long ago made an unsuccessful attempt at reform in precisely the opposite direction to what is now required, but the incident should not seriously embarrass so versatile a politician, and we have no doubt that the Committee will settle down to its task unhampered by the old ideal of highly centralised efficiency.

The terms of reference are sufficiently wide to enable the Committee to recommend a complete transformation, and the only inferences that can be drawn from them in advance are that the Council of India is not to disappear entirely, and that the new office will obtain a proportion of its staff from India. We should have liked to see some definite instructions to consider the complete separation of business from administration, but this particular point was not noticed in the Chelmsford-Montagu Report, on which the terms of reference are based, and it will doubtless be raised in the course of the inquiry. The duty of advising "what changes should be made in the existing system of Home administration of Indian affairs" obviously involves examination of the present arrangements, which are explicable only as survivals from the distant past.

The announcement which has just been made regarding the selection of candidates for the Indian Civil Service shows that the authorities intend to carry out thoroughly the undertaking given on this matter when the war was still young. Taking this year and next, the Service will be replenished by 200 or more officers who have fought on land or sea or in the air, and when to this number is added the large proportion of junior civilians who have been lent to the Army in India, it will be seen that something like a quarter of the entire cadre will have passed through Life's sternest school. India will thus be enabled to draw on that "reservoir of young but tested worth" of which we wrote three years ago, just at the time when the new problems of the day will make the highest demands on the character and abilities of those who must contribute towards their solution.

Hitherto England has done much, perhaps too much, for India: the task now to be undertaken is to enable Indians to perform these functions for themselves. England has given the country peace; Indians have now to learn how that peace may be maintained. England has created new industries and developed new lines of commerce; Indians have now to work for the material prosperity of their country. England has cared for the silent masses; the masses have now to be induced to speak out. Such are the new problems to which we have referred; their solution will be a delicate and difficult business, but it should not prove to be impossible, if the new generation will bring to the attempt that supreme quality of leadership, which has seldom been found wanting among Englishmen, and which has been displayed so abundantly in these last strenuous years.

Probably no country is more keenly interested than Roumania in seeing an early termination of the Paris Conference. Until that Conference is over she is forced to mark time at a period when she ought to be making every effort to recover from the trying ordeal through which she has passed. Politically, Roumania is at a standstill, for the Government represents only one party, and the one leader of that party is away in Paris. Her immediate development in the economic sphere is of the utmost importance, but so little appears to be done that suspicion is being aroused that there are interests to be served by the perpetuation of the existing state of affairs, with its shortage of transport and of foodstuffs. Roumania has to await the decision of the Paris Conference because it will determine the boundaries of Greater Roumania and will enable the Roumanians to enter upon the new stage in their history. Throughout the old kingdom great store is being set on the incorporation of Transylvania. In the past that region has produced some of the foremost figures among Roumania's men of action or of letters, and now it is hoped that Transylvania will help to lift the old kingdom out of the rut of various evils from which it has suffered and will be the means of setting it on a new and higher path.

It is significant of the almost complete lack of information in this country regarding conditions in Bulgaria since the signing of the Armistice that the author of an exceedingly well-informed book on Bulgaria published last week should have taken it for granted that the country is now a Republic. According to a despatch from Sofia, however, King Boris, as recently as January 24, signed a decree appointing M. Alexander Stambolisky Minister of Public Works and Roads. M. Stambolisky is President of the Agrarian movement, and was imprisoned by order of King Ferdinand for the strong stand that he took on September 17, 1915, against Bulgaria's participation in the war. Shortly after the Armistice it was reported that he had placed himself at the head of a peasant army and intended to proclaim a Republic. M. Stambolisky now appears as a Minister in M. Todoroff's Cabinet, and as the Agrarians announce that, in spite of the existing division of Parliamentary groups (Tsanko Bakaloff, the head of the rival group, is also a Minister), the party remains solid, there may yet be interesting constitutional developments in Bulgaria.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 13.

The past week has been a quiet one in Palace and Residency circles. His Excellency the High Commissioner had an interview with his Highness the Sultan, to whom he presented Admiral Sir Lewis Bayley, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet, who has been paying a short visit to Cairo.

Cardinal Bourne in Egypt.

Cardinal Bourne, whose arrival in Egypt was chronicled last week, is having a very busy time. He has come to this part of the world in his capacity of Ecclesiastical Superior of the Catholic Navy Chaplains, in order to inspect the chaplains and visit the Catholic men of the Mediterranean Fleet, and he will eventually perform the same duty to the British Fleet in the Black Sea. He is also taking the opportunity of his visit to Egypt and Palestine to see the British troops.

It is not unnatural while in Egypt that his Eminence should seek to get into contact with his co-religionists of other nationalities. He has devoted a great deal of time to visiting the various religious institutions which have been long established here, especially those directed by the French and Italians; and has officiated at ordinary and special services held in the various Catholic churches. Indeed, there is every reason to believe that the visit will have far-reaching effects on the local Catholic communities in so far as it will dispel doubts with regard to their future and remove grounds for any misunderstanding that may exist at present or that may henceforward arise.

As an instance of this, I would cite the visit he paid on Friday last to the Collège des Frères, where 3,000 of the pupils of this excellent and very important institution were assembled to greet him. The speech of welcome, after referring to the history of the Collège in Egypt, mentioned that they had certain fears as to their future resulting from the declaration of a Protectorate over Egypt by Great Britain, "a Protestant State." Cardinal Bourne, in his reply to their welcome, took the opportunity to point out that, whatever the policy of the British Government might be in Great Britain and Scotland, where there were Established Churches, elsewhere in the British Empire that Government was simply a "Christian" Government, which, being obliged to recognise the unfortunate divisions that exist in the Christian churches, is prepared sincerely to accord the greatest liberty to all beliefs; consequently there should be no fears as to the liberty which will be accorded to every religion and as to the advancement of education throughout the Empire in general and in Egypt in particular. This statement has, I understand, had an excellent effect on the foreign Catholic communities, and there is every reason to believe that his Eminence, who, apart from his other gifts, speaks French and Italian fluently, is being successful in smoothing over whatever difficulties may exist among the local Catholic communities.

The Late Mr. Roosevelt.

Ex-President Roosevelt, whose sudden death has just been announced, was no stranger to Egypt, where his visit, about nine years ago, on his way back from his East African big-game shooting expedition, is still remembered by members of the Press who were here at the time and by the Nationalist element. The former had an exacting though interesting time; for the energetic ex-President was on the go from early morning until late at night during the fortnight he spent in Cairo, and they went through a period of hustling such as few of them had ever experienced. As for the Nationalist party, they persuaded Mr. Roosevelt to make a speech at the Egyptian University, which had just been inaugurated, confidently looking forward to a pæan of congratulation and of encouragement; but to their consternation, he did the opposite of what he was expected to do, and, having gathered during his stay what the true state of affairs was, he proceeded to deliver to them a homily with regard to their claims for self-government and the unfortunate unrest in terms which left no mistake as to what he thought of them. The portion of Mr. Roosevelt's speech dealing with self-government, etc., might well be re-read and taken to heart to-day by the element which has been at work since last summer trying to stir up a popular agitation for the political autonomy of Egypt.

The Indian Troops in Egypt.

The cessation of hostilities, no longer requiring a concentration of troops in Palestine, has been followed by the return of a large number of the units to Egypt, where they are now stationed at such points as Mena-House, Heliopolis, Sidi Bish, Mex, and Kantara. The Indian troops, who constituted a large proportion of the force with which General Allenby gained his victories, have been concentrated for the most part in the Alexandria district; and the presence of such a large number of Indians has led the authorities to cast about for some means of providing for their amusement and recreation apart from the ordinary facilities obtainable in camp and in the city. As a result of consultation between the military authorities and the Y.M.C.A., it was decided to establish a club especially devoted to the requirements of the Indian Forces; and thanks to the co-operation of the municipality the premises of the old Italian School were secured. The building has been furnished with everything which could be required by officers and other ranks of the Indian Forces. All castes have been provided for; there are separate cook-houses; and every facility will be afforded those who use the club to amuse themselves in their own traditional fashion. The club was formally opened on the 4th inst. by Brigadier-General Boyle, G.O.C. Alexandria district, in the presence of a large gathering of British and Indian officers and men; a silver key designed by Lieutenant Shawe, Royal Scots (attached 153rd Rifles), and suitably inscribed, being presented to him for the purpose by the committee. The club will be under the direction of the Y.M.C.A., Mr. J. H. Rawat, a secretary of the Indian Y.M.C.A., having been appointed manager.

THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN PALESTINE.

The municipal taxes and the Wakfs' revenues are not included in the Budget. The former are in the hands of the local bodies, which number twenty-two, and, subject to the general control of the Chief Administrator, are self-governing. The system of municipal taxation is regulated by the Turkish Municipal Law, and it has been thought best to allow the municipalities to work and develop as far as possible on indigenous lines, with merely general control by the administration. The municipalities are under the supervision of the local military governors, who act as their intermediary and report on their activities. They are responsible for their own finances, and submit their annual budget to the Chief Administrator, without whose consent they cannot make any new levies.

The Wakfs' revenues are derived from tithes and rent, the greater part of which come from the Gaza and Hebron districts. Certain payments which were made by the Turks have been continued by the British administration. Under the Turks the revenues were administered from Constantinople, which received the collections and doled out through the Director of Wakfs at Jerusalem and Beyrout whatever the Minister of Evkafs considered suitable for the local Moslem charities. Under the O.E.T.A. it has been thought best to leave the Wakfs as far as possible under Moslem management, and a local Wakf Committee has been constituted in each district, with a Central Committee at Jerusalem, composed of representatives of the local committees and a British representative.

Other possible sources of revenue are the railways, the telegraphs, and the postal services, which are entirely, or to a great extent, worked by the Army, and so do not benefit the administration. However, as the postal service has been opened to the public, a proportional division of the income has been made between the British Postal Service and the O.E.T.A. The net revenue resulting is estimated at £E10,650, but with the opening of additional post offices in the new territories a higher figure may confidently be expected.

A source of revenue which might have been considerable is that from woods and forests. The Turks, however, cut down 50 per cent. of the forest and fruit trees in the southern area, and it will be some years before the country recovers. Forest nurseries have now been established at convenient centres, and considerable tracts of hill country unsuited for cultivation have been enclosed as forest areas. Forest laws have been promulgated, and tree-planting is

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being given every encouragement. The two most important timber areas are those of Hebron and Mount Carmel, and large tracts of hills in other parts now bare were undoubtedly once well-wooded. A special effort is being made to reafforest the area round Jerusalem, and thousands of seedlings have been laid down for plantation next year. Certain forests in the Jericho and Haifa districts are already being profitably worked for fuel. As the report says, the country is capable of great development by afforestation, and a large revenue may ultimately be expected under this head. No mines have as yet been prospected or worked, but a considerable revenue in royalties should be obtainable in the next few years.

As regards expenditure, it is pointed out that, compared with the Turkish, the present figure is high; but this is explained by the facts first, that the destruction or withdrawal by the Turks of much of the essential material has necessitated a considerable amount of non-recurring capital expenditure; secondly, that the Turkish officials were underpaid and expenditure on public health was insufficient; and thirdly, that, owing to the military character of the administration, it has been necessary to have a much larger establishment than would have been the case under a civil government, and if it had been possible to organise from the start with trained expert officials. Every effort has, however, been made to keep the expenditure down to the minimum.

Taking the different heads very briefly, we find that the estimates are by no means extravagant. Thus, the legal expenditure for the whole territory is only slightly in excess of the last Turkish estimate for the sanjak of Jerusalem alone, which comprises only five out of the twelve present districts. All the Turkish civil and religious Courts have been continued, as a note recently published in your Cairo letter showed, but the numbers of the establishments have been reduced and salaries raised; while efficient supervision by British officers has been provided.

As regards the police, an entirely new force had to be created, and the system of local recruitment was decided on, the force being divided into foot police and mounted and dismounted gendarmerie. Owing to the Turks having taken most of the able-bodied men for service, difficulty was experienced in raising the whole force at once, and so an arrangement had to be come to with the Egyptian military authorities for the loan of a battalion of 300 men and officers to undertake the police duties until a local force could be raised. This arrangement proved costly, but it served its purpose, and the Egyptian unit was able to train the local police.

Relief expenditure bulks largely in the estimates. The administration had to assist the people whose grain stocks had been depleted and who were without current money. Arrangements had also to be made for refugees from the enemy side of the line and from the occupied areas. In addition to direct relief, loans in money and kind to dispossessed landowners and cultivators have been granted, fuel and water have been supplied to the orange-growers, and plough animals have been provided on the deferred payment system.

Public health was never very generously looked after by the Turks, and owing to the damage done by them before leaving and to their withdrawal of all hospital material and stores, the estimates include a relatively high proportion of non-recurring expenditure. The urgency of first measures, such as those called for by the serious outbreak of cholera at Tiberias, has necessitated an increase in expenditure. As regards education, provision has been made for primary education for Moslems at the principal centres of population, and a trade school has been opened at Hebron, while village schools have been reopened and improved. To a great extent education was provided for by charitable and religious institutions, and the administration has concentrated its efforts on assisting the Moslem primary schools as much as possible. Under agriculture, as the report says, a great deal of leeway has to be made up owing to the discouragement which the Turkish system created amongst the rural population and to the depletion of the country's stocks of seed and animals caused by the retreating enemy. An official has been obtained from the Egyptian Government to supervise the reorganisation, and a native agricultural officer has been appointed to each district. It is hoped that with the agricultural institutions established by the various religious bodies and the Jewish colonies it will be possible to make headway in the near future.

The foregoing review shows some idea of the difficulties with which the O.E.T.A. has had to contend in reorganising the territory placed under its control, and of the manner in which it has tackled its task. Those who have visited the country and who know something of its previous condition agree in expressing astonishment at the progress already made in the short time that it has been in the hands of the O.E.T.A., and they are well satisfied that, given a continuation of the present policy, the future welfare of these territories is assured.

CONDITIONS IN SMYRNA.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following letter written from Smyrna in the first week of January:—

My dear——,—It is glorious to be writing to each other again with the certainty of the letters reaching you. We have seen your last letters to S—— and D——, written before Christmas and sent on here by A——. She sends letters by hand in the transport that comes here for the Prisoners of War. So far we have only been able to get letters that way, but we hope the posts will soon be established. It is easier for us to send out letters, for we send them through Naval officers.

How wonderful the end of the war has been! Who would have believed it six months ago? We were, of course, under the thumb of the Germans, and they kept us ignorant of any successes the English may have had. How we have longed to see you sitting with us! Now I suppose we shall have to wait till the summer, before it can be possible for anyone to come here. It would not be wise to come as long as prices are so high, and your home will have to be done up from top to bottom. We could have sold it for you some time ago, as people were paying splendid prices. The only thing I did was to sell your old piano for £200 (paper), with which I bought a cheque on London for £90 (gold). There is little else left of your furniture—it has all been ruined by the Turks who occupied your house. For a long time the cost of building and repairs will be enormous, for there are no materials and labour is very high. Wages are more than a pound a day, and one cannot get anyone to do the least thing under a dollar. We pay our washerwoman now half a pound a day. Soap is a fearful price. It has been up to £1½ per oke. Fortunately, we had bought four sacks two years ago, for which we paid £54, and that saved us from despair. We will write to you about everything, but do not be in too great a hurry to come back yourself even if R—— has to come for business. The girls must not be under any delusion about Boudja. It is aperfect "hole." There are no trains running, and will not be any for some time, as there is no coal, and the engines and carriages are broken down and ruined. It will take at least six months before order can be restored. We have had the armistice for two months and are worse off now in some respects than we were during war-time. For the last two months we have had no gas, and. in consequence, petroleum has gone up, and is now £4 per oke. We have some in the house, but when it is done we shall be obliged to use oil lamps, and they are horrid. Buy yourselves everything before you come. I will write again and give you prices of commodities here, so that you may compare them with Rome prices.

We are fortunately having a warm winter so far, and have not suffered from want of fires, but then we are some of the lucky ones, for we can afford to buy charcoal, which is more than half-a-medjidieh the oke, and we can keep comfortable with the "Tandour." Other poor families are suffering terribly. I hope R. will be able to get the Red Cross to send some things at once, for the poor people are very, very hard up and suffering. After the second year of the war most of the very poor died, and for a short time there were no beggars in the streets—now they are full again.

They are those who had their little store of food and money, which is all gone, and they have come down to beggary. If they could only get relief and a little seed to plant their fields, their spirits would rise, for now they feel that they will reap what they sow, and will be encouraged. It has been so disheartening for them to have all their crops taken from them every year without payment. Our old gardener of Boudja has been doing his military service—that is, working for the Army. During his spare moments, and on Sundays and holidays, he worked his own vineyard, but never a bunch of grapes did he get from it—the soldiers took all!—year after year the same thing happened to him and many others. I do earnestly hope that this year he will be able to reap the fruits of his labours. His case is one of thousands. Some few tried to resist the soldiers robbing them, with the sad result that they were murdered.

I very much fear the coming summer for the health of Smyrna. The drains have not been touched for four years, nor have the roads been mended. One can see the sewerage and the smell from it is awful, and what will it be in a few months, when the heat comes on!!

Rahmi Pasha had grand ideas of making boulevards! The result is that he has pulled down a thousand houses which remain as dust heaps and dirt collectors in the middle of the town. The Germans also, who made very sure of having the place, built "Kasernen" (Barracks), and made beginnings of big roads from Caravan Bridge to the Point, but they are not finished, and the dirt of the town is being thrown there now. Most of the fine cyprus trees near Caravan Bridge have been cut down. You will

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see many changes for the worse, but we hope the day will soon come when the country will fall into better hands. The one Dutch steamer that lay in port these four years of war has been loaded and sent to America. As yet the blockade has not been raised. The British Seamen's Hospital will require entirely refitting before it can be used again. What a lot of work there is for everyone to do to put things straight once more.

We are having lovely weather. The quay is so gay with the warships lying in the bay. When the Greek ship came in the Greeks went in thousands in boats to meet it. For days after thousands visited the ship and gave hundreds of pounds for the war fund. Our Commander, who is a sort of king here now, ordered the flags on the houses to be pulled down, for he was afraid of the excitement they were causing. However, he also ordered the Turks to take down their flags when they started one day to put them up for a feast of theirs.

If R—— can get us some medicines and surgical dressings what a blessing they would be. I could do a great deal of real charity amongst the poor women who have babies and who need help. A—— and I could be of real help to the Relief Committee when it comes here, for we know so many deserving cases. The English poor men-folk have got clothing this Christmas from the Prisoners of War Fund. A lot of suits were sent here for the British prisoners, but as most of them had already left, there were a good many suits left over, and Mr. —— got permission to distribute them amongst the civilian poor prisoners.

ANATOLIA.

Speaking before the Central Asian Society on January 29, Professor Sir W. M. Ramsay said that the two names Anatolia and Asia Minor were not in the strict sense equivalent, but essentially both meant the peninsula projecting from Asia towards Europe. In ancient times this had been the wealthiest country in the world, but for a long time now it had been practically the poorest. When Europe was still a barbarous land Anatolia was the centre of the Hittite empire, later it became, and has continued ever since, the bridge between the Mediterranean and Asiatic civilisations. The route across it divided to pass round the salt lake that lay in the centre of the country; the more northerly line led most directly to Central Asia, the other led by Adana, Aleppo, and Baghdad to the Persian Gulf. In Roman times, although trade went by sea, the line of communication across Anatolia was important, because it was used by travelers, messengers, couriers, and officers going to command distant provinces. The route continued in use during the middle ages, and was determinative of European civilisation in a great degree. It was the axial line of the world, but the discovery of America and the development of that continent had hidden its importance during the past several centuries, and it was the merit of the Germans, in political history, to have detected its importance, and to have based upon it their scheme for the conquest of the world. If, as the result of the Peace Conference, Anatolia was divided between various claimants, that division would produce as great and dangerous a scandal as the partitioning of Poland, for, however bad the Turk might be, he was a human being, and had his part in the scheme of the world. The maintaining in proper condition of the great bridge between Asia and Europe was apparently to be left to him, because it was impossible to turn out ten millions of people and distribute them over the face of the earth. Anatolia was essentially peopled by Turks; the only other people with any claims there were the Greeks—except so far as some other Power might be required to direct the Turkish Government. That Government from beginning to end had been an outrage, and the people who had suffered most from it had been the Turkish peasantry. The way in which the people of Anatolia had been degraded and ruined by the centralisation of Government in incapable and corrupt hands in Constantinople, was one of the most hideous facts in history. Somebody would have to guide Turkey to prevent the officials from ruining the country in the future, as they had done in the past, and to insist that the path across the bridge between Europe and Asia must be kept clean.

A short discussion followed, to which Professor Ramsay replied. Referring to a point which had been raised as to the Greeks in the west of Asia Minor, he said the Greeks had definite good claims to bring forward, but there must be a good deal of allowance on both sides. For one thing, he would like to see the Greek claims based on trustworthy maps. So far as he had seen or heard, all maps submitted by the Greeks to show the distribution of population on the western edge of Anatolia and the eastern coast of the Ægean had been falsified to a very marked degree.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

OMAR KHAYYAM.

A friend who went through the siege of Kut tells of a humorous incident that came his way. He was just leaving the building in which he had his quarters when, suddenly, there was a most appalling crash; the place shook beneath his feet; and as he rushed outside he found a cloud of dust, smoke, and débris, hanging over the alley. One glance showed him that the house next to his had been severely *strafed*, and he felt at once that there was very little hope for anyone who had been inside it when the bomb fell. But even as the thought passed through his mind, and before he had taken a couple of steps towards the ruined house, an old woman appeared at the door, moaning, weeping, and crying aloud. And the burden of her complaint was: "Oh, the crockery!" Subsequently it transpired that she had friends in the building; but her thoughts were not of them, but of her precious crockery. Possibly the humour of the story may not appear very great to those who do not know the Arabs of these parts and their household arrangements. But anyone acquainted with the beautiful simplicity of their housekeeping arrangements, and the very inexpensive character of the "crockery" usually used, will not fail to enjoy the tale.

***

Mention of domestic arrangements in the Orient reminds me of another tale that I heard recently. Two sailors, one home from Turkish waters, were in a public-house, discussing their drinks and the personal habits of foreigners; and the man from the East was holding forth on the superior cleanliness of Europeans, and especially of Britons, over Orientals. His companion was slightly sceptical. Suddenly, from over the partition that separated them from the neighbouring bar, came the sound of feminine voices:—"Oh, yes, me dear, they're nice little 'ouses; but I must say I should like to 'ave a bath-room," said one. The sailor glanced triumphantly at his pal. Here was an illustration of the British love for cleanliness. But before he could enlarge on the point the second lady had exclaimed: "What! Ain't ye got no bathroom! Then, what *do* you do with the coals?" And number one sighed: "That's just the bother, me dear." Which is an absolutely true story.

***

I am sorry that Ismail Kemal Bey is dead, for he was a man of quite exceptional ability; and his knowledge and influence would doubtless have been useful to the world in the wonderful resettlement of the Near East which we all expect—or hope—to see. A friend, an Englishman who has resided for very many years in Constantinople, and who knows what he is talking about, said to me, a few days ago, that Ismail Kemal might fairly be called "the Venizelos of Turkey"—which was surely a very pretty compliment. Another good point about the Bey was that he was no lover of the Teuton. In fact, I have always understood that he left Albania when the Wied princeling went there, chiefly because of his Germanophobe feelings.

***

I had quite a shock the other day when an English officer home from Macedonia made casual reference to the "magnificent horses" of the Serbian cavalry. The Balkan "horse" has always struck me as a sorry looking beast, beside which even the *Kadeesh* of Busreh and Baghdad would appear attractive. As I saw him, he was undersized, shaggy, and generally meagre, not to say starved-looking. Placed in the midst of a herd of New Forest ponies he would have attracted no attention at all, but placed among European cavalry horses he certainly would have called forth comment—of an uncomplimentary character. So, naturally, when I heard the present-day Serbian cavalry mounts so highly praised, I was puzzled. Unfortunately, my informant could not enlighten me on the point. He had been puzzled by it himself. But he was quite clear that the Serbian cavalrymen he saw all had "hunters under them," as he expressed it. Could the Austrians explain the mystery? Or must we look to France—or Great Britain?



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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

"THE CRADLE OF THE WAR."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Having regard to the importance of the review of my book—"The Cradle of the War: The Near East and Pan-Germanism"—published in THE NEAR EAST for Jan. 31, I hope that you will allow me the hospitality of your columns not to complain of, but to comment upon, some of the points there raised.

(1). Your reviewer appears to throw doubt upon the correctness of my suggestion that Germany really made the war for the purpose of developing and consolidating her position in the East. Surely, whatever may have been said by a German Minister to the British Ambassador in Berlin, my contention is proved up to the hilt. Ignoring altogether the policy pursued by the enemy throughout the war, we now have the memorandum of Prince Lichnowsky, which in its entirety demonstrates the correctness of such an argument, and which in particular goes so far as to state that even before the war Germany "carried out a Triple Alliance policy in the East," and that the goal of her political ambition was to dominate in the Bosphorus."

(2). Whilst I do not wish to lay stress upon details, I would point out that although reference to the telegrams of the ex-Kaiser to the ex-King of Greece, and to the proposed cession of Cyprus by Great Britain to Greece in 1915 was not, in my opinion, necessary in a book of this kind, as a fact the latter question is mentioned and not omitted, as suggested by your reviewer.

(3). It may be unfortunate that all or part of the volume was not writen after the conclusion of the Armistice, though, in that case, considering the conditions at present prevailing, it is doubtful whether it could now have been available to the public. As a matter of fact, the book actually appeared in the United States nearly two months before the signing of the armistice, and therefore before the collapse of Bulgaria and prior to the beginning of the peace negotiations between Germany and America.

(4). I was and am certainly in favour of the existence of a Balkan League, and of a good understanding between the Balkan States, and I consider that this is indicated by many passages contained in my book. On the other hand, I do not think that this highly desirable state of things can be attained until the Near East has been partitioned upon a fair national basis—a basis which would probably have to be imposed upon rather than accepted by the chauvinistic elements of the various populations.

(5). Undoubtedly, from certain standpoints, it might have been desirable to discuss at greater length the futures of Constantinople and, I may add, of Asiatic Turkey. Unfortunately, however, both in this country and in the United States, there are certain fairly well-defined limitations which govern the lengths of volumes of various kinds. This may be a pity for the reader, and it is certainly a disappointment to an author, who none the less is generally compelled to follow not so much his own wishes upon the subject as those of others who know better the conditions of book making than he does himself.—I am, &c.,

Feb. 1, 1919. H. CHARLES WOODS.

AUTONOMY FOR MACEDONIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I see in your paper many ideas about the future of Macedonia, which is designated as a thorny problem. Now, I have lived over thirty years in this country, and to me it seems all so simple. What the Macedonians want is autonomy, governed by one or more strong Powers. Let the frontiers of this autonomous State be carefully drawn, so that nowhere the frontiers of the Balkan States touch each other, and the strong buffer Macedonia is there to stop all brigands. Then we shall have peace, and not till then. If the Macedonians are not filling the newspapers with cries for autonomy, it is only because under present circumstances they dare not speak. Fear is the great ruler here.—I am, &c.,

X. Y. Z.

Salonika, Jan. 23, 1919.

It is announced that the chief of the Greek Military Mission in Sofia, Colonel Mazarakis, last week visited the Prime Minister, M. Todoroff, and demanded better treatment for the Greek element in Bulgaria and reparation for damage done.

Loyal congratulations from the women of Ceylon on the glorious conclusion of the war, together with £6,000 and supplies towards the cause, were forwarded to the Queen at a garden party for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, held by the Governor at Colombo, on Saturday.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.*

War being admittedly a gigantic and complicated game of strategy, we must assume that the rules and moves thereof are as well known to the competent staff officer as chess openings are to the expert player. Given positions and situations have to be treated in a given manner, and due allowance must be made for untoward happenings, combinations, and the use of new instruments of warfare. Even so, however, our list of complications is not complete. There is the personal element to be taken into account, the genius of the commander-in-chief, or his lack of genius. The birth of leaders like Generals Allenby, Maude, Birdwood, and others is not an every-day occurrence, nor can they be expected to emerge from staff colleges like bees from a hive. But when they do appear they have a very laudable habit of making it extremely unpleasant for the foe and pushing an advantage gained with such rapidity, *flaire*, and acumen as to wrest complete victory from a minor operation. Their frontal attacks are not in the nature of desperate charges along the enemy's main avenue of strength (Achi Baba); their feints are not inadequate thrusts at positions which the opponent knows will never be permanently held (Gaza), nor do they lose time and opportunity by sitting tight and allowing the adversary to strengthen his tactical position (Krythia-Maidos Road).

In the course of our campaigns and adventures—the former subsidiary and the latter diverging operations—in the Middle East the value of the personal element played a most important rôle. It was responsible for the heroism and the collapse that made up the Gallipoli tragedy; it led to the first dash for Baghdad and turned the line of the Gaza-Beersheba defences; it conquered Syria and Mesopotamia, scattered the forces of the Senussi in the Western Desert, and wrote the word *finis* to the career of Turkey as the ally of Potsdam and Kaiserism.

Mr. Edmund Dane in his careful study of our operations in the zone alluded to, from the day on which Talaat and Enver sold their country to the fall of Jerusalem in December, 1917, has, either consciously or otherwise, brought out the extreme value of this personal element, and we are grateful to him for emphasising it. His study, divided into chapters following the various operations as far as possible in chronological sequence, is based upon official records.

"No fact has been glossed, and no statement advanced as fact which is doubtful. Some opinions expressed may be open to debate, as most opinions are, but the proofs are there, and the reader may judge for himself. My claim is to have written without bias."

We cannot follow here the opinions of the author, whose reputation as the Military Correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* gives them a certain weight denied to minor scribes. Nor shall we discuss his sharp criticisms of Government decisions concerning the politico-military policy of Great Britain in the Near East. We are in agreement with many of his contentions, some of which are boldly and logically developed, and recognise fully that no future standard work can be written on the same subject without reference being made to the valuable book under review. But whether posterity will lay the blame of the Gallipoli misadventure on the shoulders of General Hamilton, whether it will agree with the statement that the attack should have been launched in Syria instead of at the Dardanelles, whether it will exculpate General Nixon entirely from the lamentable reverse of British arms at Kut, are moot questions—theories which the author, we presume, classifies among his debatable opinions.

There are one or two statements, however, which we should like to place in relief. The first asserts that the British Government's fears of a massed enemy attack on Egypt were greatly exaggerated, with the result that not only did they create an atmosphere of nervousness, but obliged us to keep tied up in Egypt masses of troops which could have been more usefully employed elsewhere. It is, of course, easy to be wise after the event Nevertheless, the position of Egypt in our Imperial fabric is so vital that excessive caution was preferable to caution without a safe margin to fall back on. No doubt, however, the nervousness" which did exist led to military operations of a risky nature, whilst untoward circumstances placed our forces under the command of a leader who allowed them to be uselessly "frittered away" when they might (possibly) have made good.

The second statement concerns the Allies' attitude of *non possumus* towards King Constantine when that unworthy gentleman imitated in Athens the unscrupulous conduct of the Tsar Ferdinand in Sofia. It is rational to assume that if Great Britain, France, and Russia had from the outset taken up a firm attitude in the capital of Greece we should at least have been spared the Serbian tragedy and the costly Gallipoli fiasco. But could we at the time adopt that desired attitude? It is exceedingly doubtful. In the first place, because the terrible seriousness of the situation—the collapse of Russia, etc.—could not possibly have been foreseen, and in the second, because allowance had, unfortunately, to be made for exterior influences which were adverse to any drastic action. The saving day of the unified command had not dawned, Europe and Britain had to pass through many a sore trial ere that turning point in the history of the world had been reached.

The above remarks are not intended, however, to detract from the value of Mr. Dane's work on our campaigns in the Middle East. The whole subject is treated with thoroughness and care, and the style, though strictly military at times, is on the whole lucid and matter-of-fact, the arguments for or against a measure being simply and logically developed.

C. R.

* "British Campaigning in the Nearer East: (1914-1918) from the outbreak of War into Turkey to the taking of Jerusalem." By Edmund Dane, Military Correspondent of the "Westminster Gazette." With 19 Maps and Plans. (Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.).

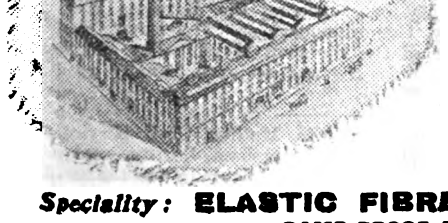
A "FLIER" IN EGYPT.*

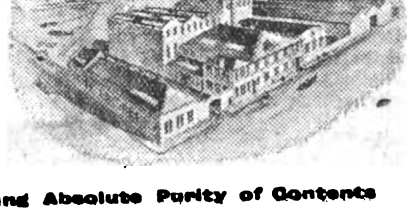
This is a story sufficiently crowded with adventure to satisfy the greatest glutton for such things. Unfortunately, the author makes a bad start by getting us hopelessly fogged in the matter of time. On page 11, Blake vanquishes a German airman on the night of a particular "wartime dinner party"; on page 13, he returns from a flight "about a week after the dinner party"; and yet a day later, on page 19, he has "to relate his experiences of the previous evening," which turn out to be those of page 11! It would be easy to point out a good many other slips in the book, but we are disposed to overlook them because the author is so obviously carried away by his own yarn. And as "a yarn" it might be much worse. The spies are villains of the deepest dye, and the hero and heroine are quite of the old-fashioned type; while the setting, in Cairo, and mostly in the Citadel, is picturesque.

* "Blake of the R.F.C.: An Airmen's Love Story." By Lt.-Colonel H. Curtiss. (London: Skeffington and Son. 3s. 6d.).

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. February	1919. January.		1337. Jumada I.	5679. Adar I.
7	25	Friday	6	7
8	26	Saturday.....	7	8
9	27	Sunday	8	9
10	8	Monday	9	10
11	29	Tuesday	10	11
12	30	Wednesday	11	12
13	31	Thursday	12	13

Sir Robert Gillan, I.C.S., is retiring from the Presidency of the Indian Railway Board.

Prince Paul of Serbia has arrived in Rome, where he is the guest of the King of Italy.

On his elevation to the peerage Sir S. P. Sinha will take the title of Lord Sinha of Raipur.

Prince Alexander of Serbia arrived in Paris on Sunday, accompanied by General Stevanovitch.

On January 28, at Alexandria, the wife of Mr. F. H. Teall, Assistant Commandant of the Alexandria Police, gave birth to a daughter.

On January 29, at Marrakesh, Morocco, the wife of Mr. Harold Patteson, Acting British Vice-Consul at Saffi, Morocco, gave birth to a son.

Colonel C. C. Choyce, A.M.S., having relinquished the post of Consulting Surgeon, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, has returned to 31, Wimpole Street, W.1.

Colonel Robert Watson Sparke, late R.F., of Church Road, Richmond, Surrey, a Crimean and Indian Mutiny veteran, left property valued at £37,082.

The French Republic have awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palms to the Emir Feisul in recognition of his exploits in command of the Army of the Hejaz.

On January 27, at St. Luke's Vicarage, Church End, Finchley, the wife of Commander A. Westmorland Wood, R.N. (Indian Finance Department) gave birth to a daughter.

Sir Alexander Pedler, C.I.E., F.R.S., F.I.C., of Stanhope Gardens, South Kensington, who died at Whitehall Place on May 13, aged 68, left property valued at £71,407.

Lady Beatrice Pretyman and Miss Pretyman have left England for Egypt, and expect to be away for two months. The hospital at Orwell Park, which has been open throughout the war, is now closed.

General Sir Peter Stark Lumsden, G.C.B., C.I.E., of Buckromb House, Dufftown, Banffshire, at one time Quartermaster-General and Adjutant-General of the Indian Army, left property valued at £12,422.

A course of Rhodes public lectures on "Indian Institutions" will be delivered at University College on Mondays, at 5.30 p.m., commencing on February 10. At the third lecture Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary for India, will preside.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Ernest Cecil Dixon, R.E., second son of the late Henry Ernest and Mrs. Dixon, of Palace Road, and Lorna, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Godfrey, of Palace Road, Surbiton.

The Rev. W. E. S. Holland, Principal of St. Paul's Cathedral College at Calcutta, has come home at the request of the Archbishops to superintend a scheme for obtaining and training men and women workers for religious and social work under the Central Board of Missions.

The Persian Delegation to the Peace Conference has arrived in Paris. It is composed of the Mushaver-el-Mamalek, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Zoka-el-Mulk, an ex-Minister of Justice, and Mirza Hussein Khan, an ex-Minister of Public Works, accompanied by two secretaries.

Lady Chelmsford, wife of the Viceroy of India, arrived from Delhi, at Victoria Station, on Thursday evening last week (January 30), by the Folkestone express. She was accompanied by her daughter, the Hon. Bridget Thesiger. They were met at the station by Lady Wimborne, Lord Willingdon, Lord Carmichael, Sir William Duke, Sir Charles Bayley, and Mr. Basu (members of the India Council), and Mr. Vernon Dawson, I.C.S., of the India Office.

Miss M. L. Biggs, general secretary of the Serbian Relief Fund, and three of her fellow-workers at the headquarters of the fund, have been awarded the Serbian Red Cross Medal.

Charles Collins, a Crimean veteran, has died at Godalming in his eighty-third year. At Scutari, as hospital orderly, he attended Florence Nightingale and carried the light as she made her last round of the wards.

The engagement is announced of Philip Noel Fernau, lieutenant, R.F.A., son of the late George Fernau, of Casablanca, Morocco, and Mrs. Fernau, of Heathside, North End, Hampstead, to Betty, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Young, of 55, Gloucester Gardens, Hyde Park, W.2.

The engagement is announced between John Dunamace Heaton-Armstrong, 20th Deccan Horse, second son of the late Mr. Heaton-Armstrong and Mrs. Heaton-Armstrong, of 5, Cornwall Gardens, S.W., and Mrs. Whitehead (*née* Béchet de Balan), widow of John R. G. Whitehead, R.F.C.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on Tuesday, February 11, between Captain Oliver F. G. Hogg, Royal Artillery, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock, son of the late Colonel A. M. Hogg, Indian Army, and Mrs. Hogg, and Ella, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Arthur Hallam, of Shanghai.

The engagement is announced between Captain Geoffrey Palgrave Brown, the Norfolk Regiment, only son of the late C. N. Brown, J.P., and Mrs. Brown, of Great Yarmouth, and Jean Gordon Leask, R.R.C. (V.A.D.), elder daughter of the late James Leask, Bombay, and Mrs. Thomas Fraser, 38, Hanover House, Regent's Park, N.W.8.

A marriage will take place shortly between Captain T. S. Paterson, M.C., 19th Lancers (I.A.), eldest son of the late James Paterson, Esq., J.P., of Whitelee, Roxburghshire, and Ettrick Hall, Selkirkshire, and of Mrs. Paterson, Horndean, Hants, and Marjorie Enid, daughter of R. G. Hardy, Esq., C.S.I., J.P., and Mrs. Hardy, of Esmond, Cheltenham.

At a meeting of Unionists held on Saturday at Oxford to consider the selection of a candidate to fill the vacancy in the representation of the University caused by the elevation of Mr. R. E. Prothero to the peerage, it was decided to invite Mr. David G. Hogarth to become the candidate. Mr. Hogarth, who is a Fellow of Magdalen College, is the well-known archæologist, excavator, and traveller. He has excavated in Greece, Egypt, Cyprus, and Asia Minor; and he is a recognised authority on the Near East, and an author of great charm and solid repute. For three years he was Director of the British School at Athens.

The Most Rev. George Alfred Lefroy, D.D., Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, who died in Calcutta on New Year's Day, left estate in England valued at £6,621. By his will he made temporary provision for increasing the income of the Bishopric of Assam in the event of the endowment fund for that see not having reached £25,000 at the time of his death. He also left £1,000 to the council at Delhi of the Joint Mission of the S.P.G. and the Cambridge Mission working at Delhi; £1,333 to the Lahore Diocesan Board of Education for purposes connected with the Auckland House School, at Simla; £500 to the vestry of Lahore Cathedral towards the completion of the Cathedral; and £1,000 to the Cambridge Committee of the Cambridge Mission to North India. The remainder of his estate is left to the Diocesan Council of Calcutta to be applied by them for the benefit of the work of the Church in the diocese of Calcutta.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Frederick Talbot Eades, I.S.O., late of the India Office, has died at Chesham Bois, Bucks, at the age of 63. He entered the India Office in 1875, and was promoted to be a staff clerk in 1896. He had been senior clerk in the Store Department, and in 1916 was awarded the Imperial Service Order.

Mr. Henry Charles Edward Wenden, C.I.E., died on January 31, at Summerhill, Horsell, Surrey, aged 77. He had been connected with railway work in India for nearly half a century. For five or six years before he retired to this country (in 1906) he was Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula and Indian Midland Railways, and on coming to this country he joined the directorate of the G.I.P.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles A. Cresswell, late R. A. Indian Staff Corps, died suddenly on January 28, at "The Corner," Watford, aged seventy-four. During the Burmese War (1886-87) he was Deputy Commissioner at Thyetmyo, and was afterwards President of the Rangoon Municipality and Sessions Judge of Lower Burma. He was an exceptionally good Burmese linguist.

Mr. John Henry Master, late Madras Civil Service, died on January 29, at his residence, Petersham, Surrey, aged eighty-seven. Mr. Master was trained at Haileybury for the service of the Honourable East India Company, and entered the Madras Civil Service in 1852. He served in the North-West Provinces during the Mutiny. In 1869 he became collector of the Bellary district, and administered it during the anxious period of the Great Famine. He retired in 1879.

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Mr. Norman Scott Rudolf, M.Sc., died at a nursing home in London on January 29, aged 47. He was head of the department of applied chemistry at the Institute of Science, Bangalore, and was an authority on the chemistry of tropical products, particularly natural indigo, essential oils, and rubber.

Colonel Montagu Clementi, late Judge Advocate General in India, has died at Tiverton, Devon, on January 30, aged 79. He served on the North-West Frontier of India in the campaign of 1863 and was at the forcing of the Umbeyla Pass. He also served with the Egyptian Expedition of '82 and took part in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. For his first campaign he had the medal with clasp, and for the Egyptian Expedition the medal with clasp, the bronze star, and the Fourth Class of the Osmanieh.

MRS. CHARLES ANDERSON.

A correspondent writes:—The many friends in this country of the Rev. Professor Charles Anderson, D.D., and Mrs. Anderson, of Robert College, Constantinople, will be grieved to hear of the death of Mrs. Anderson at Rumeli Hissar, Constantinople, on January 3, after a few days' illness from pleurisy followed by pneumonia. The funeral was on Sunday morning, January 5, the anniversary of the birth of her distinguished father, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, the first President of Robert College. The first part of the service was celebrated in the College Chapel, the Rev. Dr. Gates and the Rev. Professor George Huntington being the officiating ministers. The 91st Psalm (the last her daughter had read to her) and parts of St. John xiv. and I. Cor. xv. were the Lessons read by Professor Huntington, and the large congregation of students and friends joined in singing the hymns "Spirit of God, descend upon my soul," and "Father, in Thy mysterious Presence kneeling," and a male quartet sang "Lead, Kindly Light." Dr. Gates delivered a short but impressive and touching address.

As Professor Huntington writes to one who loved her, to whom she was "Cousin Abbie," and for whom the world will be the poorer now that a cherished friend of many years has passed away. . . . "Many of us drove to Ferikeuy, where she lies next to her own mother in the shade of beautiful evergreen trees, which she loved in life. The whole thing seemed to me beautiful and triumphant, just as she would have loved it. The day was one of those lovely sunny, cheerful days which the Bosphorus can give us in mid-winter, as was the day she died, all most appropriate. . . . She was never lugubrious nor sentimental. How can her place be filled? Of course, it cannot. So the old guard drop off one by one, and we pray for new ones to come who are worthy of the heritage. . . ."

Just so, that brave, happy soul was of the very elect. Gifted in no ordinary degree, a lover of music and of all the arts, a sympathetic musician herself, a first-rate linguist and a brilliant conversationalist, with a keen sense of humour and a love of fun, Mrs. Anderson would have been an ornament to the highest circles in any country in the world. Instead, she spent her married life between a country parish in America and a small village on the shores of the Bosphorus, close to the home of her childhood's days. There will not be one family, rich or poor, Christian, Moslem or Jewish, among her neighbours that will not miss her cheery smile and practical loving sympathy. A lover of children (how charming she was to the babies of all ages and sizes!), a lover of animals (how often one met her carrying bits of bread in a capacious bag for the hungry dogs of her own quarter as well as for the strangers she came across!), and a lover of flowers (her garden was a joy to her—never were there such sweet peas as grew in that garden!—her rooms a bower of perfumed delight and gracious hospitality), the thought of dear Mrs. Anderson of Rumeli Hissar will ever be a fragrant memory to all who loved her.

Our hearts go out in loving sympathy to the bereaved husband, Professor Charles Anderson, and their two sons, far away in America, and to the two daughters, Mrs. George Baker and Miss Sarah Anderson, in Constantinople. And we do not forget that other remarkable sister, Mrs. Washburn, in America too, the widow of another distinguished President of Robert College, the late Rev. Dr. George Washburn, whose name will never be forgotten in the land where his great life's work was accomplished amid difficulties and trials known only to those who know and understand the East.

H. v. M.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The American Red Cross has sent a large food and clothing commission to the Balkans.

The delegation from the Lebanon was received in Paris by M. Pichon on Sunday and by President Poincaré on Monday.

A decree prolonging the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt for the nine months ending October 31, 1919, has been signed.

The South African Indian Congress has passed a resolution representing the position of Indians under the Union as worse than before.

The new Provisional Government in Albania have selected their President, Turkhan Pasha, to represent them at the Peace Conference, with three others as councillors.

A German report states that the first group of Bulgarians returning home from Germany, consisting principally of military men and officials, left Berlin last Saturday.

On Tuesday the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council began the hearing of appeals by Mrs. Besant from two judgments of the Madras High Court on questions under the Indian Press Act.

A writ of attachment has been issued against M. Gounaris, ex-Home Minister in the Greek Cabinet of M. Skouloudis.

Means of communication having improved, Greek reserves of the classes from 1906 to 1909 are now getting long leave. The release of the classes up to 1913 is expected shortly.

All the expenses of the Haidarabad Imperial Service troops and the 20th Deccan Horse on active service, amounting to £1,020,000, have been defrayed by the Nizam of Haidarabad.

Greek journals express a desire that the question of the Dodecanese should come before the plenary Peace Conference, and not be decided by separate agreement between Greece and Italy.

King Alexander of the Hellenes, owing to a slight mishap to his right arm, has been temporarily unable to sign decrees. The Cabinet decided that his verbal approval would be sufficient.

The New Syrian National League, which claims to represent 150,000 Syrians in the United States, has petitioned President Wilson to have the principle of self-determination applied to Syria.

Ukrainian newspapers report the arrest at Rostoff of Krylenko, the former Bolshevist Generalissimo, who had enlisted under false pretences in General Denikin's Army in order to push Bolshevist propaganda.

Transport to Transylvania of the Roumanian Legion which was formed in Italy has been begun under the direction of Roumanian officers in Transylvania appointed by the Roumanian Government.

Owing to reports received through Constantinople that the Turks are persecuting Greeks in the district of Pontus, Armenia, British and French officers have been sent to make investigations.

General Allenby has issued a special Order of the Day reminding all ranks of the Expeditionary Force in Egypt during the trying and unavoidably extended period of demobilization that the good name of the British Army depends on the individual conduct of each member.

The Australian Historical Mission, with Mr. C. E. W. Bean at its head, left London recently for Australia, travelling via Gallipoli, in order that the members may study again the old Australian and Turkish positions at Anzac and Helles, and certain historical facts connected with the operations there.

Albanians domiciled at Constantinople have addressed an appeal to the Entente Powers and America disputing the Greek claims to the Epirus, and accusing the Greeks, Bulgarians, and Serbs of atrocities committed against the Albanians. They also urge that the boundaries of Albania should be extended beyond the limits defined by the London Conference of 1913.

A Constantinople message, dated January 26, announces the escape from custody of Reshid Bey, the ex-Vali of Diarbekir, and one of the most prominent members of the Committee of Union and Progress, who was compromised in the Armenian massacres and was about to be tried by court-martial. The police are said to be on his track.

A special service in memory of massacred Greeks and Armenians was held at the Greek Church, Bayswater, and the large congregation included the Greek and Serbian Ministers, the American and Italian Consuls, and a number of Armenian officers. The Great Archimandrite, the Rev. Constantine Pagonis, officiated, and the Archbishop of Cyprus gave an address in Greek from the altar steps.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1919.

ROUMANIA AT THE CONFERENCE

A variety of indications will have convinced the Roumanians that the Associated Governments are inclined to place their country in a special category by itself among the States of South-Eastern Europe. Before the war they were numerically the strongest nation in that part of the Continent, and economically the most important; and at a time when the position carried no stigma they could claim some measure of partnership with the Triple Alliance. There was indeed a danger in those days of Roumania being attracted into the orbit of the Great Powers to the neglect of her own personal destiny and of her responsibilities to the Balkans. The events of 1912-13 recalled her to an appreciation of her political links with the Peninsula, and the selection of Bucharest as the meeting-place for the delegates to the Peace Conference after the Second Balkan War was a tacit admission of her pride of place among the four States. The qualifications for the post were not of an exacting character, a relatively large army and the biggest budget being sufficient to substantiate any claim that might be put forward. From the point of view of the Great Powers, however, Roumania was held to possess other qualifications, and there can be no doubt that, if the war had not broken out, she would have come to be regarded more and more as her brothers' keeper, if not actually responsible for the peace of the Balkans. The League of Nations, we may hope, will relieve her of this particular obligation, but it is hardly to be supposed that the Roumanians will willingly abdicate the position that they have aspired to in the past. Territorial readjustments will still keep them the most numerous of the peoples of South-Eastern Europe, although the Southern Slavs will not be far behind. Other qualities, however, will now have to be brought into play, if Roumania is to retain her leadership, and these will be of necessity moral and cultural. The aspect of the situation should not be lost sight of in the difficult days of reconstruction. It suggests the need for Roumania to set her own house in order with the shortest possible delay, and to establish her prestige among the neighbouring States on an unchallengeable basis.

The Paris Conference affords a favourable opportunity for accomplishing the second of these aims. In no small degree the position which President Wilson has won for himself in the Allies' councils is due to the fact that the United States alone among the Powers have no definite claims to be ratified. It follows, therefore, that the prestige of a State at the Conference is likely to vary inversely with the exercise of eloquence deemed necessary to support the claims advanced. Roumania will be called upon to justify her expansion in the direction of Bessarabia, the Bukovina, Transylvania, the Banat, and possibly the Dobruja. With regard to all these territories she has rights which are tacitly admitted; the point with which the Conference is concerned is to see that she does not exceed those rights and inflict an injustice upon others. The question of Bessarabia may be said to have been settled already on the principle of self-determination. In the case of the Bukovina a fairly clear line can be drawn to separate Roumanians from Ruthenes, and in Transylvania to exclude the Magyars on the north-west. There will remain some substantial enclaves of Magyars and Germans in Roumanian Transylvania, and the Conference will naturally have to decide in consultation with the Roumanians on the degree of autonomy, if any, that these alien communities shall enjoy. For the Banat Roumania and Serbia are both claimants; or it would be more accurate to say that, while the Roumanians claim the whole of this territory, the Serbians are willing to concede to them the eastern portion, but claim the bulk of the remaining two-thirds. The judgment of the Conference, it is to be imagined, will effect a compromise between the two claims, and the fact that Serbians and Roumanians have lived in amity together for close upon a thousand years may be cited as an argument in favour of an irregular boundary line based on the principle of nationality instead of the natural frontiers afforded by the Theiss and the Danube. Behind the wealth of historical data cited in support of the rival claims lies the fact that the territory in dispute is rich agricultural land, and will form a valuable addition to either State. But nationality must decide the question; and if strategic matters have to be considered, it will be possible for the Conference to anticipate the decision of the League of Nations and to devise measures that will hold the balance equal between the Roumanians and Serbians.

In regard both to the Banat and to the Dobruja, Roumania has an opportunity of raising herself above the position of a claimant struggling for any crumb that may fall from the Conference table and of taking her stand virtually with the five Great Powers as an arbiter holding the scales of justice evenly balanced. With the disintegration of Austria-Hungary her interests lie more than ever to the south, and her policy even now ought to be shaping itself along lines that will win the confidence of her neighbours and lay the foundations of the moral leadership of South-Eastern Europe. The need for Roumania, Serbia, and Greece to keep together is recognised, and it is evident that there could be no *entente* between these three States, if Serbia were left with any real grievance on the ground of nationality in regard to the Banat. But we may hope that Roumania will see farther ahead, and realise at once that it will be fatal to the interests of the Balkans to perpetuate the animosities of past generations. There will be many to subscribe to the dictum: "All for those who have been with us: all against those who have been against us." It is as simple as it is shortsighted, and it will require vision and courage for any Balkan statesman deliberately to direct his policy towards a federation which will include a purged Bulgaria. Popular feeling will be against him, and he will be warned of the precautions that the Great Powers have been forced to take in respect of Germany. But the analogy does not hold good, for Bulgaria, cut off from the Central Powers, is ineffectual and harmless, so far as Roumania, Yugoslavia, and Greece are concerned. The part that the Bulgarians have played in the war cannot be overlooked; but as the nation is set in the middle of the Balkans for better or for worse, it should be the province of the statesmen of the other countries to assist it to tread a healthier path and to set their faces against the sowing of the seed of further intrigues and fresh unrest. No less important for Roumania than her foreign relations are her own domestic problems, which will require for their satisfactory solution a prolonged period of freedom from anxiety along her frontiers. The work of consolidating the new territory and of recovering from the cruel sufferings of the war alone will tax Roumanian statesmanship to the utmost and provide a cogent reason for a definite lead to the other States in a policy of mutual concession and peaceful development.

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THE DODECANESE AND THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE.

The capitulation of Turkey on October 31, 1918, provided for the unconditional surrender of all the Turkish forces, but the clauses relating to these provisions were three in number. Article 16 stipulated for the surrender of all garrisons in the Hejaz, Assir, Yemen, Syria and Mesopotamia, *i.e.*, all the extensive districts in which the Turks had been offering resistance in the course of that war. Articles 17 and 18 relate exclusively to Cyrenaica: "The surrender of all Turkish officers in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica to the nearest Italian garrison. Turkey guarantees to stop supplies and communication with these officers, if they do not obey the order to surrender. The surrender of all ports occupied in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, including Misurata [to the east of Tripoli] to the nearest Allied garrison [presumably Italian]." There is an explanation ready to hand for the strange particularity with which in the terms of the Turkish armistice two clauses are devoted to a field of battle comparatively insignificant.

It is a story of seven years ago. The balance of power in the Balkans was very precarious, and had been shaken by Italy's war against Turkey in 1911, which was terminated by the Treaty of Lausanne on November 4, 1911. Italy annexed Tripoli and retained the Dodecanese as a pledge for the proper execution by Turkey of the terms of surrender.

The relations between Italy and her partners of the Triple Alliance were peculiar. Italy waged this war against the wish of Austria-Hungary, and both Italy and Austria-Hungary were bound, under Article VII. of the Treaty of the Triple Alliance, to respect the balance of power in the Balkans, and to forgo any advance, save on terms of mutual and equal concession, after an *accord préalable*. The military operations of Italy were conducted under severe geographical restrictions; she might not attack Turkey on the Adriatic or the Ægean front. Count Berchtold* very much objected to the temporary occupation of the Dodecanese, as tending to the disruption of Turkey; but the imminence of the outbreak of the Balkan War of 1912 (which resulted in the liberation of Macedonia by the Balkan peoples) made him modify his tone. On April 15, 1912, he expressed his readiness "to regard Rhodes, Carpathos and Stampalia as not necessarily part of the isles of the Ægean Sea"; and on May 21 Kiderlen-Wächter from Berlin acknowledged with thanks this conciliatory attitude on the part of Austria-Hungary, and cherished the hope that this Italian occupation of several islands in the Ægean would have no dangerous reaction in the Balkans.

The occupation was always understood to be provisional, and this fact was acknowledged by Italy. Burián, the Austrian Foreign Minister, instructed Macchio, his Ambassador at Rome, in these terms: "Italy has often assured the Austro-Hungarian Government in the most explicit terms that the occupation was only temporary, and would come to an end after the cessation of hostilities between Italy and Turkey. A written declaration was discussed, and this was the text proposed at that time by Italy: "Il est entendu que dans la pensée du Gouvernement Royal italien, l'occupation effectuée jusqu' à ce jour, ou qui pourrait s'effectuer dans la suite des iles de la mer égée a un caractère provisoire et que les dites îles seront resétituees à la Turquie après la cessation des hostilités entre l'Italie et la Turquie, et que, par consequent après l'évacuation de la Tripolitaine et de la Cyrénaïque de la part des troupes et des officiers ottomans, et aussitôt que la réalisation des conditions indiquées dans la note italienne du 15 mars 1912 aux Grandes Puissances aura été obtenue." It follows [Durián continues] "that the conditions on which the Italian Government had made the evacuation contingent no longer subsist, and yet for over three years (*i.e.*, in 1915) Italy had not restored the islands to Turkey."

The Balkan wars were then in progress; and it is worth noting that this secret undertaking continued as follows:— "Il est également entendu que la présente déclaration qui découle des dispositions de l'article VII. du Traité de Triple Alliance sera considérée par le Gouvernement austro-hongrois, ainsi que par le Gouvernement italien comme strictement secrète et confidentielle, car, si elle était connue par la Turquie, elle n'atteindrait pas le but commun aux deux Puissances, qui est de hâter et de faciliter la paix." In other words, Italy might have been bound to restore the islands to Turkey before the settlement of the Balkan wars, in which event Greece might have come into her own.

The Balkan wars resulted in the triumph of the countries whose interests did not accord with those of the Triple Alliance, and in the utter defeat of Turkey, which was becoming a German protectorate, and Bulgaria, the cats-paw of Austria-Hungary; and it is remarkable that apparently to this very day those preliminaries have not been carried out by Turkey, and Italy retained the islands throughout the Balkan Wars and the European War.

Thereby, these islands, and these alone, could not be redeemed by the Greek Navy in the first Balkan War. Whatever the dynastic reasons of State which rendered it undesirable that Turkey should effectively evacuate Cyrenaica, and thus reopen the question of the Dodecanese, they have lapsed utterly, since Italy renounced the Triple Alliance and the pro-Turkish policy of the Germans; and all such considerations are dead, since the negotiations for the peace after the great war are acknowledged to be conducted on national lines of thought, and not of strategic or imperialistic annexationism.

The substance of the Treaty of Lausanne is unassailable; Tripolitania and Cyrenaica can never be returned to Turkish misrule; but it will be another evil precedent if the clause relating to the Dodecanese be regarded as another "scrap of paper." Should there be any Turkish regular forces in the former region there retained ever since 1911—a supposition which needs demonstration—by the decree of the Alliance of the free nations these have to surrender to the Italian army of occupation. If so, the Greek islands revert to Turkey, or since the Turkish Empire is happily dead, to its executors, the Entente, who must, in accordance with the spirit and letter of their bond, assign them to the motherland of Greece.

*The authority and the citations are from the Austro-Hungarian Red-book II.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

M. Venizelos on Constantinople.

The *Morning Post* on Monday published an interesting interview granted by M. Venizelos to its Special Correspondent in Paris. It is good to read that the great statesman has so well withstood the strain of the war.

No European statesman has come through a more fiery ordeal during the great war than M. Venizelos. At an unhappy moment he found the ideals of his lifetime and the fruits of his statesmanship trampled in the dust, and his country, betrayed by its King, torn by internal strife, and estranged from its friends. There are other statesmen here now in Paris who have also come through bitter experiences, and the story of their troubles is written on their faces. But M. Venizelos has come through it all unchanged. His smile is still the same; his welcome as gracious as ever. Indeed it is difficult to believe that this gentle philosopher is the statesman of adamant will and lofty purpose who brought Greece through three terrible wars, and who, refusing to sell his own honour or that of his country, fought and defeated an ignoble King and his cabal of German and pro-German plotters.

Of the various subjects touched upon in the course of the interview the most interesting was, perhaps, the future of Constantinople. Asked for his views, M. Venizelos replied:

"There are two solutions. The League of Nations could entrust a single nation with the control of Constantinople an dthe Straits which together would be formed into a separate administrative area, or the League itself could administer it, appointing a governor for that purpose who might hold office for five years. But whatever solution be adopted, one thing is certain; the Sultan must go. He can make his capital Konia or Broussa, but he must not stay in Constantinople. Even if he were deprived of the Caliphate—and with the creation of an independent Arab Kingdom that is exceedingly likely—he would still be a source of trouble to all the Powers, like France and England, which have large Mussulman populations, if he were allowed to remain in Constantinople. And, further, it is very important that he should be removed now by the Peace Conference actually sitting in Paris, for it is necessary to make it clear to all the world that Turkey is losing her capital, in which by the way the Turks form a minority, as the direct result of


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KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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having entered the war. Turkey chose to be Germany's ally, and must pay the price of Germany's defeat.

Montenegro and Her Future.

Mr. Herbert Vivian writes vigorously in the *Westminster Gazette* of "The Sequestration of Montenegro." That country, he begins, "complains of starvation, oppression, and interference with the rights of self-determination, for which the war was fought." He recalls how, "when Austria issued her ultimatum to Serbia, Montenegro was the first to rush to her rescue," refusing all offers made with a view to turning her from her chivalrous course; and how, at the end of 1915, she "saved Serbia from disaster, facilitating her retreat by holding Mackensen's army for three months." But he adds: "When Montenegro was attacked no one came to her rescue." He then proceeds to describe how "a crowd of Komitajis, or Bolsheviks . . . accompanied by Montenegrin rebels, most of whom had been sentenced for participation in the bomb-plot of 1907 against the Royal Family . . . proceeded to convene a bogus National Assembly, to which they gave the name of Grand Skuptschina, which is unknown to the Montenegrin Constitution." This "packed Assembly" (says M. Vivian) "was informed that the King of Montenegro and his Government were prisoners in France, under an accusation of trying to sell the country to Austria, and now offering to sell it to Italy, and that they would never be allowed to return." And so forth. As to the conduct of the Assembly:—

At the Podgoritsa Assembly no opposition was tolerated. When Jovan Plamenats, an ex-Minister, wished to speak he was assaulted by the Komitajis, and the Metropolitan of Montenegro, the head of the National Church, a venerable man of eighty years, was publicly maltreated. It was then voted "by acclamation," after a sitting of half a day: (1) King Nicholas and the whole Petrovitch dynasty are deposed from the Montenegrin throne; (2) Montenegro is united to Serbia under the Karageorgevitch dynasty, and will form part of the nation which consists of Serbians, Croatians, and Slovenes.

So far, however, Montenegro has had no opportunity of pronouncing on her future. It has been impossible to convene a legal Parliament, because the repatriation of soldiers and statesmen has been impeded. Many are still in Hungarian concentrations camps or detained in Bosnia or Croatia. General Janko Vukovitch was interned in Croatia, and is said to have been killed there. Moreover, a regular cordon has been established round the country, so that the King's partisans can neither enter nor leave freely, nor communicate with foreign countries; indeed, many of them have been deported. Jovan Popovitch, formerly first delegate at the Balkan Peace Conference in London, and now designated to represent Montenegro in Paris, only succeeded in escaping to Rome at the risk of his life.

Later, M. Vivian describes an audience granted to him by King Nicholas recently in Paris:—

I found him little changed since I last saw him, some twelve years ago, at Cettinje—a little balder, perhaps, and growing deaf, but with the same commanding presence and piercing brown eyes. He explained his deafness characteristically, by reminding me that he had spent his whole life amid the roar of guns. And he told me that he had just begun to sleep well again—eight hours the previous night—after years of insomnia. I observed that in this respect he resembled the civilised world after its recent nightmare.

"You remember the treason trial at Cettinje in 1907," he said. "On that occasion a bomb-conspiracy was proved to have been directed against my person. Now a similar treatment is meted out to such of my subjects as dare to express their traditional ideas. Twenty or thirty peasants are discussing their affairs in a coffee-house. All of a sudden a bomb is thrown through the window and half of them are killed. Women and children have been butchered, so as to spread terror among such as remain faithful to the King and country. Believe me, it is not only Montenegro which desires to remain free. Neither the Croatians nor the Slovenes desire to submit to a foreign yoke. And, if it were not so, Montenegro would fight on alone, as she has fought against her foes throughout her history.

"My dynasty," he went on, "has reigned for 240 years without a murmur, for the sovereigns have always been the servants of their people. But if my children"—he used this word repeatedly in referring to his subjects—"desire another ruler or another form of Government, I shall be the first to acquiesce in their choice. Only let it be a free choice. Let them all return from their foreign prisons and elect a Parliament in the constitutional way. Then we shall know where we are, and there will be no further pretext for persecution.

"I count upon justice from England, for she has always been a friend of my people. I shall never forget the debt we owe to your great statesman, Mr. Gladstone, who succoured us in the time of our need."

The article concludes: "Unfortunately, however, a wave of suspicion and ignorance seems to have passed over this country with regard to Montenegro. During the war there was a natural desire to avoid misunderstandings among Allies, and a sort of truce was called, permitting accusations against Montenegro and her King, but no word of defence. Now, however, there is no reason why both sides should not be heard impartially, and liberty be granted to a heroic people to decide their destinies."

A Suggestion.

How difficult it is to understand what is actually going on in Montenegro is emphasized by the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, who has so often shown himself particularly well informed regarding Balkan affairs. He reports that the United States Embassy in the Italian capital has "just sent over to Montenegro two persons to endeavour to find out what is really happening in that country." And he adds:—

The idea is excellent, because it is practically impossible for anyone living outside Montenegro to form any accurate conception of the real wishes and condition of the inhabitants from the mass of "official" and "tendentious" literature and reports disseminated by agents of all the various parties interested in the future of that country.

But this country also should do its part in investigating the mystery. It is a case where first-hand evidence from unbiassed witnesses is absolutely required. The *Post's* correspondent adds:—

It is, however, desirable, in view of the Peace Conference, that Great Britain, which has no axe to grind in the Balkans, and therefore, like the United States, carries special weight with Balkan statesmen and peoples, should, like the United States, send over special emissaries to the Black Mountain to report on the actual position of affairs, and especially on these crucial points: Do the majority of the Montenegrins wish, or do they not, union with Jugo-Slavia under the Karageorgevich dynasty, either in a complete or in a federal form; or do they wish to retain their absolute independence under King Nicholas; or do they wish to form part of a federal State while retaining him on the throne? These are, according to the very imperfect information available outside Montenegro itself, the principal tendencies. The persons sent should, if possible, know the language and have experience of Balkan politics and history, they should not be propagandists or partisans, and, above all, they should, if possible, avoid being "shepherded," or personally conducted, by any of the various parties interested in the fate of Montenegro.

Great Britain has a good record in the Black Mountain, and is trusted there. Should such a mission be sent it should be sent at once, and those acquainted with Balkan affairs would not find it difficult to select the persons best suited for the purpose.

Articles to Note.

"Austria's Plight," by Julius M. Price, in the *Fortnightly Review* (February).

"Persia and the Conference," by the Rt. Hon. Ameer Ali, in the *English Review* (February).

"Justice and Conciliation in the Balkans," by James D. Bourchier; "The Khanaks of the Middle East," by Ikbal Ali Shah; and "The Unity of the Great Race," by Prof. Ronald M. Burrows, in the *Contemporary Review* (February).

"450 Miles to Freedom," by Capt. M. A. B. Johnson and Capt. K. D. Yearsley, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (February).

"Buddhist Monasteries," by David Boyle; and "The Cocaine Habit in India," in *Chambers's Journal* (February).

"The Balance in the Balkans," by H. N. Brailsford, in the *International Review* (January).

"Saint Worship in Turkey," by the Rev. G. White; "Mohammed without Camouflage," by Canon Gairdner; "The Waning of the Crescent," by Rev. C. T. Riggs, in the *Moslem World* (January).

"Reconstruction in Jerusalem," in *The Times* (Feb. 5).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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I hope that all the British exporters and importers who intend entering the Balkan markets have taken due note of the announcement this week permitting the resumption of trade with Roumania and Serbia. Trade in general at the present time, I know, can only be carried on under considerable difficulty, but the prospect for our trade in those markets is such that a special effort should be made to meet the requirements of these markets. In this connection I may recall the statement of a correspondent last week that in Roumania business men are "simply asking for us to come in."

***

It was stated last week that the immediate outlook for exports from Roumania, other than oil, is not good, and the reason for this is to be found in the decision of the Roumanian Government to put into force the policy of expropriation, and break up the large estates and divide the land among the peasants. The wealthy landowner is naturally in a position to carry on agriculture on a large scale, and the facilities at his disposal are not shared by the peasant proprietor who lacks labour, machinery, and capital, and as a result may be expected to produce only a small surplus over what he himself requires for home consumption, and that surplus will be disposed of locally.

***

The Federation of British Industries has just issued an important memorandum on the methods of obtaining an indemnity from the Central Powers. It is stated that there appears to be no doubt that Germany could pay annually at least £600,000,000 to the Allies towards the cost of the war; part of this could be transferred by taking new products and other valuables which cannot be manufactured to-day. As regards German sources of revenue, while it is admitted that in some cases the same amount of receipts will not be obtained in the future, it is stated that it is known that in certain cases, as, for instance, in regard to revenue from railways, the German figures were far below the actual amount. "The most satisfactory way," says the Federation, "is, perhaps, to make Germany pay off the capital of our debt while we bear the interest and recover as much of it as possible from her other accomplices, who could pay in addition approximately £240,000,000 sterling."

***

There is little to be said at the moment as regards developments in connection with the question of Indian contracts. At the meeting held last week by the London Chamber of Commerce emphasis was laid on the point that "if an indent merchant took a line which would have the effect of forcing the hands of the man on the other side" the result would be that he would be lost to other countries. That is self-evident, and will clearly have to be taken into the fullest consideration in devising means to cope with the position. The immediate outcome of the meeting was the appointment of a committee to confer with the East Indian section of the Chamber, and the meeting also gave its support to a resolution of the General Merchants' Section of the Chamber, to the effect that the Shipping Controller be approached and requested to ante-date reductions in freights since the Armistice in respect of goods held up in the United States and British ports owing to Allied Government action.

***

I see that a company has been formed at New York, under the name of the Persian-American Corporation, for the purpose of trade with Persia. It is stated that the company will export agricultural implements, lamps, chemicals, books, and other commodities likely to find a ready market in the country, and will also take part in the work of developing Persia's railways.

***

Attention has frequently been drawn in these columns to American trade enterprise in the Near East, notably in the Red Sea region, where American traders have been very successful in trading in a variety of commodities, and I have pointed out that this pre-war competition was to be regarded as only the commencement of our Ally's interest in the trade of the Near East. Now it seems that America intends to bring the Middle East within her trading sphere, and as we already know that she is taking a keen interest in the future of commerce with the Balkans, it is evident that American competition must be taken into consideration henceforward in all the Near East markets.

***

The fact simply is that in America the commercial prospects of the Near East are fully recognised, and the astute business men there are determined to spare no pains to avail themselves of the opportunities that will be available in that region for enterprise and initiative in the course of the next few years. It is to be hoped that their attitude will help to convince British merchants and manufacturers that they have no time to waste if they do not wish to find other countries already well established in the Near East markets. At the moment they have everything in their favour, but if they delay taking the necessary steps, instead of obtaining trade almost for the asking they will in all probability encounter severe opposition, and that not only from America but also from other countries equally wide awake to the possibilities of the Near East. A case in point is provided by Italy, which is making strenuous preparations to develop trade relations with the Balkans, and has already apparently obtained some success in this direction, for it is reported from Italy that all the agricultural machinery and implements required in Montenegro—where the Government intends to take in hand the development of agriculture—are to be supplied exclusively from Italy. So our traders have every reason to be on the alert.

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The Germans, as a number of people had very good reason to know, were familiar with a variety of methods of making carpets, and of imitating those for which there was a popular demand, as for instance, Turkish and Persian. The chief feature of the German carpet was the use of cheap aniline dyes which ran if the owner dared to send his carpet to the cleaners. An even more annoying practice is recalled by the story told by a speaker at a recent meeting of one of the learned societies of a very unfortunate experience over a carpet which he bought as a specimen of a well-known make. It needed cleaning, and was duly sent to the cleaners, and was brought back as a piece of canvas with the remark: "There is your carpet! As soon as we put it in the benzol in the cleaning-bath the whole of the pattern floated off." The speaker did not suggest that the carpet was made in Germany, but knowing what I do of German methods I strongly suspect that its place of origin was the "Fatherland."

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Apropos of the article in this issue on the position of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, I have had the opportunity of hearing a number of views on the position; and without exception those with whom I have spoken said they would deplore the liquidation of the company. Of the reasons put forward against this action I will only mention two. In the first place there was nothing but praise for the efficient and satisfactory service of the line in meeting a very evident need by catering for trade requirements and passenger traffic in the Levant and between Egypt and the Red Sea. Secondly, strong emphasis was laid on the great field of action now opening out before the company, and it was pointed out that if the career of the Khedivial Mail should come to an end, we may be sure that some other country will speedily take advantage of the opening to introduce a line of their own.

***

An excellent showing is made by the East Indian Railway Company for the half-year ended September 30, when the receipts were Rs.1,06,24,300 in excess of the figures for the corresponding period. Expenses increased by Rs.28,31,600, but, despite this, the net earnings increased by Rs.77,92,700. The company's share of the divisible surplus was Rs.19,59,751, which produced £146,977, and out of this a dividend is declared of £1 5s. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital (Class "D"), in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent.

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THE KHEDIVIAL MAIL.

Future of Undertaking.

Are British interests in the Mediterranean to be reduced by the disappearance of the Khedivial Mail? This question, which a short time ago might have seemed absurd, has assumed sudden prominence as the result of the trend of the discussion at the general meeting at the end of last year, when strong support was given to a policy of realising the company's assets. The matter, it is understood, will come up for decision at an extraordinary general meeting which will shortly be held, and as it seems quite probable that the shareholders in favour of realisation will get their way, the possibility of liquidation, which was referred to with special favour, has to be faced, with the result that in a short time the Khedivial Mail line may have ceased to exist. This, it need scarcely be said, would be a great misfortune; for if British interests in the Near East are to be maintained and developed as they ought to be, shipping facilities will be required in that part of the world on a much more extensive scale than before the war.

The reasons for the policy advocated by certain shareholders were fully explained at the meeting in question, and need only be briefly summarised. It is maintained that the company failed to make an adequate return to the shareholders before the war, and that now that war conditions have placed the company in a much better position, notably in the possession of a large amount of liquid assets, advantage should be taken of this by realisation rather than that they should embark on further enterprises. Before the war the company was admittedly none too prosperous, and its career, as far as dividends were concerned, was one of vicissitudes. Thus, while in 1905-6 and 1906-7 10 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, in 1907-8 only the preference dividend was paid, and in the following year there was no dividend; then in 1909-10 three half-years' preference dividend, and in 1910-11 the distribution was the same. In 1911-12 ill-fortune was again experienced, and only the debenture charges were met, but for 1912-13 the arrears on the preference shares were paid and a dividend of 5 per cent. was declared on the ordinary shares. But despite these ups and downs it cannot be said that up to the present time the shareholders have received a particularly poor return on their money. The Khedivial Mail Company dates from 1898, when it took over a fleet of steamships, graving and floating docks, etc., belonging to the Egyptian Government, and during a period of twenty years the ordinary shareholders have received £113,000 on a capital of £100,000. That gives a dividend of between 5 and 6 per cent. per annum.

But the past history of the company scarcely enters into any consideration of its future prospects, and, in view of the known facts, certainly affords no reason against the continuance of the company. In its early years, and indeed throughout its existence, the company has been handicapped by the absence of adequate working capital. In the old days its operations were carried on with old boats which, the chairman pointed out at the general meeting, were "picked up here and there—anything that could be got at a cheap price, whether it suited the trade for which it was required or whether it did not." Lack of capital was, of course, a grave handicap when the question arose of replacing ships or increasing the company's fleet, and, as a matter of fact, ships had to be bought out of profits. The company has now half a million to its credit, so that this particular difficulty cannot recur. There is another and a more important reason why the past cannot be regarded as any criterion of the future. As a result of the war the position in the Near East has been entirely altered for the better as far as British interests are concerned, and it follows that a shipping line under the British flag will benefit materially from the changed circumstances. In this connection it may be pointed out that shippers made a very considerable use of the line before the war, and there is no doubt that its regular and well-organised services would make a correspondingly greater appeal in the future. The travelling public have always shown a great liking for the Khedivial Mail services, and in this direction, too, the company might legitimately expect to obtain a greatly increased return, as the number of those who wish to visit the Near East for pleasure is likely to be much larger in consequence of the interest aroused in different places as a result of the war operations. It might also be added that the position in the Near East in the future offers a most promising opening for the increase of the Khedivial Mail's somewhat restricted sphere of operations.

But these considerations, whatever their incidence, are, after all, beside the point. The salient factor is that a shipping company is something more in these days than merely a private concern. Shipping is, indeed, as much a part of the public services as railways or lighting, and shareholders in a shipping company have, *ipso facto*, to take a much wider view on that account. The Khedivial Mail, whose ships have served the Levant and the Red Sea, has formed a distinct link in the Imperial chain of shipping—a small link, it may be, though one of great importance and capable of infinite expansion—and it is unthinkable that liquidation should put an end to the company's activities. It should, in short, be regarded as a *sine qua non* that the Company must continue to exist, but under what form must naturally depend on the shareholders. If they are willing to "carry on," and prove conclusively that it is impossible to do so with the prospect of reasonable profits in present circumstances, then it will clearly be the duty of the Government to grant the company a suitable subsidy until such time as conditions improve. Failing that, the Company must be acquired either by an existing shipping corporation—one of the many, perhaps, engaged in serving the Mediterranean—or by a new company established by the financial houses and business men who have realised the opportunities that will be afforded in the Near East and intend to profit by them.

These are the alternatives. There should be no other course.

AMERICAN TRADE WITH SERBIA.

The United States Consul at Salonika is suggesting that there should be organised in America, preferably in New York or some Atlantic coast city, an American-Serbian Association for the importation of American goods into Serbia, with a minimum capital stock of $1,000,000, says *The Board of Trade Journal*. This organisation should be in touch with a similar one in Serbia or at Salonika. (Salonika, he states, will in all probability have a free Customs zone, as provided for by the Greek Government before the war.) This Serbian society should be directly under Government control.

The American-Serbian Association, the consul points out, could, if it chose, carry on business directly at Salonika, and then in Serbia through an agency which could be entrusted to one of the association's representatives. This body would be prepared to provide a substantial sum to guarantee American capitalists against loss. Before the Balkan wars there were annually turned over, within the boundaries of Old Serbia, goods to the amount of 900,000 metric tons. After the addition of New Serbia in 1913 this quantity was doubled in the short space of time between the end of the second Balkan war and the beginning of the world war. If, as a result of the present struggle, a great Yugo-slav confederation, including Serbia, is formed, there will be a vast market opened up.

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MOROCCO.

Trade Prospects with Tangier and Spanish Zone.

The British Agent and Consul-General at Tangier gives the following review of the position in the districts served by Tangier with a view to affording guidance to traders wishing to study the future import requirements of the Moroccan market.

The only new industry started in Tangier during the war has been the manufacture of hydraulic lime by a Russian resident, who has for some time been engaged in quarrying and found stone suitable for the purpose. The difficulty in obtaining lime from abroad and the high prices ruling doubtless induced him to start this industry. The works will presumably be maintained as long as the stone lasts. No assistance has been rendered by the Government.

No new industries have been started in the Spanish zone, nor has any local production of goods been developed. The manufacture of vegetable fibre, however, has been undertaken in both Tangier and the Spanish zone, and the industry may assume considerable proportions.

The market, it is understood, is considerably overstocked with cotton goods, and the demand for cottons will be reduced in consequence of existing stocks. On the other hand, the reduction of shipping facilities appears to have led to a diversion of exports rather than to a cessation. There are, therefore, no stocks accumulated. It should be remembered that the enhanced value of the local currency, which is now at par with the franc, and will doubtless be kept so, has increased the purchasing power of the natives.

British Trade with Tangier.

British imports to Tangier have not diminished in value, and the percentage of British trade, as compared with the whole trade of the port, has increased during the war. As was to be expected, there was a falling off in the imports of flour, confectionery and biscuits, oils, hardware, and woollen goods. Otherwise our trade maintained its position. The increase in the total value of British goods is, of course, due in great measure to higher prices rather than increased quantities.

Spain has largely increased her trade with Tangier, as was to be expected from her proximity to this port, and the maintenance of her daily steamer service with Algeciras, besides numerous small sailing vessels and other steamers. The high prices ruling enabled her to place on the market goods which in pre-war times were unsaleable. Except, however, in cottons, the increase in Spanish trade was not in articles formerly brought from the United Kingdom. The only encouragement given by the Spanish Government to this trade was to permit the shipment to Tangier of goods whose export from Spain was prohibited.

The Spanish Zone.

In the Spanish zone United Kingdom trade has shown a steady falling off since 1913. The cause is twofold: first, the general decline of the trade of the port of Laraiche as a point of entry for the trade of Fez and the interior generally, owing to the opening to trade of the Kenitra-Fez railway; and, secondly, Spanish competition and want of facilities in the way of steamship services. The first cause accounts in part for the steady decline in the total value of British imports, but not for its smaller percentage as compared with the whole trade.

The principal falling off has been in the most important item of our trade, cotton piece-goods, which, notwithstanding the great rise in prices, have fallen from 4,729,578 francs in 1913 to 1,771,797 francs in 1917. Spain has only appropriated about 900,000 francs of this 3,000,000. A large increase in the British cotton piece-goods imported into the French zone shows that, in their case, it has been a diversion rather than a loss of trade. The principal classes of these goods brought from Spain have been bleached and dyed goods. In other respects, taking into consideration the decline of trade between Laraiche and the interior of the French zone, British trade with the Spanish zone has been satisfactory, and there would seem to be no reason for any fear of permanent damage from the effects of the war.

Exports from Tangier.

Exports from this port have of late been almost suspended owing to the restrictions imposed in consequence of the war. Such goods as were exported before these restrictions became operative were sent principally to Spain and France owing to the shipping facilities existing in those countries. The most important items exported in 1917 were goat and sheep-skins and ox-hides.

Owing to restrictions imposed by the Spanish authorities in the Spanish zone, the exports from this zone were directed mostly to the Peninsula. With the advent of normal times, the export trade should return to its former channels. No new lines of steamers have been established.

Construction Schemes.

The projected harbour works at Tangier were suspended on the outbreak of the war. The scheme for a concession has, however, been studied, and the matter will doubtless be taken up again as soon as circumstances admit. The study of the Tangier-Fez railway scheme was also suspended at first, but lately the project has been taken up again, the plans, etc., proceeded with, and actual work commenced on some sections in the French zone. The construction of the line will presumably be proceeded with as quickly as possible. The only other public work of any importance contemplated for speedy execution is the water supply. The matter has been under study for some years, and it is understood that the concession has now been granted to a French company

The public works in progress in the Spanish zone on the outbreak of the war were harbour works at Laraiche and a railway between that port and Alcazar, both of them in the hands of a German company. The former has been handed over to the Spanish authorities in an incomplete state, and the work on the railway has been practically at a standstill for some time. This railway, as also the Spanish zone section of the Tangier-Fez railway, with which it will connect, will presumably be pushed on when circumstances admit. A light railway has been built connecting Ceuta with Tetuan, and a line to join up the latter place with the Tangier-Fez railway is contemplated, but is not likely to be taken in hand for some time.

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 30 :—

General rain has fallen in Northern India, but more is urgently needed in the Punjab.

Cotton harvest has commenced in Madras, so far giving bumper yields. (This local increase was anticipated in the crop forecasts, but the total yield for India was forecasted at 3¼ million bales, as against 3,900,000 last year.)

The Bombay strikes have ended, but the cholera epidemic is hampering trade.

The cotton market was weak, fully good broach, April-May, quoted 589 rupees. Calcutta jute—Market quiet but firm. Jat fours quoted at 13 rupees 8 annas. Gunnies are very quiet.

There is a strong demand for new rice crop Burma, price in Calcutta being 5 rupees 1 anna, including inspection, freight, and insurance. Bombay share market is quiet.

Cable delays seriously impede business.

Linseed has been transferred to Class "A" on the export list of India—that is, export prohibited to all countries.

Total exports of jute manufactures in 1917-18 was 716,000 tons, as against 784,800 tons in 1916-17, and 603,500 tons in the pre-war year 1913-14. The total value was £28,000,000, as against £27,000,000 in 1916-17 and £19,000,000 in 1913-14.

Mr. Russell, Honorary Minister, states that with the assistance of the Imperial Government 30,000 tons of wheat will be sold to the Indian Government by July 5, f.o.b., says a Reuter message from Melbourne.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Lignite for Power.

When the consumption of coal in England is restricted it may be easily imagined what the position with regard to coal is abroad, and especially in the Near East. Many factories have had to be closed, and electric light and gas installations have been disorganised or discontinued for want of coal. The shortage is apparently not yet diminished, for according to recent information all kinds of substitutes for coal as fuel are being used.

Lignite, better known as brown coal, occurs in almost every country in the Near East. In Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Asia Minor, Egypt, and the Sudan there are lignite mines, some of which are already exploited, while others are quite untouched or neglected. The coal from such mines is used, more or less, for domestic purposes, and in recent years, owing to the scarcity of coal from England, has been used in steam boilers by some special arrangement of the fire-bars. The results in the latter case, it is said, are not quite satisfactory. In Australia, however, where the conditions under which the lignite is found are not dissimilar to those in the Near East, the use of lignite, after test results, is officially recommended as an efficient substitute for coal for the supply of electrical power to various towns, and for producing town gas, tar, and its derivatives, ammonia and coke, and for making briquets for household and other requirements. In America, it has been admitted that where lignite is readily procurable, there is the means for producing power cheaply. In the Near East suction-gas engines are in great use, but, apparently the use of lignite for the production of suction power gas has not been generally satisfactory. Owners of suction-gas plants will be interested to hear that, according to information given by the United States Bureau of Mines, carbonised lignite is prepared for use in suction power-gas producers.

For this use, it is asserted, it is unsurpassed by any other form of fuel. In chemical composition it resembles anthracite. By carbonising the lignite the objectionable tar found in coals containing a substantial quantity of volatile matter is removed, and the gas goes to the cylinder of the gas-engine free of tar and clean. For the production of power in this way it is found that carbonised lignite is fully equal to anthracite, charcoal, or bituminous coke, the standard forms of fuel for the purpose. In the process of carbonisation volatile by-products are obtained in the form of gas, ammonia, oil, and tar. The gas yield is upwards of 10,000 cubic feet per ton of lignite. A little more than one-half of the gas is required to carry on the carbonising process. The balance can be used as a furnace fuel, or for generating power in gas-engines. To come to more exact figures: of the yield of 10,000 cubic feet of gas per ton of lignite carbonised 6,000 cubic feet are required to carry on the process, leaving a surplus costing nothing, of 4,000 cubic feet of 400 B.T.U. per foot, a total of 1,600,000 B.T.U. A good gas-engine uses about 10,000 B.T.U. per horse-power hour. This gives 160 h.p. hours from the surplus gas for each ton of lignite carbonised. This power is comparable in cost with that derived from natural gas. It is quite as cheap as hydro-electric power in the majority of cases.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic receipts for the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended January 10 amounted to £E12,883, making the total from April 1 £E285,092. The totals for the corresponding period in the previous year were £E10,873 and £E213,668.

H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta recently commenced a short tour of Rangoon.

TRADE IN ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS IN EGYPT.

The following particulars of the production and consumption of alcoholic liquors in Egypt are given in a report from the Commercial Secretary, Egyptian Ministry of Finance:—Brandy is made in Egypt from imported wines, which before the war were chiefly from Turkey, but which now come from Cyprus and Spain. This brandy is partly consumed locally and partly exported. The amount exported has risen from 12,398 kilogs. of a value of £E407 in 1914, to 30,305 kilogs. of a value of £E1,744 in 1917. The brandy industry is of many years' standing, but has recently increased considerably.

Whisky has also been recently manufactured in Egypt, the malt required being made on the distillery premises. Rum is made locally either from molasses or directly from the sugar cane. Gin has recently been made on a small scale. The value of brandy, whisky, and other potable spirits imported into Egypt has doubled since 1914, the total imports amounting to £E261,558 in 1917.

Plain spirits are made on a very large scale from sugar cane residues. There is no tax or Government control of any sort. The trade is practically in the hands of one man. Recently the distiller, in agreement with the Government, has denatured that part of his production which is sold by retail for domestic purposes. This was done principally in order to prevent the small retailers from diluting the spirit before sale. The amount of plain spirits made in 1916-17 was about 8,500,000 kilogs., of which a large part was a specially refined quality for export.

Beer is made in Egypt in considerable quantities. It is a light beer of the Pilsener type made from malt and hops by the "bottom" method of fermentation. In 1914 the value of the beer imported into Egypt was £E67,709.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Egyptian Crops.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in December:—

Maize (*Nili*).—The harvesting of the crop is practically complete. Unsheathing of cobs and storing of grain are in progress. The yield has not come quite up to expectations owing to the bad weather of last month, which affected the late crop.

Rice.—Harvesting is at an end and the yield is good. Threshing is going on everywhere, but is proceeding slowly owing to the scarcity and high cost of labour.

Millet (*Nili*).—Harvesting is in progress and nearing completion. An average crop is expected.

Sugar Cane.—Weather favourable and water supply plentiful. The attack from stalk-borer is general. Cutting of canes for sugar-making has started and the factories have just begun working.

Wheat and Barley.—Cool and damp weather ruled during the month and was on the whole favourable except in Beheira. Sowing is practically over, but in Beheira and El Gharbiya it is still lingering owing to the delay caused by rain. The crops have received their first heavy watering in expectation of the closing of canals for clearances. Owing to the scarcity and high price of chemical manures, *baladi* and *kufri* are being freely applied. The crops are generally looking healthy, and no enemies have so far been noticed, with the exception of the cut-worm in Minya and Asyût. Attempts are being made by farmers to improve their method of cultivation by following this Ministry's recent recommendations in regard to sowing.

Beans.—Weather generally favourable, except in Beheira, and water supply ample. Sowing is completed and germination is regular. The crop is doing well everywhere Early-sown beans are in flower. The area under beans seems to be smaller than last year.

Onions.—Weather favourable and water supply generally adequate, but still insufficient in Beni Suef. Transplanting is going on and will soon be completed. In Beni Suef, however, it is expected to be very late in some localities. Mildew is reported in Asyût Province, but the attack is a slight one. The condition of the crop is on the whole satisfactory.

Greek Olive Oil Stocks.

The Acting Commercial Counsellor at Athens has forwarded the following reports on the olive oil stocks in the various Consular districts:—

H.M. Vice-Consul at Mitylene reports that the stock of olive oil remaining on the island from the 1917 season is 2,187,500 okes; the amount that is expected from the 1918 season's crop is 5,000,000 okes. The wholesale price for delivery on the quay is 4 drachmæ per oke, the minimum price for edible oil being 4.30 drachmæ. The retail price is from 4.60 drachmæ per oke, the cheapest edible oil being 5 drachmæ.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Patras estimates the 1918 yield of oil in Morea at 7,000,000 okes, being sufficient only to meet local consumption (exportation is at present prohibited).

H.M. Vice-Consul at Canea states that the total stock of olive oil in Crete remaining over from 1917 is estimated at 2,500 tons. Of this half would be available for export should the existing prohibition be raised. The quantity of olive oil to be obtained from the 1918 crop is estimated at 30,000 to 35,000 tons. Prices vary considerably. During this month wholesale prices have fluctuated from 3.10 drachmæ per oke on November 4, to 3.32 on November 11, to 2.60 on November 21, to 2.80 later. It is probable that these prices will fall owing to the magnitude of the new crop and the lack of storage accommodation. Retail prices are from 30 to 40 lepta per oke more than the wholesale prices.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Volo reports that practically none of the 1917 olive oil now remains in his district. The new Mount Pelion district olive crop is estimated to yield about three million okes of oil for 1918. The price on the spot where produced is about 4 drachmæ per oke in bulk, but recently at Volo the price, when obtainable and purchased by the barrel, has been about 5 drachmæ per oke.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Egyptian Agricultural.

A meeting of the first mortgage debenture holders was held on February 3 to consider a proposed supplemental trust deed altering the present conditions of the issue as follows:—To exchange the existing specific charge for a floating charge; to authorise the trustees to be satisfied with registered charges for £250,000 in the aggregate, and to dispense with the renewal of the lapsed charges to any further extent; to give the board discretionary power to raise, by way of prior lien charge, a further £51,000, or, including the unexhausted £9,000, a total of £60,000 in all; and to extend the date up to which interest will be paid from profits only from March 31, 1921, to March 31, 1925. The London Trust Company, who is the trustee for the first mortgage debentures, has been consulted in regard to the above proposals, and sees no objection to them.

Shahdara (Delhi)—Saharanpur Railway.

The report of the Shahdara (Delhi)-Saharanpur Light Railway for the half-year ended September 30 last states that the total expenditure on capital account to September 30 was Rs.43,94,350. Expenditure incurred during the half-year on capital account amounted to Rs.10,904. The earnings of the railway were coaching Rs.2,36,907, goods Rs.1,83,953, sundries Rs.1,076, making a total of Rs.4,21,936, as compared with coaching Rs. 2,02,934, goods Rs.1,09,326, sundries Rs.1,788, total Rs.3,14,048 in the corresponding period. The working expenses of the line were 48.64 per cent. of the gross earnings. Net revenue was Rs.2,21,778, which includes Rs.5,078 interest accrued on the surplus funds of the company. Interest on debentures at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum amounting to Rs.60,104 and London agency charges Rs.2,003 have been paid, and income-tax Rs.3,824 provided for. The directors recommend a dividend of Rs.3½ per share, equal to 7 per cent. per annum, which will absorb Rs.52,500, and that the balance of Rs.2,55,276 be carried forward, of which Government's moiety of profit is Rs.65,889 and managing agents' commission amount approximately to Rs.16,000.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

The report of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company for the year ended September 30 last states that the net earnings amount to Rs.30,62,796, against Rs.25,60,939. The company's share is Rs.13,74,420, brought to account at the rate of 1s. 4d., against Rs.11,21,639. An interim dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1918, of 3 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., was declared on the ordinary stock of the company, and paid on July 29, 1918. After bringing forward the balance from last year, £22,799, providing for interest on debenture and preference stocks, interim dividend and bonus, contribution to provident fund, transferring £10,000 due to gain by exchange to reserve, and making other adjustments, including £6,576 on account of the Secretary of State's share of surplus profits for the year, the amount available for dividend is £51,153. The board recommend a final dividend of £3 per cent., plus a bonus of 3 per cent. on the ordinary capital for the half-year, subject to income-tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, leaving £32,853 to be carried forward. The working expenses amounted to Rs.23,68,608, or 43.61 per cent. of the gross earnings, against Rs.19,28,345, or 42.96 per cent. The total capital expenditure on both the company's original line and extensions has been £1,156,395 to September 30, 1918. Meeting, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., February 11, noon.

Orient Steam Navigation Company

Up to now Messrs. F. Green and Co. and Messrs. Anderson, Anderson, and Co. have been joint managers of the Orient Company, but distinct from one another. Some of the partners now wish to retire from business, and the two firms propose to unite in a private company, to be called Anderson, Green, and Co., Ltd. This change, which will involve some change of *personnel* and various minor and consequent alterations, will be explained to the Orient shareholders at their meeting on February 10.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

The directors of the British Burmah Petroleum Company recommend a balance dividend for the year ended July 31 last of 8 2-5d. per share, free of income-tax, making 12½ per cent. for the year, free of tax, payable on March 1 to shareholders registered 15th instant.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields—Gemsah: Production for week, 23 tons (previous week, 22 tons). Hurgada: 2,802 tons (against 2,558 tons).

TRADE WITH SERBIA AND ROUMANIA.

Removal of Restrictions.

The Board of Trade call attention to the fact that the restrictions imposed by the Trading with the Enemy (Occupied Territory) Proclamation no longer apply to trading with Serbia and Roumania, and that, consequently, commercial transactions with these countries may now be resumed. It will, however, be necessary to obtain export licences from the War Trade Department before shipping to these countries goods of the kinds prohibited to be exported thither, and to obtain import licences from the Department of Import Restrictions before importing goods of kinds covered by the Prohibition of Import Proclamations.

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

The Secretary of the India Office issues the following:—Up to January 25 Indian Treasury bills were issued to the following amounts:—October 16, 1917, to March 31, 1918. Rs.43,50,00,000; April 1, 1918, to January 25, 1919, Rs.64,37,60,000; total, Rs.107,87,60,000. Bills discharged or discounted, Rs.72,32,90,000. Bills outstanding at January 25, Rs.35,54,70,000.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—January 24, 130,000 francs, against 240,000 francs; January 25, 26, 27, 1,120,000 francs, against 1,000,000 francs.

A Reuter message from New York dated January 30 states that half-a-million dollars' worth of bar silver has been exported to India.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has not been so much doing this week in Egyptian securities, but on the whole the market has remained firm and the tendency a cheerful one. No doubt the unsettled state of affairs in connection with the strikes has contributed to the lessened activities in Government Stocks, but Egyptian Unifieds have again been in demand and are ⅛ higher at 90⅞, at which price some business has been done, though there are very few sellers.

Amongst Bank shares, a fair amount of business has been conducted in Nationals, which are closing 1-16 higher at 22 9-16. Agricultural Banks, after spurting to 7, finished 5-32 higher at 6⅞.

In Land Shares there has been a moderate amount doing round quoted prices, the only change being a slight improvement in New Egyptians to 25s. 6d., after they had temporarily reacted to 24s. 9d. Sudan Plantations have again been a feature of strength, improving ⅛ to 4 7-16.

In the Miscellaneous group the only change to record is a further rise of 2s. 6d. in Khedivial Mails to 96s. 3d.

In Greek Securities there has been absolutely nothing doing this week, and prices are all unaltered, with the exception of Greek Five per Cent. Current Bonds, which have recovered the whole of the dividend recently deducted, and are quoted at 95 ex dividend.

Oil Shares.

The tone has on the whole been good. Anglo-Egyptians B have made a further rise of 9-16 to 3⅞. Burmahs are unchanged at 8 15-16, but British Burmahs are 1s. 9d. up at 18s. 3d. Anglo-Persian Prefs. are unchanged at 26s. 9d.

Roumanian Consols are unchanged at 16s 6d. In Traians the tendency has been downwards, but at closing the price again reached 12s. 3d.

Ural Caspians are 1-32 higher at 1⅞. Bakus have declined to 5s. 3d. Russian Generals and Russian Petroleums are unchanged at 1 1-16 and 2s. 9d. respectively.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares show a further decline on the week of 98 francs at 5,197. Other prices are: Egyptian Unifieds 94.25 (against 93.50), Serbian 1895's 61.50 (against 61), Turkish Unifieds 69.75 (against 70), Banque d'Athenes 101.50 (against 105), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 800 (against 785), Land Banks 188 (against 189), and Ottoman Banks 544 (against 546).

Lord Faber has been offered, and has accepted, a seat on the Board of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.

The Indian Government is being urged to impose a further tax on Java sugar, which is arriving in India in increasing quantities.

The directors of the Balijan Tea Company have declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent., less income-tax on account of 1918.

The employees of the Mittel Deutsche Credit Bank, one of the largest banks in Germany, have decided to strike for higher salaries.

British India trade returns for December show increases in imports of £1,238,000 and in exports of £561,000, as compared with the corresponding month last year.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Jan. 28	Feb. 4
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90½	90⅞
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78½	78½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	73	73
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	73	73
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	59	59
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56	56
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	73	73
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	65	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	79	79
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	83½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 13/16	6 13/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7 9/16	7 9/16
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16½	16½
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	9⅛	9⅛
Chartered Bank of India	65	68½	71
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	18⅞	18⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22½	21 15/16
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8 7/16	8 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/3	25/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	14	14
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/-	17/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/6	16/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/4½	25/6
Sidi Salem Co.	1⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	4 5/16	4 5/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	71/6	71/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/4½	3/4½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 1/16	12 1/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	28/-	28/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	2 3/16	2 3/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	93/9	96/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅜	4⅜

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

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Authorised Capital - £2,000,000 | **Called-up Capital - - £580,000**
Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | **Reserve - - - - - £237,500**

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Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) **£1,000,000**
Reserve Fund **£1,350,000**

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 406.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

During the past week the Paris Conference, or the Inner Council, has listened to statements of the Czecho-Slovak and of the Arab claims. In the meantime the problems presented by the various national demands in the East are being considered by separate commissions, and it is on these bodies that the hard work of reconciling conflicting interests will devolve. No other system, as was pointed out in these columns before the Conference met, was possible. The question of boundaries in the Near East is too intricate to be decided in general conference, or even at a sitting of the Inner Council. It calls for careful and patient sifting of evidence, and will sometimes entail research beyond the testimony afforded by the spokesmen appearing before the Commissions. If the spirit which has actuated the delegates so far prevails to the end, the nations represented will have reason to congratulate themselves. As the King's Speech puts it: "Their discussions have been marked by the utmost cordiality and goodwill and by no disagreement." Already, in the case of the Dalmatian question, a settlement, it is understood, has virtually been reached between the Italians and the Yugoslavs.

Now that the mandate system has been tacitly accepted by the Conference the appointment of the mandatories becomes the all-absorbing question. There is no lack of claimants; but the first point to be settled is whether the United States are prepared to play their part in the system. The British people are naturally anxious to see the Americans take up their share of the white man's burden; and as the British Government has accepted whole-heartedly President Wilson's theory of a League of Nations, the British delegates have been foremost in trying to combat American reluctance to become permanently committed to a definite status in European politics. But to argue from this disinterested attitude that Great Britain has become the world's "Weary Titan," as an American writer does in *The Times*, is an amiable error. Great Britain, we are told, "feels herself not strong enough to add to her burdens, so colossal on the Imperial side before the war, which in itself exhausted such an alarming fraction of her resources in men and money." There could be no greater misreading of the history of the last four years. What has happened is that the British Empire has found itself, and, as far as its Imperial obligations are concerned, is far more ready than it was before the war to respond to any fresh demands that may be made upon it.

The reason is not far to seek. In tightening the bonds of Empire the war has led to the pooling of overseas statesmanship with that of the mother country. Even if—it is far from being the case—Great Britain herself felt unequal to the strain, the Dominions are not likely to shrink from added responsibilities. The American writer in *The Times* would seem to have been prompted in his remarks by the extreme altruism of the British attitude towards Syria. The Empire's needs are met if Palestine, as the buffer State of Egypt, and the country fringing Mesopotamia are in friendly hands; but it would come as a shock to the British public to learn that there was any disposition on the part of the Government to evade its obligations in Mesopotamia itself. The war has added considerable responsibilities to the British Empire as a whole, but practically none to Great Britain herself, with the exception of Mesopotamia. (In whatever form the territory that was German East Africa may come under British jurisdiction, it is probable that its actual administration will be shared with one or more overseas Governments.) The suggestion that Mesopotamia, even with Syria and Palestine added, would become "a burden beyond the Englishman's resources" could only emanate from someone wholly unacquainted with the Empire's work. That it should be made is a warning against allowing disinterestedness to travel beyond a point consistent with Great Britain's position and prestige in the East.

The hold that the Committee of Union and Progress still contrived to keep on the Turkish Parliament or public, in spite of its titular heads being in exile, was gradually reducing the Government of Turkey to a deadlock. With the knowledge, therefore, that a *coup d'état* was being planned, the Grand Vizier adopted the salutary course of arresting forty of the Committee's leaders on the last day of January. Such a step will either make or end Tewfik Pasha's Ministry. With the meagre information at our disposal it is not easy to form a clear idea of the position in Constantinople. At best the present regime would seem to be recognised on all sides as a makeshift, with the result that no one is inclined to worry much, provided that the external appearance of ordered government is maintained. Until the Allied Conference decides the fate of Turkey this state of affairs may be inevitable. The experience of the period that has elapsed since the Armistice proves conclusively that Turkey requires outside help in every department of the administration. The moment may be inopportune to start the system; but it should not be overlooked that the longer the existing indeterminate

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position is maintained the more difficult will become the work of rehabilitating Turkey, even within the limits of the new boundaries contemplated.

In spite of the meticulous care with which the question of the representation of various minor States at the Paris Conference was handled, no provision, so far as is known, has been made for the attendance of Montenegrin, Albanian and Armenian delegates. An official *communiqué* announced that the selection of the single representative of Montenegro was to be deferred until the situation in that country had been cleared up; but it does not appear that the Associated Powers have taken any steps towards settling the troubles under which Montenegro labours. The Armenians are now represented by a Mission in Paris, and it may be taken for granted that the Inner Council of the Conference will extend to one or more of its members the privilege that was given to the Emir Feisul on behalf of the Arabs. In the same way, it is hardly to be supposed that the Paris deliberations will be terminated before a representative of Montenegro is allowed to state the official case of that country. Albania, on the other hand, is in danger of being left entirely unrepresented, unless an Albanian mission can be created in time. It should not follow, however, that the Albanian point of view will be on that account excluded from the Conference. The Albanians have shown that they are capable of holding their own against the Turks and against Europe's nominee, Prince Wied. It would be folly, therefore, to act upon the assumption that they alone, of all the peoples of the Near and Middle East, have no claim upon the principle of self-determination.

The Rome correspondent of *The Morning Post* recently announced that the United States Embassy of that city had sent over to Montenegro two persons "to endeavour to find out what is really happening in that country," and he added that it was desirable that Great Britain should adopt the same course. The suggestion, albeit late in the day, is worthy of the fullest support. Some reports are now being received from Montenegro, which allow an idea to be formed of what has been happening there. According to one statement vouched for by a Montenegrin officer and an engineer, whose names are given, the blockade of the country since the Austrians evacuated it has been complete. The Montenegrins set their hopes on the visit of the French Commandant from Cattaro. They are said to have been anxious to repudiate the allegation that they had declared the annexation of Montenegro to Serbia. But the Serbian military authorities allowed no one to approach the French officer and he returned satisfied that all was quiet in the country. The Montenegrins, in despair, began to organize demonstrations, with the result, so it is said, that five hundred were killed or wounded, many houses were burnt or destroyed, and numbers of people were rendered homeless, in mid-winter. The visit of the American investigators, it is to be hoped, will not be followed by similar developments.

An appeal to the Paris Conference on behalf of the Persians is made by the Persian community in Egypt in the form of a memorandum setting forth Persia's grievances against Russia, her experiences during the war, and her demands. The latter include a guarantee of political and economic independence, territorial integrity, and evacuation of Persian territory by all foreign troops, complete reparation and restoration, the abolition of treaties and conventions obtained from Persia by force, and the return of the provinces wrested from her by the Treaties of Gulistan (1813) and Turkmanchai (1826), and by others. The provinces in question include the Khanate of Baku and Erivan. Apart from these territorial claims it may be possible to meet Persia's wishes; but in her own interest it is to be hoped that she will appreciate the advantage of foreign guidance until she has been able to train a competent and honest civil service.

The report that a mission from Bokhara, together with representatives of the minor Khans of Russian Turkestan, has reached Kabul for the purpose of creating a league of Moslem rulers of Central Asia tends to crystallise a movement that has been in progress for some time past. The first impulse in this direction came from the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress, which hoped to find in a Pan-Islamic or Pan-Turanian movement adequate compensation for the loss of Arabia, Syria, and Mesopotamia. If, as seems probable, the Ameer Habibullah has now taken charge of the desire among the Moslem rulers of Central Asia for closer co-operation, the resulting league is not likely to follow the lines planned for it in Constantinople. The loyalty of the Ameer stood a severe strain during the war, and British policy should make a point of supporting him in an effort to inspire the Moslem rulers whose territories adjoin Afghanistan on the north with his own level-headed outlook on world affairs.

The deliberations of the recent Conference of Indian Princes and Chiefs may be taken to mark a definite step forward in the constitutional organisation of the Empire, while they afford ample justification for the cautious policy pursued by Lord Chelmsford at a time when enthusiasts thought that everything could be settled by a stroke of the official pen. It is now clear that there is to be a permanent Council, with a standing committee to tide over the intervals between the meetings of the larger body; but it is not yet clear how the Council is to be composed, and the position is thus similar to that which has been reached in regard to the constitution of the provinces directly under British rule. In both cases some progress has been made in designing new institutions, but in neither case has agreement yet been reached as to the foundations on which they shall rest.

The difficulty in regard to the Council lies in the fact that the position of the princes and chiefs is very far from being uniform, some of them having full powers of internal administration, while others are subject to restrictions varying widely in degree. Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu proposed that the Council should be limited to the Rulers with full powers, but this arrangement has not secured general approval, and we gather that the claims of the smaller chiefs to some degree of representation are supported by an influential body of opinion. The truth is that the status of an individual chief is very largely the result of historical accident: the military and political situation a hundred odd years ago enabled some to obtain more favourable treaties than others who, a little earlier or a little later, could have made a stronger case, and there is a great deal to be said on both sides of the question whether the arrangements then made should govern the new developments. The matter is, however, obviously one to be settled by the opinion of the chiefs as a whole, and this will crystallise as time goes on.

The welcome acceleration of the mail service has enabled observers in this part of the world to study the proceedings of the Delhi National Congress before they have become ancient history, and the resulting impression is that it most have been an exceedingly interesting spectacle. One can almost sympathise with the President, who genuinely believes that all the gulfs separating different opinions can be completely filled, if you only throw in sufficient words; he made a valorous effort at the start, and then had to sit and watch the Congress dissolve into its elements, the moderate proposals voted down, and the extreme section marching from triumph to triumph until even Mrs. Besant was left behind. So much at least is clear that those of us who used to think of the Congress in terms of Mr. Gokhale must now associate it with the names of Mr. Das and Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal.

What we have not yet heard is what the peasant-delegates thought about it all. Some hundreds of them were present, and if, as we understand, they were really peasants whipped up for the occasion, their ignorance of English must have prevented them from following the great majority of the speakers. We do not suppose that they were bored, for the peasant has a great capacity for doing nothing when there is nothing urgent to be done, and on such occasions he thinks a good deal.

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Silent in the Assembly, they must have talked when they got home, and the political situation would be greatly illuminated if we could know exactly what they said about the Panditji, and the Mem Sahib, and the other protagonists on the platform. Reporters are not, however, admitted to such discussions, and we must wait till the results of this experiment in political education have time to manifest themselves.

The scanty news which reaches us as to the economic position in India is somewhat contradictory. On the one side we hear of shortage of food-supplies on the seaboard and of imports of wheat from Australia; on the other, we are told that the northern provinces are showing unexpected "staying power," a phrase which in practice means a large undisclosed reserve of food-grains. It would be too much to ask the overstrained Administration to explain such matters just now, but we hope that when the fragments of the famine are being gathered up in the autumn we shall have a reasoned discussion of the new forces which have complicated the existing situation, the exhaustion of the railways, and the consequent interference with the freedom of internal trade. Has India for the last year or two been eating much more than usual, or have the new conditions operated to send stocks underground?

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 20.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The Ministerial crisis which was created on December 4 by the resignation of the Prime Minister, H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, and of the Minister of Education, H.E. Adly Yeghen Pasha, is still unsettled. Neither of the resignations has so far been accepted, and conversations on the subject are still going on between the British and Egyptian authorities. I understand that it is hoped that an arrangement will be come to within the next week or so. Meanwhile, the other Ministers are attending to the affairs of their respective departments as usual, but no Council of Ministers can be held until the Prime Minister and his colleague either return to office or are replaced.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The time is approaching when the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals will have to be renewed. The last renewal took place in January, 1918, and was for a period of a year expiring on the 31st inst. I understand that negotiations are in progress for an extension of nine months, i.e., until October 31 next, and that provided all the interested Powers consent—and there is no reason to anticipate that they will do otherwise—the decision will be published very shortly. The renewal for a shorter period than has been customary since the outbreak of war has aroused some comment, but it is undoubtedly not unconnected with the judicial and other changes which are under consideration. Although the choice of this shorter term must not be construed into meaning that the reforms under consideration will be introduced at the expiration of the period for which it is now proposed to extend the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals, it is probable that it has been decided upon in the hopes that it may be possible to complete the work in the interval, and from a desire not to bind the hands of the Anglo-Egyptian authorities in the matter of local legislation for any longer period than would be required by international agreements binding on Egypt, such as that regulating the life of the Mixed Courts.

The Estates of the Ex-Khedive.

A Proclamation signed by General Allenby vests the estates of Abbas Hilmy Pasha, ex-Khedive of Egypt, in the Public Custodian of Enemy Property. When in December, 1914, Abbas Hilmy Pasha was deposed from the throne owing to his defection to the enemy, a sequestrator was appointed by the Minister of Finance, at the request of the Commander-in-Chief, for the administration of all the properties held by him in this country, and Mr. F. Bonham Carter was nominated to the post. In March, 1915, that appointment was varied at the request of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien, who were one of the principal creditors of the ex-Khedive, and M. Claud Jonnet was appointed sequestrator. He has now applied to be relieved of his office, and the Commander-in-Chief has issued the order mentioned above in favour of the Public Custodian.

The ex-Khedive owned considerable property in Egypt, including a palace at Kubbeh and one at Montaza, as well as some large agricultural estates. The whole of his property was heavily mortgaged, and the instalments as well as the interest on the loans were considerably in arrears. It is understood that the arrears in both cases have been paid up, and that everything is now in order. The Government is credited with the intention of purchasing the two palaces as residences for the Sultan and the Ministry of Wakfs and the Sultania Wakfs administration with that of buying the other properties. Land values have risen very much since 1914, and it is highly probable that prices will be realised which will enable the mortgages to be paid off in full, and will leave a substantial balance to the credit of the ex-Khedive, who will thus benefit by the protection afforded to Egypt by Great Britain.

In connection with the above-mentioned Proclamation there is one interesting point. It is contained in the preamble. The latter gives as one of the motives that it has become necessary to make provision for the future administration of the estates in question, "as Abbas Hilmy Pasha has been excluded from the country, and he and his descendants have been by decision of his Majesty's Government definitely excluded from all rights of succession to the Sultanate." It should be noted that in his letter to the Prime Minister announcing his acceptance of the offer of the Sultanate the late Sultan Hussein stated that the succession would be hereditary in the family of Mohammed Ali in an order to be determined, and that in his letter offering the throne to the present Sultan Fuad, Sir Reginald Wingate asked him to assume that dignity for himself and his heirs according to such order of succession as might be established by agreement between H.B.M.'s Government and his Highness. The Proclamation now issued by General Allenby is, however, as far as is known, the first occasion where in any official document it has been stated that the ex-Khedive and his heirs are definitely excluded from the succession to the Sultanate of Egypt.

The Visit of Cardinal Bourne.

Cardinal Bourne, accompanied by his secretary, Monsignor Jackman, left last Friday for Palestine and Syria, where he will make a short stay preparatory to proceeding to the Black Sea. His last few days have been exceedingly busy, but he found time to go down to Alexandria, where he visited the troops and the various religious schools, and was entertained at luncheon at the Savoy Palace Hotel. In Cairo he visited the Jesuits' Schools and delivered an address, in which he pointed out that when the Catholic orders were driven out of France one of the countries where they were received with open arms was Great Britain, where the welcome came from Protestants as well as Catholics. He used this fact to emphasise the fact that Catholics have nothing to fear at the hands of Great Britain in Egypt. On Wednesday evening he was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the leading Catholic civilians of Cairo. He leaves behind him a most agreeable impression, and his visit, short though it has been, should have the happiest of results as regards the relations between the Catholic communities and the furtherance of British prestige in Egypt.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Emancipation of the Jews.

The *Monitorul Oficial* published the decree concerning the emancipation of the Roumanian Jews. The most important articles of this decree are:—

(1). The inhabitants of the Kingdom of Roumania, without any religious distinction, including those who could not enjoy full political rights, can acquire those rights by proving that they were born in the country, and that they were never under any foreign protection. All who took part in the campaigns of 1913 and 1916-1918 are exempted from these formalities.

(2). The widows and children left by those who died for the country enjoy complete civic rights.

(3). Sons who had already attained the age of 21 years when their fathers were naturalised become Roumanian citizens on the coming into force of this law. Those who are under the age of 21 years at its coming into force can become Roumanian citizens if, within a year of attaining the age of 21 they sign a declaration that they wish to be Roumanian citizens. The above-mentioned declaration must be addressed to the local tribunal, together with the documents proving that the naturalisation of the parents took place before the voting of the present law, and with the certificate of birth showing that the applicant was born in the country.

(4). The children of those who died before the coming into force of this law shall become Roumanian citizens if they sign a declaration, on attaining the age of 21, stating that they wish to become Roumanian citizens.

(5). Political rights are denied to:—(*a*) All who have been penally condemned, and thus, according to the Constitution of the country, have forfeited their civic rights. (*b*) Those who have been sentenced by the courts martial as deserters, or spies, or for helping the enemy during the war.

The Bolsheviks.

It is evident that the Russian Bolsheviks are very near to becoming masters of the whole of Ukrainia. They are organising a big army, threatening Roumania, and—what is more dangerous—they are concentrating there another army of fanatical propagandists. They are continuously fighting with the Roumanian forces on the Dniester, and their agents are doing their utmost to provoke a revolt of the Roumanian peasants. The report, which came from Vienna some days ago, that the Roumanian peasants were already ravaging the country, reflected rather the desire of the Bolshevik organisations in Austria and Hungary. Unfortunately, the condition of the peasants is most apalling, and despair might easily drive them into revolution. The Government is already apportioning the promised land to the peasants in order to alleviate their misery and gain their confidence. It is stated that at the end of March nearly all the State domains, those of the Crown and of public institutionts, will be distributed to the peasants, so as to enable them to begin the working of their own land. Privately owned estates will be apportioned later on, owing to the great difficulties concerning the delimitations of such domains.

The Saxons of Transylvania.

The Saxons from all the provinces of Transylvania have held a meeting at Mediash, one of their principal centres, in order to discuss the position of the Saxon population after the union of Transylvania with Roumania. There were present the Saxon ex-deputies of the Budapest Chamber, and the Saxon clergy. They unanimously adopted a resolution by which they recognise the decisions taken by the Roumanian Assembly at Alba-Julia, and proclaim themselves as citizens of Great Roumania. It is interesting to recall that in 1864, when the Magyar Government abolished the autonomy of Transylvania, the Saxons ranged themselves with the Roumanians and fought for the maintenance of the autonomy of Transylvania. There have been always very good relations economically and politically between the Saxons and the Roumanians of Transylvania.

A deputation of the Saxon Council, headed by MM. Braush and Schiller, have informed the Roumanian Government of Transylvania of their decision. The same deputation has left for Bucharest to announce the decision to the Government and the King of Roumania.

A demonstration in support of the claims of Greece and Armenia at the Peace Conference was held in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon. M. G. Marchetti, from the Greek Committee in London, presided; M. Vasilakaki made a vigorous speech; and messages of sympathy were read from Queen Alexandra, M. Venizelos, Viscount Bryce, and Viscount Gladstone.

CYPRUS IN 1918.

(From a Correspondent.)

The war has left its mark on Cyprus, and those who re-visit the island after an absence of a few years, find a notable change, which indicates some advance in material progress. War profits have filled the pockets of many; merchants have made fortunes; and villagers have had opportunities such as they never had before. Very high prices have been realised for all kinds of produce; the cereal harvest was an exceptionally good one; wine manufacturers have obtained excellent prices; and carob growers, though less fortunate, have done very well. Many Cypriots have gone abroad, especially to Salonika, as interpreters, muleteers, etc., and have earned high rates of pay. The price of labour has risen all round. The employment of villagers—to a great extent women—in the tobacco-growing industry, caused some shortage of labour for the cereal harvest, and tended to force up wages. The cost of living, especially in the towns, has risen very considerably; but peasants of prudent habits—not too common—have been able in not a few cases to pay off their debts to usurers.

The exportation of carobs, so important a feature of Cyprus trade, is generally to a large extent held over from one year to another. This branch has been considerably disorganised from lack of shipping and other causes. Such quantities of the 1917 crop as could be shipped by the weekly mail steamer and by tramp sailing vessels, were discharged at Port Said, and stacked in heaps till they could be shipped to England. These consignments realised enormous prices, up to £55 (or £25 net) a ton. The commandeering of two-thirds of the 1918 crop by the military has been a blow to merchants.

As regards the new tobacco crop, a large proportion, unfortunately, failed, but high prices have been obtained for all that reached the market. A limit was placed on lands licensed to be planted. The extent was probably over 6,000 *donums* (say, over 2,000 acres), and when restrictions are removed there will probably be an immense extension, if conditions remain favourable. As it is, however, the results of this experiment have not realised the expectations of the very sanguine; and the high prices which the world shortage has allowed will not be maintained. Cypriot growers will have to do much better, and to take all the necessary measures; for there seems no reason why good tobacco should not be grown when suitable seed and more expert knowledge are available.

Taking a wide view, it can be said that the wave of prosperity which the war brought has not yet receded.

Good work has been carried out by the Public Works Department. Village water supplies have been improved, and the work on roads and bridges is of incalculable benefit. Village sanitation has made some progress under the encouragement of the Commissioners. The rural class is now far more ready to make use of hospitals and medical advice.

The Forest Department continues to show a large increase of revenue, due to increasing demands on island timber, in consequence of the lack of foreign supplies, and the consignments to Egypt and Palestine. This is satisfactory from a revenue point of view, provided that felling is not carried too far. That is always the danger; for skilful reafforestation, a very slow process, must be carried on for a long period, in view of the unpardonable destruction of the past.

The Agricultural Department has faced its uphill, but now not altogether thankless, task with unflagging zeal and energy. Its activities are many-sided, and the rural class, as a whole, is still deplorably apathetic. But the report of the Director of Agriculture, which will be looked for, as heretofore, with interest, will, I believe, show that further progress has been achieved in this all-important field of industry.

If progress in education has not been conspicuous, it is not from any lack of zeal on the part of the Department in charge, but because the reforms which are looked for as an outcome of the visit and report of Messrs. Talbot and Cape in 1913 have been inevitably "hung up" during the war, the end of which will now encourage the hopes of the District Committees and of the underpaid and fitfully distributed teachers throughout the island.

The "political situation" is unchanged. Those who claim to represent the community of 230,000 Greeks keep the torch of Hellenic aspirations burning, while 60,000 Turks remain stoutly opposed to any change of government. At the close of the year yet another Greek deputation, headed by the Archbishop Kyrillos, left for England to urge once more their petition for union with Greece. Perhaps the prevailing feeling at present is one of hope that, should Great Britain keep Cyprus, the real needs of the island, which are mainly concerned with agricultural development, will be at last seriously dealt with in a new and liberal spirit.

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MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, January 27.

The Future of Tangier.

There has been considerable excitement here during the last few weeks over the articles which have been appearing in the French and Spanish papers and in *The Times* regarding the future of Tangier, and Dame Rumour has been very positive of the almost immediate assumption of authority by France.

Not only the present international zone of Tangier, but the Spanish zone also, was to become French, the amount to be paid to Spain for the latter, a good round sum, being stated with a great air of official information. The French Tabor (police), French Post Office, etc., had, it was said, received orders to prepare for the change. Land jobbers have been, or have made a great show of being, very busy finding buyers or sellers, and some transactions in low-priced land have taken place.

Naturally, Britons are extremely anxious. They would be false to their blood if they did not hope that somehow or other Tangier would come under the protection of their own flag, and no one can blame them for feeling a very keen regret if Tangier, where England has had such a long connection and has such important interests, with its beautiful country and with a port which has such an immense future before it, should pass to another nation, however friendly. If it is not to be British, they would prefer to see a proper international authority constituted. There are many natives, Jews and Arabs, as well as foreigners, who would welcome British rule, and if a plebiscite of the inhabitants could be taken it would give results which would surprise very many wise people.

Among the nations to whose protection Tangier has been assigned at different times by rumour was the United States, and the present journey to Paris of Mr. Maxwell Blake, U.S. Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General, is exciting some curiosity.

The German Debacle.

The news of the defeat of Germany is gradually spreading amongst the insurgent tribes, and whilst there is still much difficulty with some of the more warlike amongst them, the flight of the German agents and of some of their Arab tools, together with confirmation of the Allied victory, has already had the effect of deciding some tribes to make submission to the French authorities.

Vaccination Regulations.

A decree has just been published obliging everyone arriving in the French zone by sea or overland, unless he can show a certificate that he has been vaccinated within six months, to submit to vaccination on the spot. A certificate from the doctor who performed the operation or the institution where it took place is not sufficient; the document must be legalised! This seems very arbitrary, and one wonders what will be the position of foreigners who may have been vaccinated quite recently enough according to English ideas, or who, having undergone the operation within the required time and, not being aware of the decree, have never thought of obtaining a certificate, let alone of having the signature legalised. We British are not in the habit of carrying a vaccination certificate about with us.

The Tourist Outlook.

We are again enjoying a spell of very beautiful weather. Irises and narcissi are blooming, arum lilies, hibiscus and oleanders are in bud, and mimosa and almond trees flowering. The temperature was rather low at the beginning of the year, and one night especially bananas and the very tender plants suffered. It is still cold at night and in the early morning, but the sun is gaining strength, and for walking or even riding one finds in the middle of the day even the lightest overcoat rather much.

There has not been very much rain, and in the agricultural districts up to a month or so ago people were becoming anxious; luckily, rain fell in time, and there has been a considerable quantity more or less all over the country. Unfortunately, locusts have made their appearance in one or two districts; it is to be hoped that the authorities will lose no time in taking energetic steps to deal with this plague. Although we had one or two days' very heavy rain in Tangier, more is wanted; some people, whose supply usually suffices, still have to buy water, even very good wells having given out.

It is stated that the Cecil Hotel, which has been closed since soon after war broke out, is preparing to reopen. The Cecil was always one of the favourite hotels amongst tourists.

The Bland Line have recommenced their regular service between Tangier and Gibraltar. There are now two sailings a week each way; they have only put on a small steamer, with little or no comfort; but, after the long interruption of regular communications, almost anything is welcome.

It will be seen that in some ways normal conditions are gradually being re-established, and intending tourists should begin to make their arrangements.

There has been another sad accident in the bay; a boat bringing seven liberty men from the French cruiser Cassiopée capsized near the mole, and three of the occupants were drowned. Two of the bodies have been recovered and were buried in the new cemetery. The news of the sad fate of the Pagnet liner Chonia was a great shock, she and her officers and crew were so well known in Tangier and Casablanca.

I must not omit to say, though perhaps rather late in the day, how very pleased the many friends of Mr. Leslie Couper, of the Bank of British West Africa, were to hear of the honour recently conferred upon him.

The series of horse and mule robberies continues. Last week three mules were stolen from the stable of one of the best known and most highly respected British residents here. It is very strange that Britons are the greatest sufferers from these thefts; but there seems absolutely nothing to be done, notwithstanding very vigorous protests.

EGYPTIAN ADMINISTRATION.

On Tuesday, at the Central Hall, Westminster, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith delivered an address on Egyptian Administration.

Sir Charles Lucas, who presided, in introducing the lecturer, said that Egypt had illustrated the constructive genius of the British people; it had shown what could be done by the British soldier, statesman, and engineer. Less than forty years ago we went into Egypt, and less than twenty Lord Kitchener recovered the Sudan for civilisation; but what a record it has been! Great names had been associated with Egypt, and Egypt in large measure had made them great.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith said that Lord Cromer's great Pro-Consulship from 1883 to 1907 had laid the foundation of all succeeding regimes. Its leading feature had been the concentration of power into his own hands. In the circumstances of the time, the choice lay between the personal government of the Khedive and that of the British representative, and Lord Cromer chose the latter alternative, aiming at, and to a great extent achieving, the liberation of the people from oppression, even-handed justice for all men, and considerable reduction of taxation. Under Sir Eldon Gorst, who succeeded him, an entirely different policy was pursued, British guidance being reduced to a minimum. The experiment proved a disastrous failure, and when, after four years, Lord Kitchener was appointed, there was a considerable swing back of the pendulum. Lord Kitchener firmly resumed the reins of government, and proceeded to direct the course of policy and reforms in the various departments, going, in this respect, much beyond Lord Cromer. During the three years of Lord Kitchener's administration (1911-1914) a large number of innovations were introduced, the source of them all being the desire to ameliorate the lot of the fellaheen. The "Five Feddan" law, which exempts small homesteads from seizure and sale for debt; the Cantonal Courts, establishing an administration of the law modelled on that of the English justice of the peace; a reform of the savings banks; the grant of small holdings to deserving cultivators on advantageous terms; and a revision of the constitutional organisation of the country, were the most notable changes that he introduced. Lord Kitchener left in June, 1914, for a holiday in England, and, of course, never returned to Egypt. Soon afterwards that country was declared a British protectorate, a Sultan replaced the Khedive, and a High Commissioner was sent out in place of the former Agent and Consul-General to represent the protecting Power. This made little difference in the outward aspect of affairs, but it entirely changed the legal situation of the country, and swept away certain irritating anomalies in the position of the British representative, by placing him in a position corresponding to his political importance.

Sir Malcolm concluded his address by briefly sketching some reforms which he anticipated would be introduced into Egypt, these including schemes for drainage and irrigation, the exploration of the Red Sea littoral and the Sinai Peninsula, the extension of education, the improvement of public health, and the abolition of the capitulations.

Sir Francis Younghusband said that one of the greatest problems of our Empire was that of what should be the relationship between the British representative and the native chief and his Ministers. Should he sit still and see the State ruled in an inefficient way? Should he watch every kind of corruption and misgovernment going on around him, or should he, like Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener, take the reins firmly in hand and practically rule the State himself? Probably it was necessary to do this in order to establish good and firm government in a country previously misgoverned. Nevertheless, it was not desirable that this kind of thing should go on continually over a great number of years, for the eventual result was to emasculate the people and leave them incapable of governing themselves. There was apparently too sudden a change when Lord Cromer was succeeded by Sir Eldon Gorst, but he (the speaker) thought that after the strong and masterful representative had got the country into order, gradually, in the course of time, the British representative should be more a man fitted for social and ceremonial functions, while we should look for the impetus towards improvement to the young British administrators serving under the native Ministers.

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THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The future of Cyprus is again being discussed, and those who advocate its cession to Greece refer, of course, to the unfortunate offer in 1915, which most Englishmen regard as a grave blunder and one, moreover, which was felt to be derogatory to our national diplomacy.

The prevailing, and rather natural, ignorance regarding the island tends to cause indifference on the part of the general public. Many persons here, in America, and elsewhere, may have an idea that Cyprus has only recently been rescued from a tyrannical Turkish Government, whereas it has been ruled for forty years by the most humane Government in existence. Again, many may imagine that Cyprus was wrenched from Greece some centuries ago, and that it is now only right and proper that it should be restored to its mother land. The fact is that it has never been ruled, or possessed, by Greece for a single hour. At all events, none of these considerations should allow us to close our eyes to the increasing importance, to any Power that may hold or have "mandates" in the Near East, of an island which has always been regarded as a stepping stone to Egypt, and which is in such close proximity to the coasts of Syria and Asia Minor. Indeed, very few Englishmen are aware of the great value of the Famagusta harbour, and of the use which has been made of it during the last few years. Nor is the immense importance of aircraft in the future to be left out of consideration.

The geographical position of Cyprus can hardly be said to afford an argument in favour of its incorporation in the Greek Kingdom. The aspirations of the Greek-speaking Cypriot community are based on sentimental grounds, and no one can blame them for endeavouring to promote the "Hellenic idea," which is jealously fostered wherever Greeks are settled in any considerable numbers. But one of the principal matters for consideration is the fact that there are 60,000 Moslems in the island, who have been consistently loyal during the whole of the forty years of British administration, who strongly oppose and would deeply resent their transfer to Greece, and to whom definite promises have been made that their interests will always be carefully safeguarded.

Then as to British interests: Lord Salisbury, speaking at Manchester in 1879, stated that we had occupied Cyprus because the interests of Europe would probably be centred in Asia Minor or Egypt, and that in bringing about the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1878 we were only following our traditional policy. Surely, the present moment, while the fate of Syria, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia, hangs in the balance, is not one for relinquishing a position of great strategic importance, as a naval and aircraft base, as well as a coaling station. It is, of course, possible that at no distant date it might be turned to hostile purposes, and become a serious danger at a vulnerable and all-important point. A correspondent of The Near East (August 20, 1915), over the signature "Philhellene but Pro-Briton," referring to the cession of the Ionian Islands, said:—

"From a naval standpoint the possession of Corfu by Great Britain during the present war would have been of the first importance, and it might well have formed the base for operations against her enemy in the Adriatic. . . . The loss of Corfu by Great Britain has been deplored by the Naval War Staffs of at least three Great Powers, since the end of July, 1914. . . . Greece has already an enormous coast-line, far larger than she can ever hope to police adequately. Are we to give Cyprus into hands already more than occupied elsewhere, and so provide a future enemy with a coast-line for the establishment of secret submarine bases within easy striking distance of the Suez Canal and all that its traffic means to us? A secret submarine base is a very simple affair—it is not necessary to have a natural harbour for the purpose—a thing which has so far not been discovered in Cyprus."

In view of the vast extent of the Empire, there can be no desire on the part of sane politicians that our dominions and responsibilities should be increased by the acquisition of fresh Colonial territories; but recent experience points to the need of the greatest caution in dealing with any question of surrenders. Whatever may be the disposal of countries nearest to Cyprus, the cession of the island would greatly weaken the links of Empire at a most vital point. Whether we have faith in, or are sceptical regarding, the long duration of a League of Nations, scarcely yet in embryo, it is to be hoped that our statesmen will not be induced, in our British spirit of yielding and compromise, to agree to any step which we may have only too much reason to regret.

In a telegram just received through the Foreign Office by the Serbian Relief Fund the Prince Regent of Serbia says:

"I thank them from my heart, and beg them to believe that neither I nor my people will ever forget the immense services rendered by the Fund to my country in the painful moments through which it has passed. Alexander."

Whilst the Serbian people are deeply grateful for all that has been done for them, their needs are still overwhelmingly great, as the following report shows:

With the retreat of the Austrians and Bulgarians, the Serbian Relief Fund, following upon the victorious Serbian troops, pushed forward into the reoccupied parts of the country as far and as energetically as our means allowed.

We have now established a hospital at Nish, another at Uskub, and a third at Prokuplje. These hospitals are staffed by British doctors, matrons and nurses. Besides these existing hospitals, the Serbian Relief Fund proposes to start other hospitals as suitable buildings are found and as transportation facilities (now greatly hindered by the wrecking of the Serbian railways) are bettered. The Serbian Relief Fund is establishing a number of village dispensaries and soup-kitchens near Nish and Uskub.

For all this we must have money. Our staff in Serbia now consists of more than seventy British people, and it is being considerably enlarged, our Administrator (Dr. F. G. Clemow, C.M.G.) asking us continually for "more workers." We must develop our organisation and its assistance to the Serbian people, for as the condition of the country is being revealed, it is found to be far more desperate than the authorities had expected. We are now sending out a tuberculosis specialist (Dr. E. M. Hime), who will have under him a number of health visitors or sanitary inspectors, trained men and women whose duty it will be to aid the Serbian peasantry and townspeople in meeting the scourge of tuberculosis, which many years of lowered vitality have added to their other misfortunes.

The Serbian Relief Fund have just given a sum of £11,000 for the purpose of founding an orphanage in Serbia. This orphanage must be followed by other orphanages, as there are many thousands of destitute children in Serbia, and the future of the country depends in part on their survival and upbringing. For these, again, we must have money, and even more money, and the British Nation and Canada and Australia must show their appreciation of the indomitable patience with which the Serbian people have met such terrible sufferings by giving us the money we need for what we plan to do towards the reconstruction of their country.

We have an "Asile" and workrooms at Bizerta in North Africa the evacuation port for the Serbian Army. The asile, consisting of 200 beds for nervous cases, and the workshops, where mutilated soldiers are being taught simple trades, must now be moved to Serbia.

We must also do what we can towards infant welfare in Serbia, towards giving the women employment, towards reviving ruined peasant industries, such as carpet-weaving, basket-making, etc.

The Allied Governments and America have taken over the feeding of the country, but the Serbian Relief Fund are helping to clothe and keep warm a large number of its inhabitants—men, women and children. Since 1914 we have sent out more than 3,000,000 articles of clothing, and our public appeal for these necessaries is meeting with a most generous response. Every ship which sails for Serbia carries, as a part of its cargo, many things which the Serbian Relief Fund have asked for and obtained from the peoples of the British Empire.

We must now ask for more—for more clothes, above all for more money. In the spring of 1918, before the great Serbian Advance, we were spending £3,500 a month on our work in Serbia (this exclusive of what we were doing for Serbian refugees in Great Britain, Corsica, Corfu, North Africa, and the South of France—responsibilities which we cannot abandon); we are now spending more than £5,000 a month there; we should be spending twice and thrice that amount if we are to do half of what must be done for the country, if it is to take the place in European civilisation which its heroism deserves.

Parcels of Clothing should be addressed to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

Hospital supplies and material should be sent to 53, Grosvenor Street, W.1, care of the Countess of Bective.

Cheques and donations of money should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, the Right Hon. the EARL OF PLYMOUTH, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916),

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Recently I referred briefly to the gallant part taken by "King Constantine's Own" in the final operations against the Bulgarians. Now I am asked to give some details; and as far as a somewhat treacherous memory allows, I gladly comply with the request. To begin, the position which they were expected to capture—on the slopes of the Grand Couronne, I think—but am not quite sure—was one of extraordinary natural strength. The officer who told me of the advance, who was a bit of a mountaineer himself, went over it subsequently; and, he said, it took him over four hours to climb it, and he was fairly exhausted by the effort. The going was bad from the start; so bad that though the officers were shown the ground, the men were not put in the trenches till the previous night. Yet when they did make a move, they reached their goal in less than two hours, and drove the Bulgarians from the coveted position. They were, in fact, rather ahead of their scheduled time; though most people had thought they could never do the job in the time, even if they could do it at all.

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What made the feat all the more wonderful was that it was carried through in the teeth of "everything going wrong," so to say. The Bulgarians were very nervous, knowing that something was about to happen, but not knowing what; and just before the advance was timed to begin they started shelling our front line trenches and dropping incendiary shells on them with great precision. Then, according to my informant, a strange, and horrible, thing happened: an incendiary shell caught one of the Greeks fairly, and flung him into the air a blazing mass. The Greeks were just ready to "go over the top" at the time; and the glare showed them up clearly to the enemy. Thus discovered, the Colonel promptly decided to advance, instead of waiting the few minutes for the appointed time; and gave the order accordingly. It was obeyed at once, and "King Constantine's Own" advanced in face of the Bulgarian fire, and accompanied by their own creeping barrage. That is not a point to dwell on, but it has to be mentioned in justice to the K.C.O. Yet they went on—and did what they had been asked to do. But out of 3,000 men they had left only 360; and of 121 officers only seven or eight lived through the ordeal. Such are the facts, as well as I can remember them, as given to me by one who watched the advance. The feat seems to me worthy to rank with many of the finest performed by our own troops.

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During this "cold snap" I expect that a good many ex-prisoners of war from Turkey must be congratulating themselves more heartily than before on their release. For cold in such quarters, with a shortage of fuel, too, must have been pretty hard to bear; and though they did their best to keep warm by such methods as snowball fights and tobogganing, they suffered not a little. It is, by the way, curious to think that the Red Indian toboggan has at last found its way, though in a modified form, no doubt, into Asiatic Turkey. I am told that occasionally the prisoners would give one or two of their guards a free "run," and that the Turks would apparently thoroughly enjoy the experience, roaring with laughter over it. So the pastime may have "come to stay" in those parts; though one suspects that Ahmet and Mustapha will never have the energy to keep it up without their captors to prod them up, so to say.

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Apropos of the unweatherly condition of some of the buildings in which the British prisoners were housed by the Turks, I was told of a typical incident. In Yezgat some officers were placed in a room which had a positively enormous hole in the roof: not the kind of glorified crack that one gets quite indifferent to in Turkey; but a great gaping wound, that looked as if an aerial torpedo might have caused it. Naturally, the room was far from snug at all times, and when it was at all cold—well, it *was* cold. So when its occupants heard that a bigwig from Constantinople was coming to "inspect" them and their quarters, they rejoiced; and when he arrived they put their case before him in a way which—they flattered themselves—would certainly move his pity. He "inspected" the hole, and then remarked weightily: "Well, gentlemen, you must pray that it may not rain." His name was Zair, but whether he was a Pasha or a mere Bey I cannot remember.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* reports that "the disorders between the Serbs and Croats" have led the Yugoslav Provisional Government to take measures which certainly smack of mediæval times. To my way of thinking the said measures are admirably adapted to the end in view, and the fact that they appear to be inspired by a certain sense of humour does not detract from their merit in any way. Thus, as far as I can make out, if a Croat and a Serb fall out and create "disorder," they have to undergo two days' imprisonment in the same cell, and are not given any food. But, in lieu of nutriment, "they are bound to kiss and embrace each other three times daily"; and on the expiration of the term of imprisonment they are "obliged to sleep together and eat off the same plate for one month." Could there be a more admirable example of making the punishment fit the crime? *The* Mikado himself would find it hard to beat. After this it comes almost as a shock to find that "offences against the King or the State" entail no worse fate than twenty-five strokes of the rod. But one wonders mildly how the "disorders between the Serbs and Croats" arise, and how far they have spread. We had heard of—or—"disorders" between Serbs and Montenegrins, and Serbia and Italy, not to mention little differences between Serbia and Roumania; but we have always been told that the Serbs and Croats were simply yearning to eat off the same plate, and all the rest of it. Now, it seems, the longed-for state of affairs is to be regarded as a penalty.
CORSAIR.

NATIONAL UNITY OF THE ROUMANIANS

On Tuesday, at King's College, London, M. M. Beza delivered an address on the National Unity of the Roumanians.

Lord Bessborough, who presided, took occasion to make some remarks on the country. He said that Roumania was very little known to English people before the war, and even now, but few understood the great value of our ally in regard to the politics of the Near East. Roumania had an important bearing also on our commerce, and very badly wanted help from England in the way of machinery and other matters. Transylvania was inhabited by a mountaineering and agricultural population, whose incorporation in the kingdom of Roumania must have a very great effect.

M. Beza said that tradition ascribed the foundation of Wallachia and Moldavia to princes who came from Transylvania in the fourteenth century, and united under their sway organised communities such as were to be found on the other side of the Carpathians and elsewhere in South-Eastern Europe. Little was known as to the exact relations between these autonomous tribes, but it would be a fallacy to consider them as having always had their centre in what afterwards became the Danubian principalities. At the dawn of their history the Roumanians were very closely associated with the Slavs, whose language they shared for Church and State purposes. Under Turkish pressure many Slav clergy took refuge in Wallachia, among them Nicodemus, who before the end of the fourteenth century had founded two monasteries. Other monasteries followed, the members of some of which busied themselves compiling brief historical notes. Thus the consciousness of racial unity began. Differences in the Church made their way into Roumania, and the proselytising efforts of Hussites, Lutherans, Calvinists, and others resulted in a number of books being published in the language of the people. Among these were a Roumanian version of Lutheran Catechism published at Sibiu in 1544. About twenty-five years later the printing press at Brassov brought out the Gospels and many more books, and in 1688 the Bible was printed at Bucharest. This, like the preceding publications, was in Slavonic characters, and these continued in use until long afterwards. In the books published in the earlier half of the nineteenth century Slavonic, Greek, and Roman letters were all availed of; only in the later half of the nineteenth century did the Roman alphabet come to be used exclusively. One of the most important incidents in the development of Roumanian nationality, curiously enough, was the annexation of Transylvania to Austria-Hungary and its conversion to the Roman Communion. The Catholics, for their own purposes, founded schools and colleges, and even sent to Rome two Roumanian students, George Shincai and Peter Malor. Both these were remarkable men. The ancient city awoke in them a pride in the glorious past, together with a sense of humiliation, as they thought of the present servile position of their race. They became preachers of Roumanian nationalism. This was towards the end of the eighteenth century. In 1866 Alexandri published a book of folk poems, which constituted, together with the old chronicles, a living volume of the vernacular, and from this beginning a truly national literature had grown up, ignoring political barriers, breathing a genuine magnanimous patriotism, and coloured by a very definite sympathy with the down-trodden people. "The house we build is not ours; the land for which we cry and we suffer only buries us," wrote Cerna, the last of the Roumanian poets, a few years before the war.

After protracted examinations and after having made their pleas, the impeached Greek Ministers of the old regime—General Yanakitsas, M. Rallis, M. Dragoumis, M. Hatzakos, and ex-Prime Minister M. Skouloudis—are being detained in custody pending trial.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We trust that you will allow us to make a few remarks on your notes about Cyprus, which appeared in your issue of yesterday.

You characterise as an instance of "propagandist hyperbole" the fact that the Archbishop of Cyprus has asked for "the return of Cyprus to the maternal bosom of Hellas," and you say that "at no time in its history since the time of Alexander the Great has the Island been connected politically with Greece proper." We are afraid that this phrase of yours is open to a most serious misunderstanding. The City-States of Cyprus were before the time of Alexander independent States even of each other, and this because then such was the constitution of the whole of Hellenism. At Alexander's time all the City-States of Cyprus declared spontaneously, and not by virtue of conquest, in his favour.

The Island became a Roman Province definitely in the year 27 B.C., in the same way as Greece has become one. But as soon as the Christian Hellenic State was constituted at Constantinople. Cyprus, like Greece, became, and for eight centuries (from 395—1911 A.D.) continued to be a province of that State. During all this long period an unbroken line of Archbishops presided over the Hellenic population of the Island. It is true that the Lusignans and the Venetians ignored the Greek Bishops, but the Turks at once recognised them as the head of the Cypriot population.

It is consequently neither right nor just for Englishmen to-day to deny to the Archbishop of Cyprus a right which the Turks undisputably accorded to him, for the simple reason that those conquerors have left behind them descendants who hardly amount to one-fifth of the entire population of Cyprus.

Your anxiety about the Moslems in Cyprus is no doubt chiefly due to the fact that "they have proved themselves loyal British subjects." We cannot help drawing the conclusion that you refer to the loyalty of the Turks in order to give more importance and greater support to the wishes of the Moslem minority. It is not our intention to touch unduly or in any unkind way the feelings of the Turks, but we cannot refrain from reminding you of the significant fact that the Cypriot Government has found it necessary to confine, in the Kyrenia fortress, for a considerable period during the war, certain prominent members of the Moslem community, and this for the safety of the Realm. You will no doubt agree with us that this fact is far from being consistent with any loyalty worth mentioning or worth relying upon. But apart from this the Moslem minority has nothing to suffer under Greek administration and the flourishing condition of their co-religionists in Thessaly, Crete, and Macedonia affords excellent precedents in this respect. As far as we know, no complaints from any of the communtities have been lodged against the Hellenic Government; they enjoy equal privileges with the Greeks; they are used in the public service; they are elected mayors; they are appointed commissioners; and more than once they have sat in the Greek Parliament.

With regard to the ancient history of Cyprus—Hellenic in every respect—we are prepared to agree that it is not necessary to rely on the same for the solution of the Cypriot question. The present national Hellenic character of the Island will be sufficient to enable Great Britain to solve the question by giving practical application to the doctrine of Nationality for which she has nobly fought.—We, are, &c., THE CYPRUS DEPUTATION.

2, Lancaster St., Lancaster Gate, W.2.
Feb. 8, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Though I have not the honour to be a native of the island where Venus Cypris was born, being only an unredeemed Greek, I was really surprised and pained when I read in your issue of February 7 the sarcastic comments referring to Cyprus and her future. You acknowledge that the Greeks, being a colonising nation from the earliest times, had settled in Cyprus. You are right. Before and after Alexander Cyprus was as Greek as Crete. This island, at first settled on by Phœnician sailors, was by no means a *terra incognita* to those Greek sailors that Homer describes roving in the Mediterranean in their little rowing galleys (Odyssey, Lib. 17, 427). King Agamemnon was proud of his Cyprian breastplate (Iliad XI., 20), and in Cyprus Greek and Phœnician rivalled each other—so much so that in the ninth century B.C. the towns of Amathus and Salamis were no longer known by their barbarian names of Hamad and Sechelmi. Cyprus conquered by Shalmanezer, the Pharaoh Hofra, Nebuchadnezzar, and Pharaoh Amasis lost neither her Hellenic character nor her Grecian manners. Nine small kingdoms, a monarchy, were founded later on, the whole acknowledging the supremacy of the King of Salamis. She was again taken by Cyrus, but after the Persians had been crushed at Marathon and at Salamis (in Greece), Cyprus claimed aid and help from Athens, and refused "earth and water" to the Persian intruder. Cimon, the son of Miltiades, came in person in the island, and during the naval battle of Kitium (the Chittim of the Hebrews) he lost his life, but the victory was won by the Athenians. Cyprus was then made a naval base, and the Athenian Grand Fleet, anchored in the Cypriot ports, was a perpetual danger for Artaxerxes Longimanus. This Athenian force of some two hundred sail rendered good services to the Egyptian rebels against the Persian yoke, under the leadership of Inarus and Amyrtæus. Evagoras, the King of United Cyprus, is not to be blamed if he turned unto Achoris, the Egyptian chieftain, asking for help, instead of applying either to Athens or to Sparta. Achoris was a rebel against Artaxerxes Memnon: Athens was still bleeding from the consequences of the Peloponnesian wars; and Greece had paid heavily for her peace with Susa by the shameful treaty of Antalcidas. You speak of the claims of Egypt in Cyprus. Is it because Ptolemy Soter had conquered the island, or because Euergetes and Alexander were banished there? You know very well, as I do, that Egypt was completely Hellenised under the Ptolemies. Further on you inform us that "the different city states of the island were altogether independent of Hellas." We all are aware that Ancient Greece—unfortunately for her—was divided into small autocephalous and rival states; but the whole acknowledged the Amphictyon system. Allow me now to pass in prudent silence over the sufferings of the Cypriots under the yokes of the Crusaders, the Lusignans, the Venetians, and the Turks, not to mention the gloomy persecution of the Popish See and its Hermandad. The only thing I can assure you is that in Cyprus you will at present hear as pure Greek spoken as in any other Greek country, and the Cypriots have till now a peculiar mania to bestow upon their children, if possible, the ancient name of a Greek mythological hero. The different persecutions encouraged the islanders to stick to their Hellenism. Cyprus, evangelised to the Gospel of Good Cheer by Barnabas and Paul, and delivered from Elymas and other sorcerers, her last links of Egyptian or Asiatic connection, proves herself to be a true daughter of Greece, and Orthodox for over nineteen centuries. When Gregory the 5th, our Ethnarch and Patriarch, was hanged by the Turks in Constantinople at the outbreak of the Hellenic War of Independence, Cyprus offered up gladly her own Primate Cyprian, and other bishops, as burnt offerings on the Altar of Liberty.

At last you argue that "it is idle to suppose there would be peace in Cyprus for a week" if this island were handed over to Greece, and you express fears for the future of the Turkish minority under the . . . . Christian element (as the Greek Cypriots have always been styled by the British officials in the island). Kindly note that the Greeks never molested Moslems or other denominations in their newly-annexed territories, and I refer you to the Jews and Turks of Thessaly, Arta, Epirus, Macedonia, and Crete, especially those of the latter. You certainly remember the hysterical yells and cries of the Young Turks as to Crete's Moslems, who, being, as the Cypriot Turks are, descendants of Christians compelled to embrace Islam, are using to this day in their conversation ninety-five Greek words against five Turkish. Don't forget that in 1915 Great Britain willingly offered Cyprus to that "unworthy gentleman," as you precisely call somewhere in your issue (7/2/19, page 111) ex-King Tino. H.B.M.'s Government was fully aware that no Cypriot vespers were awaiting the Moslems, and had not the pro-German Cabal in Athens been so cowardly afraid of the great Apollyon of Berlin, Cyprus would have been already "returned to the maternal bosom of Hellas," as the Primate, Monsignor Cyril the Third, has so firmly proclaimed.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester,
February 8, 1919.

On Tuesday afternoon a concert was given at the Æolian Hall by the Prisoners of War Choir from Yozgat.

The *Pioneer* reports that a "magnetic crescograph" has been recently invented by Sir J. C. Bose. The high magnification obtained by this super-sensitive apparatus, it is claimed, far surpasses all existing appliances. It has aroused much interest among leaders of science. By this apparatus phenomena hitherto beyond the reach of investigation can now be studied with great certainty and precision. It shows ultra-microscopic changes induced in a growing organism even by a puff of smoke or a gentle breeze, by a passing cloud or fleeting brightness.

A dance in connection with "Slavo Day, 1919," was given on Monday night at the Piccadilly Hotel in aid of the fund originated by the Hon. Mrs. Evelina Haverfield and Sergeant-Major Flora Sandes for disabled Serbian soldiers. The dance was organised by Miss Erica Beale, and was under the patronage of Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll. The Countess of Carrick, Lady Muir Mackenzie, Lady Macready, Lady Horne, and Lady Moss were the receiving hostesses. The Committee of Hostesses also included the Countess of St. Germans and Lady Newnes. Among the stewards were Captain Y. U. Yovanovitch, Captain J. P. Carrington, and Captain McCubbin. Some of the national dances were given in the intervals.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE LIFE OF SIR CHARLES MOORE WATSON (WATSON PASHA).*

Most readers of THE NEAR EAST are acquainted with the name of Sir Charles Watson. His interests in all matters concerning the Near East were so general, and his activities, especially in regard to the Sudan and Egypt, were so widespread that no one interested in Egypt, Palestine, or the Turkish Empire can be ignorant of his name. It is well, therefore, that a careful biography of him should be published; and the task of writing it could not have been put into abler hands than those of Dr. Stanley Lane-Poole. There is a literary charm due to the editor which greatly enhances the value of a singularly eventful life.

Watson belonged to that class of soldiers who do great things but are not careful to advertise what they have done. He was a Royal Engineer, a sapper, and was always proud of that fact. When he entered Woolwich he was first in the list of cadets, and would have also obtained the Sword of Honour had there not been a regulation to the effect that this should not go to the man who had headed the list. He was the keenest of students, but did not shine on the cricket or football field, though he held his own. He did the work that he was asked to do, and always thoroughly and well. He was precise and methodical, and these habits which marked him as a student, continued to the end of a very full life, and contributed greatly to his success. At an early period he obtained the confidence of some of the most remarkable men in the Service. Gordon Pasha became his friend, and Watson looked up to him with a kind of reverence which is the more remarkable when it is clear that Watson recognised the curious eccentricities of Gordon's mind. He never lost faith in him, and when Gordon came to his unhappy end Watson was always ready to defend his memory. On the much-discussed question as to whether Gordon could have held out longer, his remarks appear as those of a master of the situation who had a unique knowledge of the country and of Gordon himself, and are worth quoting:

"All the evidence available," says he, "proves quite conclusively that Khartum was taken, not for want of soldiers or of ammunition, nor by treachery, but solely through famine. The soldiers stood on the fortifications like pieces of wood . . . . yet Gordon made the place hold out for three weeks longer. It would have made no difference if the steamers had left Gubat three days earlier; Khartum would have fallen three days sooner, that is all."

It is in this judicial spirit that Watson examined many of the difficult questions which arose out of the Egyptian campaigns. Watson had been sent on service which brought him into close contact with Gordon, but his career from first to last was interrupted by new and incongruous tasks assigned to him in the course of his duty. It was especially in Egypt, however, that he had the opportunity of showing his qualities as a great soldier. Readers of middle age will remember that the position of England in Egypt between 1876 and 1890 was of the most critical character. England and France had disagreed in working what was called the Condominium, and when internal troubles arose in Egypt, the two Western nations were far from being in accord.

These troubles centred for awhile around Arabi Pasha, who played fast and loose with the political leaders in Egypt. The Sultan, who might have been expected to be on the side of order, supported Arabi. Watson kept himself well outside the political squabbles in Egypt. Our representatives believed that it was necessary that the authority of the Khedive should be supported by British and French troops, and especially that they should have with them Turkish troops, whose presence would show to the world that they had no designs against the Sultan's authority, but wished indeed to uphold it. But France was opposed to a joint occupation and equally opposed to one by England. Our Government, however, recognised, rightly as we now see, that such an occupation was necessary. France hesitated, and then refused to join us, but the Sultan was urged to send a few troops in order that the Egyptians might be shown that British troops were not attacking the supposed rights of the Khalif. Lord Dufferin was then Ambassador to the Sultan, and found that Abdul Hamid would neither consent nor refuse to send troops, and that France and Russia were supporting him secretly in such refusal. I well remember the week of intense anxiety during which Lord Dufferin left the capital for Prinkipo while he waited for a definite answer one way or the other. He was aware that Sir Garnet Wolseley had received orders to land men in Egypt on a particular day, and to attack Egyptian troops with or without the aid of the Turks. Then, after having been induced to spend the morning at the Palace while the Turks were submitting propositions quite impossible of acceptation, he left late in the evening, and half-way to Therapia met his secretaries, whom he asked with eagerness whether the expected telegram had arrived. As a fact, it had come, and announced that Wolseley had landed British troops. There was consternation at Yildiz. The next day Baker Pasha left Constantinople, and joined the Khedive's service, and the anger of Abdul Hamid became almost unbounded. After this incident the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, on September 9, 1880, was fought, in which Wolseley defeated the Egyptian rebels. Then followed the most dramatic incident of Watson's career. The country was full of rebel soldiers, the prisons of Cairo were crammed with prisoners, innocent or guilty, and the whole country in the immediate neighbourhood of Cairo was in chaos. It was said that the man who held Cairo held Egypt, and that he who held the Citadel held Cairo itself. It fell to the lot of Watson to do his best without specific instructions to overcome the scattered but still numerous forces of the Egyptians. He acted upon his own responsibility although he knew that enemies were around him in considerable numbers, and that his forces were far outnumbered by the Egyptians; that if a check were seriously given to the small army under him the crowd still hostile to the British would take courage and attack his little force. It was midnight when Watson realised the position, and then he took a bold step, which would have made the reputation of any soldier under ordinary circumstances. For the moment he was the guardian of England's honour. Happily, he had prepared himself by his previous study of the country, and knowledge of Arabic and of the topography of Cairo and the Citadel, to take a bold and even desperate step. With the full knowledge of his inferiority in numbers and of the hostility of many of those who were near him, he determined to rush and capture the Citadel. Few bolder strokes have been made by any great soldier, but Watson seems on that occasion to have recognised that he represented the Royal Engineers as the men who were ready to go anywhere and do anything where duty called them. The attack upon the Citadel in the depth of Egyptian darkness is a thrilling story, and is not told here with the completeness which it deserves, nor was its signification at once fully recognised.

For a time there was a curious hostility between various branches of our Service, and in this volume itself there is evidence of a desire in certain quarters to snub the Royal Engineers. When a year afterwards, however, the matter was fairly brought before the Commander-in-Chief and the higher authorities, justice was done to the daring, skilful, and splendid attack which was made by Watson.

My space will not allow me to deal with the excellent work accomplished by Watson in connection with Palestine Exploration. Nearly all the great explorers in this work were Royal Engineers. Conder, Sir Charles Wilson, Kitchener, and half a dozen others working for this important society were all sappers.

The volume before me shows the great interest which Watson took in a variety of subjects not directly connected with his work as an Engineer. His was a full life, and one cannot imagine Watson sitting down in idleness in any period of his career. The internal organisation of Egypt from the southernmost part of the Sudan and the littoral of the Red Sea occupied close attention, and the record goes to show that whatever he undertook he performed well. The quiet, modest Irish boy had risen to be a great figure among the soldiers and engineers of the Empire, and his biography is an inspiring one.

Watson did not know how to idle, and after his marriage Lady Watson's afternoons became the centre of a charming intellectual life in London, appreciated by a large circle of select friends. This book has material for one double the size. It is crammed with statements of facts, and should find a place on the bookshelves of all who are interested in Egypt, Palestine, and the Near East. Watson Pasha died in March, 1916.

EDWIN PEARS.

* (Watson Pasha: A Record of the Life-work of Sir Charles Moore Watson, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.A., Colonel in the Royal Engineers. By Stanley Lane-Poole. John Murray, 7s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Romance of the Red Triangle." By Sir Arthur K. Yapp, K.B.E. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 6s. net.).

"The Upward Flight." By Mrs. Kenneth Combe. (London: Skeffington and Son. 6s. 9d. net.)

The current *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains some "Notes on Jerusalem Water Supply," which, though of a technical character, are very welcome. Dr. E. W. G. Masterman concludes his articles on "Hygiene and Disease in Palestine in Modern and in Biblical Times" with another most interesting paper: and Mr. Joseph Offord contributes two articles besides his usual "Archæological Notes."

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. February	1919. February.		1337. Jumada I.	5679. Adar I.
14	1	Friday	13	14
15	2	Saturday.....	14	15
16	3	Sunday	15	16
17	4	Monday	16	17
18	5	Tuesday	17	18
19	6	Wednesday	18	19
20	7	Thursday	19	20

Brigadier-General Lord Montagu of Beaulieu has left for India.

The Maharaja of Bikanir returned to London on Monday from Paris.

Mr. Arthur Nias is expected to arrive in London shortly from Constantinople.

The Hon. Mervyn Herbert has arrived at 32, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, from Egypt.

Mr. Robert Naville, Director-General of the Banque Franco-Serbe, has arrived in Belgrade.

The Crown Prince of Serbia, who is now visiting Paris, has arranged to visit London shortly.

His Highness the Khan of Kelat has very generously presented two aeroplanes to the Government.

Sir Henry Cunningham, K.C.I.E., who has been seriously ill at his residence, 83, Eaton Place, is now better.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Palmer, D.S.O., and Mrs. Palmer have arrived at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, from Egypt.

M. Christo Vassilakakis, one of the delegates of the Central Committee of the Unredeemed Greeks, left London on Tuesday for Paris.

Prince Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, has left Paris for Roumania. He will return to London in two months.

Lord Sinha returned from the Peace Conference last week on a short visit to London, and is carrying on his duties as Under-Secretary for India.

Professor Pavle Popovitch has been appointed Chairman of the Serbian Press Bureau, which is attached to the Serbian Delegation attending the Peace Conference.

The Maharaja Sindhia of Gwalior has given one lakh (£6.666), the Maharaja of Patiala half a lakh, and the Maharaja of Kapurthala a quarter of a lakh of rupees to the Indian Relief Fund.

A marriage is arranged between Prince Antoine Bibesco, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, and Miss Elizabeth Asquith, daughter of the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith and Mrs. Asquith.

Father Francis Lamb, Vicar-Provincial of the Carmelites of Great Britain, has left Cairo for Haifa, where he has been appointed to direct the reorganisation of the Carmelite Mission at Mount Carmel.

Mr. Oscar Straus, formerly American Ambassador at Constantinople, arrived in London last week, and left on Saturday for Paris, where he has been attached to the American Delegation attending the Peace Conference.

General Sir Julian Byng has been unanimously elected President of the Tendring Hundred Agricultural Society, and has invited the members to hold their annual show in the grounds of his residence, Thorpe Hall, near Colchester.

Major-General Sir Alfred Edward Turner, K.C.B., of Carlyle House, Chelsea, Colonel Commandant, R.A., D.A.A.G. on the Headquarter Staff in the Nile Campaign, who died on November 20, left estate of the value of £36,375 7s. 1d.

The Sultan of Egypt has sent the Governor of Cairo a sum of £E500 for the relief of the victims of the recent flood at Cairo. Prince Yusef Kemal has arranged for the housing and feeding of thirty families of the victims.

It is understood that Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Waddington has been selected as tutor and guardian to the young Maharaja of Jodhpur, and will shortly assume his duties.

The engagement is announced of Lieut. Commander J. R. G. Moncreiffe, R.N., nephew of Sir Robert Moncreiffe, to Miss May Ralli, daughter of the late John Ralli and Mrs. Ralli.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Maitland, D.S.O., 14th Jat Lancers, and Miss Jean Hamilton Findlay will take place at the Cathedral, Glasgow, at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19.

Captain H. G. Pyne, Royal Engineers, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer, with effect from January 3. He is granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Military Works Department for duty.

The engagement is announced between Major F. R. Cosens, 4th Rajputs, Indian Army, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. William Cosens (formerly of Hertford), to Agnes Mary (Peggy), only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Allan, of Crendon Lodge, Feltham, Middlesex.

The engagement is announced of J. Noel Macbeth, younger son of the late J. B. K. Macbeth, of Bombay and Edinburgh, and of Mrs. Macbeth, Hanover Court, W., with Enid Mary, only child of the Rev. W. G. Allen and Mrs. Allen, 4, Rue Roquépine, Paris.

An engagement is announced between A. F. Minchin, I.F.S., youngest son of the late H. P. Minchin, of Bath, and Kathleen, only daughter of Colonel W. Molesworth, C.I.E., I.M.S., and Mrs. Molesworth, of Cruicksfield, Berwickshire, and Holly Oak, Simla.

The engagement is announced between Darell Kilburn Paris, M.C., the Royal Regiment of Artillery, only son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Paris, of Elvendon Priory, Goring-on-Thames, and Calcutta, and Evelyn Maud (Cherry), only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Mills, of Moulsford Manor, Berkshire.

The engagement is announced of Captain Reginald Onslow Skinner, R.G.A., younger son of Colonel Swinton Skinner, I.S.C. (retired), and Mrs. Skinner, and Gwendolyn, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Osborne Baldry, of Rushmere, Leighton Buzzard.

General Allenby has written to Bishop MacInnes pointing out the need of relief work in Syria and Palestine, where the next six months will be a very critical period, and urging public support for the relief fund, which is now also working in the northern districts of Syria.

The engagement is announced between Captain Stanley Brabant-Smith, 39th. Central India Horse, second son of the Rev. H. Brabant-Smith, vicar of Elmdon, Essex, to Helen Irene, fourth daughter of the late David Charles Ballinger Griffith, of Huntworth, Bedford, and Mrs. Nightingale, of Trout Hall, Wenden, Essex.

The marriage took place on January 16, at Patiala, India, of Francis Robert Tomlinson, Indian Educational Service, eldest son of the late Mr. R. W. Tomlinson, of Burton-on-Trent, and of Mrs. Tomlinson, of Seacombe, Cheshire, and Barbara Joan, youngest daughter of the late Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Ingham Brooke, of Halifax, Yorkshire.

The marriage of Captain E. J. Shearer, M.C., 31st Lancers and General Staff, First Indian Army Corps, Mesopotamia, younger son of the late Colonel Johnston Shearer, C.B., D.S.O., I.M.S., and Mrs. Shearer, to Phyllis Muriel, elder daughter of H. C. Mules, C.S.I., M.V.O., O.B.E., and Mrs. Mules, will take place at Karachi, India, in May.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on February 18, at St. Mary's Church, Poona, India, between Captain T. C. Twining, Grenadier Guards, son of Mr. H. Twining and Mrs. Twining, 48, Ennismore Gardens, and Eileen, only daughter of Major-General Anderson, C.B., D.D.M.S., Southern Command, India, and Mrs. Anderson, 14, Queen's Gardens, Poona.

The marriage between Captain Basil Drewe, M.C., second son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius C. Drewe, of Wadhurst Hall, Sussex, and Drewsteignton, Devon, and Ruth, only daughter of the late Frank Haselden and Mrs. Haselden, of East Lymden, Ticehurst, Sussex, and Alexandria, Egypt, will take place quietly at St. Peter's Church, Stonegate, Sussex, on Tuesday, February 25, at 2 p.m.

Mr. Arthur Baker has left London for Constantinople, and expects to go on to Asia Minor in connection with American relief work there. Mr. Baker has already done much excellent war work, and our readers will have noted with pleasure that in the New Year's Honours he received the C.B.E. He has also received the King's permission to wear the Order of Maria Regina (1st Class), bestowed on him for work in Roumania; and the Russians recognised his labours by awarding him the Order of St. Anne (2nd Class).

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Major P. G. Loch, lately Political Agent, Koweit, Persian Gulf, has been granted one year's leave on medical certificate.

Mr. T. J. Martin, I.C.S., Central Provinces, becomes an additional member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, in place of Mr. Slocock, resigned.

Sir George Macartney, British Consul-General at Kashgar, Chinese Turkestan, has been granted two years' leave by the Government of India.

Mr. E. A. Molony, Commissioner of the Agra Division, has been appointed a Member of the United Provinces Legislative Council, in place of Mr. S. H. Fremantle, C.I.E., resigned.

Mr. G. L. Corbett, I.C.S., Central Provinces, has been appointed Deputy-Secretary to the Government of India in the Commerce and Industry Department in place of Mr. Elliot, I.C.S., who reverts to the United Provinces.

A Reuter's message from Delhi, dated January 24, reports:—Mr. H. R. C. Dobbs, Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, has been appointed to succeed Sir A. H. Grant as Foreign Secretary of the Government of India. Colonel Dew becomes Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan.

OBITUARY.

Surgeon-General Thomas Francis O'Dwyer died at a nursing home on February 5, at the age of seventy-seven. He served with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882 and the Nile Expedition of 1884.

The death is announced (February 6), at Spexhall, Ealing, of Mr. R. F. St. John, M.A. He was formerly in the 60th Rifles, at one time Deputy Commissioner in Burma, and later Professor of Burmese at Wadham College, Oxford.

Colonel Charles McInroy, C.B., who served in the Indian Mutiny, has died in his eighty-first year. His other military services included the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867, the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and the Burmese Expedition. He was twice mentioned in despatches.

Colonel Rowland Hill Martin, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., late 21st Lancers, has succumbed to heart failure following fever at Mhow, India, in his seventy-first year. He took part in the Bechuanaland Expedition in 1884-5, the Nile Expedition of 1898, including the Battle of Khartoum, and in the South African War. He was twice mentioned in despatches.

A Reuter's message from Delhi reports that Lieutenant Colonel T. W. Irvine, Chief Medical Officer of the North-West Frontier Province, was drowned while crossing the Kabul River. The accident apparently took place on January 26, while Colonel Irvine was on a sporting expedition. He had been C.M.O. of the North-West Frontier Province since 1911.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Ronaldson Clark, I.M.S., died on February 5, in the Isle of Man, where he was Medical Staff Officer to the General Commanding. Colonel Clark went to India in 1887, and was in military employment until June, 1890, after which he served as civil surgeon in the Punjab. He had been Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Medical College at Lahore, and was a contributor to the "Dictionary of the Economic Products of India."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

General Franchet d'Espérey has arrived in Constantinople.

M. Georges Derussi, former Roumanian Minister in Stockholm, has been again appointed Roumanian Minister to Sweden.

An official statement issued in Belgrade announces that the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has adopted the new (Gregorian) calendar.

Sanction has been given for the expansion and reorganisation of the Calcutta University Infantry, and it is hoped to raise a full battalion, a thousand strong.

Mr. Lloyd George has sent a message (says Reuter's Agency) to the honorary secretary of the Malta War Memorial Fund expressing warm approval of the project.

The International Zionist Conference, which was to have been held in London on Tuesday, has been postponed owing to the inability of the foreign delegates to reach London.

A report drawn up by experts at the request of the Serbian Minister of Public Works has definitely established the fact that the town of Belgrade has suffered material damage to the extent of £20,000,000.

At the invitation of the French authorities in Syria, the Palestine Relief Fund has extended its operations to Syria, where it is co-operating with the American Red Cross.

Six public Rhodes Lectures on "The Struggle for Colonial Power in Further India" will be delivered by Mr. A. P. Newton at University College at half-past five o'clock on Tuesdays, beginning the 18th inst.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—The Trieste correspondent of the *Journal des Débats* says that King Peter of Serbia is only awaiting the signing of the Peace Treaty to abdicate in favour of the Prince Regent.

THE COPTIC COMMITTEE IN LONDON.

The Coptic Committee in London gave a complimentary dinner to Mr. S. H. Leeder, author of "Modern Songs of the Pharaohs," on February 6, at the First Avenue Hotel. The Bishop of London presided, and amongst those present were Lady William Cecil, Baroness Amherst of Hackney, Lady Sydenham, Lady and Sir Frank Newnes, Lady Warmington, Mr. Clement Shorter, Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall, the Rev. A. Taylor, Mr. S. Moseley, Captain Wilkinson, and many others; the party numbering about seventy guests altogether.

In his opening speech, the Bishop of London spoke of Mr. Leeders' work in Egypt, and cited his kind action on an occasion when "as usual I put my foot into it at some public meeting." Bishop Ingram made a speech at the Albert Hall just before he went to Egypt, founded upon Mr. Zangwill's "The Reproach of Israel." It was, he said, a very fair and charitable speech, which he would not be ashamed to repeat in the ear of all the Mohammedans he knew, but, of course, the report was boiled down. Some sentence got out to Egypt and created a rather bad impression before the Bishop arrived there. Mr. Leeder made it his business to remove that bad impression from one end of Egypt to the other. It was a very big task to do—once start a lie and it is very hard to catch it up again; but he did by travelling all the way from Cairo to Khartoum in order to do it.

Mr. H. Basta, in proposing the toast to Mr. Leeder paid a warm tribute to his personal qualities. In seconding the toast, Mr. Kyriakos Mikhail said that Mr. Leeder would be the last man to expect the Copts to endorse all that he wrote about them. In fact, as soon as the book appeared he lodged a friendly protest against some of his statements and he intended to renew this protest in a different fashion when they met him again venturing in their country among Bedouin tents and Fellaheen cottages, where no other European could be seen. In those places he might be more inclined to listen to the coptic point of view. One of the things, he added, that made the Copts appreciate his friendship still more was that he is a friend of the Moslems of Egypt as well as of the Copts. The fact that they disagreed with him on some points did not affect in the least their mutual friendship, which was founded on freedom of thought, frankness and independence on both sides.

Mr. Leeder in response said that what impressed him most was not the honour done him, great as it was; but the fact that his Oriental friends redeemed their praise from any appearance of mere flattery by the candour and faithfulness with which they also told him to his face, and in the presence of his English friends, the points of their disagreement. Mr. Leeder paid a tribute to the Committee for inviting their Moslem friends to the function, and referred to a letter regarding the dinner which he had received from the Earl of Cromer, Secretary to His Majesty the King.

Dr. Fahmy and Mr. Shoukrala proposed and seconded the toast of "Our Other Guests." Mr. W. G. Campbell responded.

The Bishop of London proposed the health of the Coptic Committee, and the Rev. Fynes Clinton seconded. Mr. Youanis Maximos and Mr. Yanni Abdel Messiah responded.

The American Red Cross announces that it has appropriated 250,000 dollars for relief work in Palestine and the Near East during the months of January and February.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1919.

AN ARAB CONFEDERATION.

The war has been responsible for many unexpected developments, and by no means the least striking has been the appearance before the Paris Conference of the spokesman of the Hejaz to plead the cause of an Arab union. By common consent the Emir Feisul has proved himself a worthy representative of a great and ancient people, and it is a testimony to the reserve of statesmanship which the Arabs can command that King Hussein's delegate should have been his third son. Chance rather than calculating discrimination sent the Emir Feisul on his tour to France and England. He had achieved no special distinction in the field above that of the second son, the Emir Abdullah, when the opportunity for an Arab advance into Syria presented itself. But the Emir Feisul was operating farther north than his brother, and he had the signal advantage of the personal services of Colonel Lawrence. Thus it came about that he led the Arab forces into Damascus and Aleppo, and when the question of an envoy to the Allied countries was raised the choice fell naturally upon him. He claims, however, no pre-eminence in diplomacy over his brothers, and in his mission he seems to have no thought of adding to his own laurels, but merely to submit impersonally the case of the Arab world as interpreted in the Hejaz. That case, it goes without saying, has lost nothing in its presentation by the man who co-operated so successfully with the Allies in the Syrian campaign. His personality, no less than his military record, won for him the attentive interest of the Conference, and when its decision is made known we may expect to find that the Arab claims have had a sympathetic hearing. One of the first things that the Allies have had to do in this connection is to revise their opinion of the Arabs as unsophisticated dwellers in the desert. The Hejaz authorities have shown themselves as well acquainted with the course of European politics as with their own history, and their claims represent a shrewd adaptation of one to the other. They ask for recognition of the fact that the Arabs throughout the vast region stretching from Egypt to Persia are one in blood, in history, in faith, and in speech, but they tactfully admit their present limitations and ask for the assistance of a mandatory Power acting on behalf of the Allies. In the Arab world of this picture they recognise a number of provinces forming a distinct unit—Syria, Irak, the Jezireh, the Hejaz, Nejd, and Yemen. These they wish to see each under its local authority, and all linked together in a confederacy under the supervision of a single mandatory Power. The latter, it is expected, will form the unifying bond which the Arabs of themselves cannot at present supply, until the time when one native Government can speak for the whole confederation.

This suggestion, it need hardly be said, emanates not so much from the Arab world as a whole, as from the Hejaz authorities and from the Arab *intelligentsia*, who are to be met with for the most part outside the regions affected by the scheme. It may not for that reason fail to represent the wishes of all Arabs, but the distinction will compel the Allied Conference to examine the proposal the more carefully. In the other States which the Associated Powers are called upon to recognise there is no tangible intellectual difference between the governing authorities and the governed: a scheme of government put forward on behalf of any one people may be regarded as representing the views of practically the whole nation, which tacitly accepts corporate responsibility for its successful working. In the case of the proposed Arab confederation it has to be established that there is a prospect of the various provinces falling more or less into line in giving effect to the administrative policy adumbrated in the Hejaz claims. In other words, the Emir Feisul may have to satisfy the Conference that the Arab world is prepared to live up to the standard set during the last two years by the Hejaz. There could be no surer way of wrecking the Confederation than to give wide powers of local authority to a community that still held itself free to ignore boundaries, to indulge in raids and brigandage, and to maltreat strangers within its jurisdiction. For the control of the mandatory Power, it may be imagined, is meant to be federative in character, that is to say, to concern itself with such services as railways, telegraphs, and education, which the various units would share, rather than with police matters, which would be in the hands of the local authorities. Possibly, therefore, with a view to ensuring uniformity, which is essential to the attainment of the Arab goal, complete independence, the Conference in its wisdom may suggest modifications of the Emir Feisul's scheme.

For the theory of the proposal there can only be the widest sympathy. The Arabs, recalling the greatness of the Arab Empire of a thousand years ago, hold that the time has come for an attempt to revive something of their former glory as a race. They still occupy practically the same ground, and territorially the new State would be compact, if somewhat sparsely populated. Further, they go a long way towards disarming criticism by voluntarily offering to place themselves under the protection of a mandatory Power. The main difficulty arises from the fact that the Allied Powers had never contemplated a national awakening on this scale on the part of the Arabs. Some provision had to be made in the early days of the war for a reversion of the Turkish inheritance, and, although the Arabs were not overlooked, there was no indication that their tribal antagonisms would yield place to a federal movement. Even now such a movement belongs very largely, if not entirely, to the distant future; but the contention of the Hejaz authorities, that it shall not be prejudiced at this stage by divisions running counter to the tribal and economic interests of the Arabs, cannot fail to carry weight. Unfortunately it was just such divisions that the agreement arrived at between France and Great Britain in 1917 contemplated. The British Government appears to have accepted the French estimate of France's claims upon these regions, and was prepared to leave everything in the hands of its Ally provided that Great Britain's interests in Mesopotamia were safeguarded. This arrangement did not leave room for the scheme of an Arab confederation, nor did it take into consideration the possibility of the Arabs' desiring to exercise the right of self-determination. The very nature of French claims is disconcerting to the Arabs. They note British disinterestedness, in spite of the fact that by far the greater bulk of the trade of Syria is British, and on the other hand they see the French straining their connection with this territory beyond its legitimate limits. Little wonder, therefore, that they argue that British "protection" is likely to prove the more congenial, and, failing that, are ready to invite the unknown protection of the United States. If any attention is to be paid to the Arab point of view, the Conference can hardly deny the Hejaz request that protectorate rights should, in the interests of the Arabs, be exercised by a single Power. In the event of the United States being unwilling to take up the work—and it is almost unthinkable that there should be an American protectorate over Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf—the mandate of the Conference or of the League of Nations must inevitably devolve upon Great Britain. Whether in these circumstances President Wilson will endorse the suggestion, already made in certain quarters, that France should be the mandatory of the League in Constantinople remains to be seen.

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JUDICIAL REFORM IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 12.

The Capitulations Commission, which was constituted in 1917 for the purpose of studying the unification of the various jurisdictions, the elaboration of codes, and the administrative changes which will be rendered necessary by the abolition of the Capitulations, has just placed at the disposal of the public for the purpose of criticism a draft of the penal code, which, under the new *régime*, it proposes to make applicable to foreigners as well as Egyptians. The work of revising the codes was started in 1914, when a special Commission was appointed for the purpose; and the Capitulations Commission has merely carried on in this respect the work then begun.

With the draft code is published a commentary following it article by article, and giving shortly the reasons for, and to a certain extent the effect of, the alterations proposed. Whilst in the case of an article of the original code which has been retained with little or no alteration, no explanation is given as a rule, the reasons for making any important change from that Code or for introducing any novelty, are given in all cases, and reference is also made to the source from which the proposal is taken.

In the introduction to the commentary the Commission briefly surveys its work and the rules which have guided it. It points out that in these days, when almost every civilised country has a penal code based upon those general principles which are common to all, it is undesirable to attempt to strike out an entirely independent line; and in a case like Egypt, where there is already a Code in existence with which the country is familiar, and which has been interpreted by the Courts, it is desirable to follow it as closely as possible. The main object of the Commission has, therefore, been to correct errors, clear up obscurities, and fill up lacunæ.

The Egyptian Penal Code was adapted in 1883 from the French code, which already was far from up-to-date as compared with those of other Continental countries; and, apart from the reforms made in 1904, which were confined to only one part, no comprehensive attempt has hitherto been made to revise the Egyptian Penal Code. It has consequently been necessary to make very considerable alterations as regards certain parts, in order to bring them into harmony with modern ideas. The Commission explains the reason it has taken the Native Code as basis and not the Mixed Code by the fact that the latter is still more antiquated and has never been in general use.

The various modifications made since 1904, and those proposed in 1914 to the Legislative Assembly, but never passed into law, have been taken into consideration, as well as the published decisions of the Native Courts and of the Cassation Court. A large number of the proposed reforms have been taken from the Draft Penal Code prepared by Sir William Brunyate, in order to be submitted to the Commission appointed in 1913 to set up a judicial organisation for the international zone of Tangier. This code, which was to apply in circumstances very analogous to those in Egypt, when the Capitulations are abolished, was specifically recommended as a basis of discussion by the Commission referred to in the opening paragraph.

Other sources of inspiration have been, in the first place, the Indian Penal Code, which, says the Commission, is admittedly one possessing high authority, and was specially drafted for, and has for many years been successfully applied to, races that in character and habits closely resemble those inhabiting Egypt. This code has been adopted in a modified form in the Sudan; and it is considered desirable that the Egyptian and Sudan Codes should present as close a resemblance as possible, at any rate in their spirit, if not in their form. Next come the Tunisian Code of 1913; the Siamese Code of 1908, characterised by the Commission as a very ably drafted work, combining principles taken from French, English and Italian sources, and intended to apply to conditions not dissimilar to those now existing in Egypt; the Indian Penal Code of 1890, the most modern and the most carefully and scientifically drafted of the Continental codes; the Swiss Draft Code of 1918, which was used in its earlier form in the Tangier Draft; the Dutch Code of 1881, and the Belgian Code of 1867.

The Commission has also introduced a limited number of provisions which are almost if not entirely new. These, it explains, are chiefly intended to deal with special conditions existing in Egypt, and with difficulties which have arisen in the practice of the Courts as suggested by the experience of members of the Commission.

The Commission records its opinion that although the proposed draft retains the form and much of the substantive law of the French Code, it should be harmonised as much as possible with the principles and spirit of the English Criminal Law, which is accepted throughout the British Empire. In certain parts, for example, in the chapter on Defamation, it recommends provisions taken directly from the English law, which are new to Egypt. On the other hand, it says that in view of the long-continued French influence in Egypt and the nationality of the majority of the foreigners in the country, it has endeavoured in general to avoid the introduction of English ideas which are in conflict with principles generally admitted on the Continent, as, for example, in such important matters as murder, adultery, offences committed by public servants, etc. A certain number of provisions, especially in relation to offences of a modern character, have been taken from the English Statutes, and the Commission has, in other cases, utilised the well-known Digest of Sir James Stephen.

The chief difficulty arising from this method of compiling a code consists in harmonising ideas and methods of expressing them, collected from different sources and expressed in different languages, and the Commission explains that when retaining an article of the existing code it has avoided mere changes of form where there was no intention of changing the meaning of the article; on the other hand, when borrowing from outside sources, it has frequently not adopted an article in its original form, more especially when the origin was English, but has eneavoured to express it in a manner agreeing with that of the existing Egyptian Code.

With regard to penalties, the Commission draws attention to the fact that where the conditions vary from those of highly civilised to those of extremely primitive life, as they do in Egypt, it is necessary to have wide limits of punishment, and to leave the Courts quite free in the exercise of their discretion, as the same offence will vary greatly in gravity according to the circumstances. The maximum penalties will therefore be found to be in general high; on the other hand, the Commission proposes to follow the English Law and the Indian and Sudan Codes in abolishing minimum penalties. This was the principle adopted in the Tangier draft and the Egyptian legislator has already shown a tendency in the same direction, as evidenced in the alterations made in 1904 and those proposed in 1914. The Commission has, however, tried to give some general guidance to the Courts in estimating the gravity of a normal case, by providing a carefully graduated scale of maximum penalties according to the aggravating or mitigating circumstances accompanying the offences.

Compared with the existing Code, the number of articles is considerably increased. This is explained by the Commission by the fact of the introduction of new provisions, the more extensive graduation of punishments, and chiefly the separation into their component parts of a number of long articles containing two or more ideas or offences. Compared with the Italian, Indian, and Belgian codes, which contain respectively 498, 511, and 550 articles, it is not unduly long. The general arrangement of the draft follows closely the Tangier draft, except that it has retained the existing division into four parts.

The Commission was of opinion that the original text of the Code should be in English, and the drafting has been done in that language. An official French translation is, however, necessary, and the draft is therefore presented in the two languages. The Commission concludes with the hope that the two texts will be considered as mutually complementary, and that the French text will render clearer words or phrases which might appear obscure in the English.

THE REPUBLIC OF ARARAT.

Delegates of the Armenian Republic of Ararat have just arrived in Paris. At their head is Mr. A. Aharonian, and other members are, his secretary, Mr. Simon Mirzaian, and Mr. D. Piralian, who is a civil engineer and scientific agriculturist. The other members of the delegation are now in Constantinople, and are expected in Paris in a few days. Among these members are Mr. Mikael Babajanian, who was formerly a member of the Russian Duma, and one of the Commissioners of the Caucasus, appointed by Kerensky's Government, General Ghorghanian, who is accompanying the delegation as military adviser. For the conveyance of the delegates from Batoum every facility has been given by the English local authorities. The Republic of Ararat has a Parliament consisting of forty-three members, four of whom are Tartars, one a Yezedi-Kurd; the rest are Armenians. The Republic has an army of 30,000 soldiers. It includes not only Erivan, as first announced, but also Alexandropol, Kars, the district of Lori, and other places. The present Cabinet consists of the following Ministers:—Kajaznuni, Prime Minister; Aram Manukian, Home Secretary; Sirakan Tigranian, Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Samson Harutinian, Minister of Justice and Law; Artashes Enfiejian, Chancellor of the Exchequer; General Akhvertian, Minister of War; G. Melik Karagiozian, Minister of Education; M. M. Berberian, State Controller.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of the Balkans

The *Westminster Gazette* is publishing a series of "Footnotes to the Peace Conference." In one of these articles, the sixth, "The Balkans: Serbia and Greece," the writer points out that whereas before the war the political settlement of the Balkan peninsula was classed as insoluble, the question to-day "presents itself under a radically changed aspect." He holds, indeed, that "the task before the Powers of the Alliance is *relatively* one of the simplest they have to fulfil." He continues:—

That conclusion, perhaps, may cause surprise, yet the proof may be briefly stated. Take, to begin with, the ambition of imperialistic Russia. It was to dominate the Peninsula. To that end Russian policy favoured the independence of Serbia, but of Serbia as a minor State, useful meanwhile at once to weaken the Turks and obstruct the Austrians; not strong enough to stand alone. At Sofia, on the other hand, Austrian policy encouraged the dream of a Danubian Czardom which would lean upon the Central Powers as against Russia, the eventual object once more being absorption. Thus the greater States set the smaller by the ears. Then came Germany, which, after having in 1879 tricked Austria into an offensive and defensive alliance it was impossible to repudiate, used that Power as a sort of advance guard against Russia, for the purpose, in the first place, of affording Germany greater freedom from attack on the West, and, in the second place, assuming the success of that attack, of reaping its harvest alike in the Balkans and in Asia Minor.

The first event which disconcerted these schemes was the League of the Balkan States, brought about by German intrigue in Turkey; the next their unexpected victory in the first Balkan war. German-Austrian intrigue at once went to work to break up the League. The second Balkan war was the result. The second Balkan war, however, disclosed the Serbo-Greek alliance. Since Greece held the balance in the Balkans it was evident that this compact, conjoined with the defeat of Bulgaria, meant, if it stood, the control of the Peninsula by the victorious States, and a final bar to German-Austrian expansion in that direction. At all costs, therefore, the alliance had to be got rid of. The speediest means was the assassination of King George of Greece. King George of Greece was murdered accordingly. Serbia thus isolated, and German-Austrian preparations for a European war carried to completion, it only remained to discover a pretext for attack upon the Serbians. The pretext turned up—curiously enough at the opportune moment—in the assassinations at Sarajevo.

From these facts it is manifest that the chief difficulties in the Near East were manufactured by those ambitions which made cat's-paws of the lives of men and the fate of nations. Whatever may be the opinions of those whose ideas run in old grooves, the collapse of those ambitions is one of the most profound political revolutions that has yet occurred in Europe. In the Balkans it has altered the whole outlook.

Another passage in the article is certainly worth quoting, because it states a view which cannot be too often put forward, if this country is to take its share of developing the field referred to.

The Balkan Peninsula has been described as a region of vast natural wealth and very little money, and the description is exact. The prevalent Western notion that the Peninsula is comparatively poor and barren is ludicrously wrong. The valleys of the Balkans are among the most fertile spots on the globe; the mineral wealth of the Western Balkans not easy even to compute. Germans and Austrians coveted these territories from no mere caprice. They were well aware that out of the Balkans they could draw a huge and inexhaustible surplus. In Greater Serbia, indeed, openings for commercial and mining enterprise present themselves on every hand. That there has so far been little money has to be set down to political evils and the ravages of war. Given political equality and tranquillity, the economic advancement of the Balkan States will be rapid and sure.

The New Arab Empire.

In connection with the Emir Feisul's statement of Arab desires to the Peace Conference, last Thursday, *The Times* on Friday devoted a leading article to "The Future Arab State." It is remarked very truly that "about few historical subjects is there so much popular ignorance as about the past history of the Arab people and their future possibilities as a nation." We are reminded that "the Arab Empire, which at its greatest extended from Baghdad to Cordova, was the most liberal form of government between the decay of the Roman Empire and modern Europe, and was perhaps the most substantial bridge of civilisation across the Middle Ages." And the differences between Turk and Arab is contrasted with the resemblance between Arab and Jew.

And it all arose from the Hedjaz, for which Feisul spoke in Paris yesterday. Unlike the Turkish Empire, the Arab had a culture of its own; and, again unlike the Turkish Empire, it knew how to get the best out of all the races with which it came into contact. The period of its greatness has often been called the golden age of the Jewish race, and, indeed, between the Jews and the Arabs there is not only a close family relationship, but a strong likeness in their history. The Jews lost their nationhood by coming into violent collision with the Roman Empire, and the Arabs stepped into the shoes of the dead Jews as the leaders of Semitic thought. Similarly, the Arabs fell victims to the great Mongol invasion, and the Turks stepped into the inheritance which the Arabs had received from the Jews. There is no speculation in history more interesting than what might have happened if Mahomet had converted the Jewish colonies of the Yemen, as he hoped to do; and in spite of his failure there has always been a strong affinity between the two peoples. Jewish prophets are also Arab prophets, and the two races have a great deal of folk-lore in common.

The hope is expressed that the disposal of Turkey's derelict territories will be treated as a whole by the Conference. The Arabs, the Jews, and the Armenians, are interested in the fate of one another.

It would be a misfortune if Ottoman rule, which at any rate gave an outward unity to these regions, even though it did nothing to develop their progress, material or moral or intellectual, were merely to be replaced by local rivalries. One looks forward to an Arab Empire extending from Damascus to Baghdad, with commercial rights of exit to both the Mediterranean and the Eastern seas. It can hardly be a single homogeneous Empire, but may well be a federation of States under the supreme authority of the King of the Hedjaz. It will have a mandatory protector, and it will probably borrow freely from the ability of the Jews of Palestine, as the old Arab Empire did from the Jews of Africa and Spain. In this way the Jews will find a territorial outlet for their abilities wider than Palestine, which, after all, is a small country, and the policy of the two peoples will then work in harmony for the revival of the East.

"Claims" and "Adjustments."

That the Arab hopes are likely to be—or, at least, may be—affected by various "claims," is shown by the following passages from an article contributed to the *Daily Telegraph* by Mr. Perceval Landon, writing from Paris on February 6. The extracts speak eloquently for themselves:

Complete sympathy with Arab ambitions is extended both by Great Britain and the United States. It would indeed be difficult now to impose a position of inferiority upon a tract of country more than a million square miles in extent, and peopled by an organised and well-armed race of fighters, absolutely determined to vindicate their claim against any power on earth. The French, however, have the traditional claim of sympathy with Syria, and though in these days no agreement made during the war is held to be exempt from the reconsideration of the Peace Conference, it is felt that a draft signed by Sir Mark Sykes, though never ratified by the British Government, gives our neighbours the right to some compensation. It is an open secret that the rounding-off of Morocco would have been accepted by France as an equivalent. But as this proposition involves certain exchanges between ourselves and the Spanish across the Straits of Gibraltar which the latter refuse to entertain, recourse must be had to some other substitute. It is largely felt upon the Council of Ten that the most important of all the mandates which the Allies can confer has been fairly earned by the French, and, therefore, no surprise will be felt if the Conference invites M. Clemenceau to provide for the administration of the new internationalised territory which borders both sides of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, and contains that splendid key of the East and West—Constantinople.

Complete independence, or only such nominal control as the lightest of light mandates can exert, will be unanimously conceded to the Arabs. It would stultify the first principle of the Conference—that of self-determination—if an attempt were made in the interests of any Western Power to shackle the complete autonomy of this united and almost fanatically determined race, with its long traditions of literature, science, theology, travel, and enterprise. Whatever small claim we or the French may have upon their gratitude as a race will be freely and even splendidly acknowledged by them as a nation.

The Foreign Office announces that bags containing correspondence addressed to members of his Majesty's Ministries at Constantinople and Bucharest, which left London on Tuesday, January 7, have been lost at sea.

At Chanak, on the Dardanelles, a large building has just been opened as a combined Army Education Centre and Y.M.C.A. Outlying units recently made a route march to the ruins of Troy, when a number of lectures were given to the men on the history of the city.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that there is good reason to believe that the Orient Express will start running on the 15th inst., going from Paris to Bucharest vid Vienna. It is at present intended that two journeys should be made weekly.

The Provisional Jewish Council of Poland has requested Mr. Nahum Sokolow, the Zionist leader, to act on their behalf at the Peace Conference. He is authorised to urge the establishment of a Jewish Palestine under British trusteeship as a solution to the national Jewish problem.

In reply to a strong protest on the subject from the Liberal Entente Party, the Turkish Grand Vizier has promised to take immediate steps for the arrest of Dr. Reshid Bey, ex-Vali of Diarbekr, who escaped recently from Constantinople while awaiting trial for organising Armenian massacres.

From a Greek official source Reuter's Agency learns that, according to a telegram from Salonika, General Franchet d'Esperey issued an Order of the Day stating that after his departure for Constantinople General Paraskevopoulos, Commander-in-Chief of the Hellenic Army, would be in command of all the Allied troops in Macedonia for everything concerning territorial administration.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The Banque Franco-Serbe is now in a position to make remittances for domestic or personal purposes to Belgrade, Uskub, or Monastir.

***

I learn that among the delegates of the Armenian Republic of Ararat who have just arrived in Paris is M. D. Piralian, a civil engineer and scientific agriculturist, who has been sent to Europe to obtain agricultural implements and other materials for the restoration of the agricultural and other industries of the country.

***

According to recent Paris advices, M. Marquent, a French engineer, has submitted a report stating that the Greek soil contains petroleum fields constituting a continuation of the Roumanian oilfields. It is understood that the Greek Government have agreed to his proposals for experiments, with a view to working the deposits, and that operations will be commenced by an Anglo-Hellenic group, in which the Greek Government will be largely interested.

***

Mesopotamia is among the centres of the Near East which should afford particularly promising openings for motor boat manufacturers in the future. During the war motor craft of all descriptions have been sent out there, and the natives have had every opportunity of seeing how convenient the boats are for transport purposes on such rivers as the Tigris, and it is probable that their popularity is henceforth assured in that part of the world. No doubt the immediate demand will be met by the disposal locally of Government motor boats, and the acquisition of some of these by the natives should help to open up a really good market for these craft. Incidentally, many of the boats now in use are likely to be in need of more or less extensive repairs, and there is likely to be, therefore, a considerable demand for the supply of spare parts, etc.

***

It will be noticed that the Levant Company came in for special reference at the general meeting of the British Trade Corporation. Lord Faringdon stated that the company has promises of the agencies of many prominent manufacturing firms, and added that it was believed that the corporation, by the assistance given and promised to the company, had adopted a course that would materially assist in pushing British trade. On that point there will be general agreement. I am glad to see also that Lord Faringdon laid great emphasis on the potentialities of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia, where, he pointed out, there would be fields for the British trader in the future.

***

The prospects of cotton growing in the Sudan were briefly referred to by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, in his lecture before the Royal Colonial Institute this week. He pointed out that it had been demonstrated that cotton could be grown in the Sudan by reversing the seasons customary in Egypt, and sowing it in the autumn for picking in the spring, thus avoiding the great heat of summer. It was consequently proposed to irrigate for cotton cultivation, he said, an immense tract of territory, part of an irrigable area, by two new dams, one on the Blue and the other on the White Nile. The Government engineers were convinced that there was an ample supply of water in flood time for the requirements of both Egypt and the Sudan, even in a bad year, and that all that was required was to ensure its storage and distribution during the period when the river was naturally low.

***

Events in the most progressive Indian States in the last year or two show that these States do not intend to be left behind in industrial development by British India. The most recent instance comes from Travancore State. Something like two years ago Dr. S. G. Barker was placed on special duty by the Travancore Government to conduct an industrial survey of the State. The submission of his report advocating the promotion of small industries and the introduction of technical education has been followed by the creation of a Department of Industries, with Dr. Barker as director. He will control existing industries, will investigate the possibilities of new ones, and will subsequently inaugurate small industries such as the manufacture of pencils and matches in order to show the people what can be accomplished with the resources of the State.

***

In the light of subsequent information it is now clear that the Bombay strike was a manifestation of an altogether exceptional character. It seems to have been absolutely spontaneous in its origin, and the only vestige of organisation was that the strikers at the first mill were allowed to use intimidation, and thus made an isolated movement general. The sole cause of the strike was apparently the economic position. Food prices in Bombay have reached an extraordinary level, and in the light of that fact it is easy to understand the development of discontent among workers who at the best of times had only a comparatively small margin above the cost of living. Whether or no this strike will prove the forerunner of a series of similar manifestations resulting in the development of conditions in India akin to those at home, with the inevitable effect on industrial development, remains to be seen.

***

Americans, as my readers know, are taking a keen interest in the development of the Persian market, and in this they are being strongly encouraged by their Consular reports from that country, the latest of which says that, "upon the restoration of normal conditions, there should be a fertile field in Persia for the sale of American manufactured goods and other products." The range of commodities suggested as likely to find a ready market is wide, and includes cotton, woollen, and silk goods, sugar, matches, flour, drugs and chemical products, dyes, paper, soap, rubber overshoes, shoes, bicycles, carriages, harness, leather, crockery, glassware, beverages, plate glass and mirrors, groceries, precious metals, candles, lamps, cutlery, clocks, watches, and roofing.

***

I see that efforts are also being made to develop America's trade with Greece. American officials in that country have been discussing ways and means of doing this with prominent local merchants, and the suggestion has been made that one or more American steamship companies should establish lines to Greece. All this goes to show that we must be prepared to meet the most strenuous competition from America throughout the Near East. Unfortunately at the moment circumstances are not favourable for the export trade, but I would urge British exporters to leave nothing undone in the way of preparing for a campaign pending the return of more or less normal conditions.

***

Toy manufacturers should be interested to know that Algeria should be quite a good market for this commodity in the next year or so, as stocks are now extremely low owing to war conditions. Germany formerly had a great hold on the market, but in the last few years before the war French toys were gaining ground in a number of lines over the German goods. Manufacturers here would be well advised to pay special attention to the requirements of the Mohammedan section of the population, which outnumbers the European section by six to one, as the Mohammedan children are almost all fond of toys. The purchasing power of the natives is, however, very low, and the maximum prices for toys should range from 6d. to 10d. Toys in bright colours are preferred, and business may be facilitated by following the German example and quoting prices to the quay including the Customs charges.

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EGYPT'S TRADE WITH SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

(From Our Port Said Correspondent.)

Port Said, January 16.

Now that the territories of Syria and Palestine are being opened up, it is high time that trade should be fostered by the Government, for that is the quickest way to do away with the necessity of relief work. The authorities, however, have given the sole charge of all merchandise passing between Egypt and Palestine to a single firm. No doubt it is simpler for the Government to have to do with one shipper only, but for merchants themselves it is anything but satisfactory, for the limitations imposed are worthy of a Continental Custom House at its worst. In the first place, *nine* copies of the invoice must be sent with the goods, which, considering the present paper shortage, seems rather extravagant, to say the least. But that is only a preliminary for the merchant, for he then has to discover, if possible, whether his packages escape all the prohibitions, and what will be the last charge that will be imposed on him.

Supposing the merchant wishes to send some goods to Jerusalem. A package of sixty kilos costs at first sight P.T.79, and he is told that for every additional ten kilos eleven and a-half piastres will be added up to 500 kilos, and above 500 kilos only eleven piastres will be added every ten kilos. (By the way, later on in the instructions he finds that all this about above or below 500 kilos was simply a bit of leg-pulling, for no package is accepted above 120 kilos in weight.)

Next the merchant is told of a supplementary charge of eleven piastres on packages up to 50 kilos, and fifteen piastres for packages over 50 kilos. Further on, the instructions say that bulky goods are to be charged 50 per cent. extra, though what constitutes "bulky goods" when the dimensions of every package are strictly defined and limited it is hard to say.

The next paragraph in the instructions deals with the duty which the merchant will be permitted to pay, and this averages 10 per cent. on the invoice value, plus the cost of carriage to Jerusalem, plus 10 per cent., though what this last 10 per cent. is added for it is hard to tell, unless it is to make quite sure that the charges are on the right side. It might be thought that the Port Said merchant now knows what his expenses will be, but if he thinks that is all he is grievously mistaken, for he has to send the goods that he wishes to go to Jerusalem to a specific depot in Cairo, and for this he has naturally to pay handling and porterage at this end, railway freights to Cairo, and then handling and porterage in Cairo, to get the goods deposited in the depot. However, the most galling part of all this waste and muddle is that the goods may then be sent back by rail to Port Said and shipped from there to Jaffa by steamer, or sent by rail via Kantara, by which they approach within twenty miles of Port Said again.

Should the merchant wish to send a case of foodstuffs to Jerusalem, there is another pitfall, for besides there being an outside limit as to its size, it must weigh exactly 120 kilos; if it weighs more it will not be accepted, if it weighs less it will not be accepted. Was ever such a rule invented by the most procrustean Prussian? To crown all, the Port Said merchant must be prepared, if required, to send a representative to Cairo to open and unpack and re-pack the goods should the forwarding firm wish to verify the contents to see whether they are in accordance with all the nine invoices. Many merchants are now unpacking their goods and dispatching them per parcel post from Port Said, it being in the long run quicker and cheaper.

Surely something can be done to remedy this chaotic state of affairs, which is hindering the very thing which the authorities profess to wish for—namely, the rehabilitation of the country.

Beyrout, which has been freed from the enemy for some months, is still without an adequate postal service, for on inquiries at the French Post Office here one is told that the limit of weight allowed for parcel post is 12 ounces, and that nothing is accepted for registration. At the Egyptian Post Office one is told that a permit from the Enemy Trading Bureau is required before any parcels are accepted for transmission. It seems a pity that the authorities cannot arrange for some small vessels to run between the Syrian coast ports and Egypt for a few weeks so as to start trade, and then native vessels would be encouraged to start, which would do to carry on till regular lines could be established. In Syria the last olive season has been abnormally good, and there are large quantities of olive oil and other merchandise waiting in the Syrian ports for shipment to Egypt. In this country, with the normal supplies from Italy cut off, we are almost having a famine of olive oil, which is such a staple of Eastern cookery. In the orange groves of Palestine and Syria fruit is going rotten for lack of transport to Egypt, where there is still a great demand for oranges and other fruit.

TEHERAN.

Economic Conditions in 1917.

The year 1917 was one of industrial depression and economic disaster for the Teheran consular district, says the United States Consul there, Mr. Ralph H. Baden, in a recent report. This situation was attributable to the closing of the avenues of trade, crop failures, and the presence of foreign troops.

In normal times goods are imported into this district from and through Russia, overland from Trebizond, via Kermanshah from Baghdad, and through the various Gulf ports. Owing to the war, imports from Russia have been greatly restricted, imports from other countries through Russia have ceased, and the Trebizond and Baghdad-Kermanshah routes are closed. It will be seen, therefore, that the only remaining way of access to Central Persia was via the Persian Gulf.

The transportation facilities of these trade routes were overtaxed before the outbreak of the European war, and owing to the fact that large numbers of pack animals have been taken for military purposes, it has become impossible to supply the needs of this district by imports through Southern Persia. Transportation charges per ton on shipments from Mohammerah to Ispahan have increased by four times the pre-war rate (from £21½ to £85½), and the rate from Ispahan to Teheran has doubled (from £12½ to £25). It should also be noted that the activities of predatory tribes near Ispahan have greatly increased the difficulties of importing goods by this route.

Crop Failure.

Owing to scanty rainfall and snowfall during the winter, the harvest of wheat, barley, and rice was not more than 60 per cent. of a normal yield. There was, perhaps, sufficient grain produced to supply the needs of the population, but on account of inadequate transportation facilities and hoarding by large landowners, unheard-of prices resulted, and at times it was impossible for the poor to obtain bread at all. The Government undertook to regulate the price of grain and bread, but without success.

On account of high prices and the scarcity of foodstuffs, famine conditions resulted in Teheran. Reports indicated that similar conditions prevailed in other principal cities of this district. Early in December it was decided to organise a relief committee under the presidency of the American Minister, consisting of prominent Persians and American missionaries. Funds were received from America, and relief work was undertaken in the capital; the activities of the committee were also extended to Hamadan, Kermanshah, Sultanabad, Ispahan, Resht, Kasbin, and Meshed.

Exchange Rates.

In normal times the exchange value of the kran is 4.8d., against the abnormal rate of 8½d. in March, 1918. The rise in the value of the kran is due to conditions resulting from the war, such as rise in the price of silver, presence of much foreign money, and the immense decrease in the volume of business with foreign countries.

The usual interest rate in Teheran of 12 per cent. has been increased to 18 per cent. and 24 per cent. Even at these enormous rates little money is obtainable. Practically no credit is being extended by foreign firms operating here.

Increase in Cost of Living.

Even before the war Teheran was one of the most expensive cities in the world in which to live. The high cost of living was attributable to its remoteness from the principal markets of the world, the absence of industries and manufactures, and the lack of modern transportation facilities. Coal, for instance, was transported by donkeys to Teheran from the nearest mine, a distance of fifty miles. Goods transported through Russia were subject to a heavy transit duty, and had to be transported over the mountains from Enzeli, a distance of 250 miles, by wagons or pack animals. Goods imported through the Persian Gulf had to be transported to Teheran by caravan, requiring at least two months.

The rise in the price of articles of local production has not been so marked as the rise in the price of imported articles. Coal has increased in price from £4 to £10 per ton; apples from 14s. to 30s. per bushel; butter from 2s. to 5s. per lb.; mutton from 5½d. to 1s. per lb.; chickens from 7½d. to 3s. 2½d. each; eggs from 7d. to 2s. 7½d. per doz.; Persian flour from 22s. to £11 per barrel; rice from 2½d. to 1s. 2d. per lb.; and Persian bread from 1d. to 10d. per lb.

Articles of foreign production are, of course, scarce, and many ordinary articles are not to be had at all. Prices are largely governed by the rapacity of the seller and the size of the buyer's pocketbook. The writer recently paid 4s. 5d. for a cake of a certain American soap. He had failed to find soap anywhere else in the city, so the merchant got his price. The price of sugar has increased from 4d. to 4s. per lb.; coffee from 1s. 3d. to 7s. 5d. per lb.; tea from 2s. to 6s. 8½d. per lb.; European flour from £2 16s. to £32 per barrel; and shoes from 22s. to £5 per pair. Cotton goods have increased in price 450 per cent.; silk goods, 300 per cent.; matches, 800 per cent.; petroleum, 400 per cent.; and medicines from 300 to 500 per cent.

EGYPTIAN STATE FINANCES IN NOVEMBER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 27.

Revenue during November amounted to £E2,652,069, and expenditure to £E2,842,898; there is therefore a deficit on the month's working of £E190,829. The total revenue for the seven months amounts to £E18,706,170, and expenditure to £E15,449,274, giving a surplus of £E3,256,896, as compared with one of £E2,431,858 at the same date in 1917.

The principal items of revenue during November were: Land tax, £E813,649; Customs, £E215,262; tobacco dues, £E185,282, Excise, £E51,323; judicial fees, £E126,021; railways, £E709,109; post office, £E30,637; domains receipts, £E160,750; ghaffir cess, £E46,255; interest on funds, £E48,319; miscellaneous receipts, £E112,804.

The heaviest items of expenditure were: Public health, £E47,475; irrigation, £E135,047; public works, £E107,823; railways, £E624,791; police, £E44,121; ghaffirs, £E66,556; ministry of war, £E117,231; pensions, £E53,961; and public debt, £E1,234,340.

It is interesting to note that Customs, telegraphs, domains rents, military exemption dues, miscellaneous receipts, and sale of land have all exceeded the estimate for the full year. This is a further indication of the prosperity of the people, and at the same time foreshadows a substantial increase in the total revenue over the estimates, of which (with still five months to run) the collections are at present within four millions—£E18,706,170 for the seven months, against an anticipated £E22,900,000 for the twelve months.

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MOROCCAN TRADE..

Overstocked Market.

The following review of market conditions in Morocco is from the British Commercial Mission at present engaged in investigating the possibilities for the increase of British trade with that country :—

Serious difficulties have arisen in various parts of Morocco during the last few months in consequence of the over-stocking of one or two commodities of native consumption. First and foremost among the goods of which supplies have accumulated are cottons of all kinds, but chiefly the cheaper varieties, shirtings, and fancy cottons. Green tea is also reported to be over-stocked in some localities, but the surplus is not understood to be very extensive.

As regards cottons, this position has arisen in the first instance in consequence of the steady rise in price during the last two years and the universal belief in Morocco that the war would continue for some considerable period, and that, therefore, this rise would go on indefinitely. The extent of the increase is illustrated by the case of white shirtings, formerly valued at 4s. per piece, and subsequently selling at 24s. per piece, and by a rise in the price of cottons per bale of 500 pieces of at least £400.

Such sensational changes in value induced a " boom " in cotton goods, in which not only large and small merchants took part, but also traders altogether without experience in these classes of goods. Even private individuals without trading knowledge of any description took a hand in these operations. As a result of this indiscriminate buying prices naturally soared higher still.

Fall in Prices.

With the coming of the armistice, opinion appears to have veered round to the other extreme, and the belief became general that there would be an immediate extensive fall in price. Apparently, also, in country districts the announcement of the armistice was accompanied by an official statement that there would be an immediate large decrease in the price of cottons, and although this statement was doubtless merely intended to allay popular resentment at the existing high prices, it would nevertheless tend to accentuate the crisis. The effect was twofold—there was a panic rush to sell, and also a universal disinclination to buy, except at a price which involved heavy loss to the seller. It is stated that prices have fallen since last September in cottons by amounts varying from 20 to 60 per cent., and that many kinds of cottons are selling at considerably lower rates in Morocco than in Manchester, in spite of the extremely high freights, insurance rates, and the Customs dues.

A pretty general trade paralysis has consequently set in throughout the country. In Marrakesh one merchant alone has 100,000 pieces of Amburgo cotton in stock, and in certain of the coast towns it is alleged that every upper room is piled high with these unsaleable materials. The stocks in Fez are estimated at upwards of 1,000 bales of 500 pieces each, and it is calculated that stocks in various parts of the country will meet the normal requirements of the next year or two.

Generally speaking, of course, the larger merchants have so far weathered the storm, but the smaller dealer and outside speculator have suffered severely. The purchases of these latter have been very often credit purchases on short-date bills, which they now find themselves quite unable to meet. In the opinion of one large importer, a great deal of the trouble has resulted from the indiscriminate giving of credit in regard to such purchases, and he adds that it is useless to press for payment from clients of this character.

The Outlook.

Various remedies for the existing state of affairs have been suggested. Attempts have been made to export the surplus stocks of cotton to Syria, where it is understood that these goods are in great demand. Export is, however, not at present permitted from Morocco, but it may perhaps be possible to change the destination of goods already manufactured, or undergoing manufacture, in England. At any rate, it seems to be generally agreed that where the manufacture of cottons for Morocco has not actually been started, orders might very well be cancelled; but it is stated that there is a resolute refusal on the part of Manchester houses to cancel any orders.

According to a prominent Fez merchant, a sudden fall in the home prices will result in widespread disaster in Morocco, but a slow decline to the normal would give an opportunity to clear off surplus stocks. It is suggested that steps should be taken to ensure that this process is extended over at least six months.

As regards green tea, the overstocking which has occurred is much smaller, and the restrictions in the sales of this commodity have been due to what is presumably a temporary obstacle, viz., the shortage of sugar, without supplies of which there is no demand for tea. Probably, however, this is a matter which will right itself in due course.

As regards most other commodities, supplies are short, and particularly is this the case in regard to hardware, for which goods an admirable opportunity is presented to capture the market. Candles and soap and woollen cloths are also in large demand, and it would certainly appear advisable for merchants, as far as possible, to turn their attention to these and other goods in preference to making further shipments of the already overstocked cottons.

Egyptian crops estimates show that wheat, barley, and beans in Lower Egypt are all below the average, in Mid-Egypt they are about the average, and they are normal in Upper Egypt.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information from H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier to the effect that by an Order of the Resident-General, dated December 26, and published in the *Bulletin Officiel* for January 6, the prohibition on the exportation of vegetable hair (crin végétal) from the French Zone has been withdrawn.

DEVELOPMENT OF MOROCCAN PORTS.

A report from H.M. Minister at Tangier dealing with the ports of Morocco states :—

The port of Casablanca continues to grow in importance, the total value of imported goods landed there in 1917 being 103,013,935 francs, whilst in 1911 it was only 22,163,975 francs. Rabat now ranks next in importance as regards imports, with an advance from 6,555,050 francs in 1911 to 35,775,199 francs.

The new port of Kenitra, which figured for the first time in the statistics in 1913, with 1,573,856 francs worth of imports, received 19,560,084 francs worth of goods in 1917. These two last-named ports have absorbed a considerable amount of the trade of Laraiche and Tangier, both of which were formerly used for the introduction of goods intended for Fez and the interior. The value of imports at Laraiche, notwithstanding the greatly increased consumption of the Spanish zone, fell from 21,099,075 francs in 1913 to 15,255,160 francs in 1917. The value of imports at Tetuan rose from 1,707,050 francs in 1911 to 14,944,730 francs in 1917. This is due to Tetuan being the seat of government of the Spanish Zone, and having a comparatively large Spanish population which has to be supplied with imported goods. The fact that it has little or no hinterland to supply, and its port at Rio Martin being an open roadstead, where a landing can only be effected in fine weather, will, however, prevent it from ever becoming a port of any importance. The value of the import trade of Tangier remained the same in 1917 as it was in 1912 and 1914, but some three million francs less than in 1913.

Casablanca is also advancing in its export trade, though not to the same extent as in imports. Mazagan ranks second and Saffi third, both showing a steady increase. The Laraiche export trade shows an improvement, though outdistanced by Rabat and Kenitra.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General, Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta, dated February 6 :—

Light rain in Punjab, Bihar, and Orissa and parts of Bombay. Local rain in Central Provinces, North Madras coast and North-West Frontier. Situation improving, but more rain needed in Punjab.

Cholera epidemic steadily declining.

Bombay Cotton Market steady. Fully good broach April-May delivery quoted at Rs.585. Piece Goods Market steady. Rice Market unchanged, with little selling, owing to freight licences being exhausted. Calcutta Jute Market quiet, with prices unchanged. Gunny Market quiet but steady.

Benzine and petrol, myrabolams, myrabolam extract and other tanning materials have been transferred to Class D for export from India. (Indian Class D corresponds very closely to Class C in this country.)

£20,000 deferred telegraphic transfers on London were allotted to the Alliance Bank, Bombay, on January 30.

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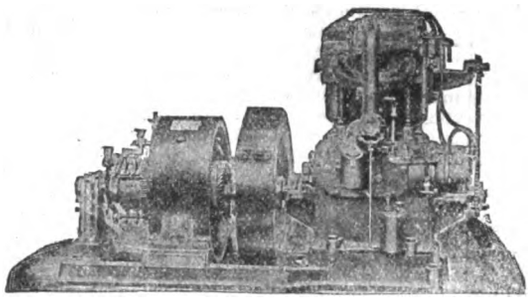
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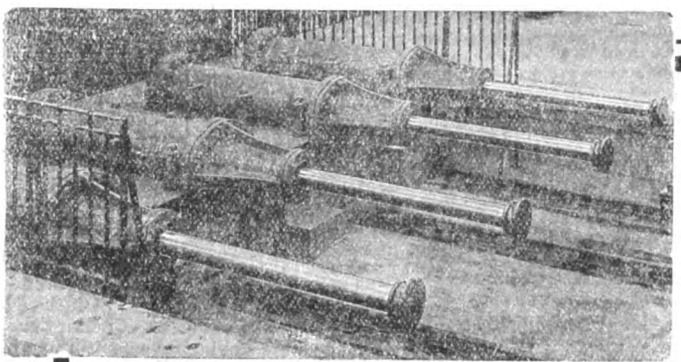
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Reducing Coal Consumption.

One of the principal reasons which hamper the employment of steam power for industrial or agricultural purposes in the Near East is the cost of coal. It is an item which appears, with discouraging results, in the calculations of cost of engine work; and this is especially the case when the steam power is wanted in districts where, owing to difficulties of transport, coal costs more than double the price ruling in England. The war, which has caused the existing shortage of coal, has also increased the difficulties of transport; hence it is scarcely necessary to explain why during the last three or four years many factories in the Near East have been temporarily closed or have been compelled to reduce their output. It is said that in Germany the same conditions exist, and steam users, owing to the shortage of coal, are "doctoring" their available supplies in order to effect a reduction of its consumption. Even some of the largest gasworks in Germany, according to recent reports, are resorting to this expedient, and are using chemical mediums with their coal for the same purpose, although it is admitted that by their employment a lower quality of gas is obtained both for lighting and heating purposes. It is said, however, that the difference in quality is hardly noticeable in lighting and heating effects in ordinary practice. However, whatever are the merits of the German mixtures, we prefer to recommend to users of steam power in the East a new and cheap process of extensive application for the treatment of coal, by which considerable economy in consumption may be effected. It has been proved by British experts that if bituminous coal be immersed in water containing gas chlorine in solution, the coal absorbs the gas to the extent of 0.10 per cent. Small though this proportion is, the effect on the bitumen fuel is remarkable, causing it to burn like anthracite coal, that is to say, slowly and without the formation of soot or smoke, or much ash. In boiler tests the evaporation was 25 per cent. better with a "chlorinated" bituminous slack than with similar untreated material. The process is very cheap, and coal so treated will not burn in the present wasteful way, giving considerable economy of fuel and better results.

The Credit Question.

"The unique opportunity which presents itself to British engineer manufacturers for securing a great part, if not all, of the machinery and implement trade in the Near East will soon be lost if they do not act now and at once." In these words a commercial engineer who has recently arrived from those regions sums up the present position. This is the time when agriculturists and landowners are deciding what kind of machinery and implements they require for the forthcoming seasons and the treatment of the next crops. It is probable that some manufacturers are still influenced by the often-repeated statements that long credit is expected by buyers in the Near East, and that it was entirely due to this long credit that the Germans secured their predominance in those markets. The erroneous and misleading nature of this view so far as the engineering trade is concerned has often been pointed out in these columns. The German commercial success in the Near East was due to the systematic energy of the German manufacturers and to the methods of dealing through and with their agents. Where credit was given full security was required and obtained. The Germans selected agents or representatives of good standing and capable of assuring themselves of the trustworthiness of buyers. As a rule, credit was given to these agents, and not directly to the average buyers. Where there were no agents a local banker or merchant, known to some German official in the district, would help to carry out satisfactorily the transaction. British manufacturers were not so careful in the selection of agents, a fact which greatly strengthened the position of their competitors. But wherever British firms were well and substantially represented they had a great advantage. In all cases the engineering trade in the Near East is as safe as in any British colony, provided the ways and means of transacting business in the markets are properly studied. There are many banks and banking agents throughout the Near East, which have business connections with, or are well known to, banks in the United Kingdom, and which would gladly undertake business on commission in the absence of agents or representatives of interested firms.

Hail Destroyers.

The time of the year is approaching when the possibility of a hailstorm is the nightmare of vine-growers, for a hailfall during budding is a catastrophe. Native "weatherwise" agriculturists in the Near East foretell heavy hailstorms and recommend the mediation of the priests and the Governments. For the assistance of vine-growers we may mention that in the months preceding the war a new type of lightning conductor was invented and largely tested in France. The device consists of gilded electrolytic copper, mounted on a crown-shaped support, which is connected to the earth and placed on a suitable column not less than 100 feet in height. According to the theory of the inventor, these instruments, by their effect on the currents of atmospheric electricity, are capable of preventing the formation and fall of hailstones. A conductor of the above dimensions is said to be effective in protecting an area of about three miles to the right and to the left in the direction of the wind, and by about three-quarters of a mile each way at right angles. The tests to determine the efficacy of the new devices were made by a committee of experts and representatives of the French Government, and so far have proved very satisfactory. A chain of "hail destroyers" has been established in some important vine-growing districts, which have suffered heavily from hailstorms. The electricity with which the storm clouds are charged is drawn, it is claimed, by the multiple metal points on these conductors, and, finding an easy path down the wires, is conveyed to the earth, therefore greatly minimising, if not altogether dispersing, hail and lightning storms.

REVIEW OF EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURE.

The following review of recent developments in the Egyptian agricultural industry has been issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture :—

An exhibition of flowers and fruits was held in Cairo in November. One of its special features was to demonstrate the wide possibilities offered in local fruit production, and the display of fruit was thus very instructive.

An exhibition of home-grown quinces, a fruit so largely imported for jam-making, attracted great interest. The yield from good varieties was 25 kilogs. per tree, or a minimum return of £E40 per acre. This shows that even at pre-war prices the local production of fruit would pay handsomely.

The country has passed through great difficulties to provide for its timber supplies during the war. Foreign imports were entirely cut off after the outbreak of war, and the country had to depend on its own resources. Timber was required for a variety of uses—building purposes, fuel, the making of industrial and agricultural implements, etc.

Building was very considerably restricted, but the other needs were heavy, and it was feared that the local supply might not be sufficient to meet them, as the country is very poor in forests. Fortunately, such has not been the case. The use of home-grown timber has thus enabled woodworkers to appreciate the good quality of certain trees of which they were previously ignorant. As a result of the war many millions of seedlings of quick-growing species have been planted.

The army requirements of vegetables have been considerable, and it was feared at one time that not enough could be grown in view of the difficulties of obtaining vegetable seeds from abroad. Special measures were taken to insure against this contingency, and the supply of vegetables has been adequate for all needs. Marketing is, however, very unsatisfactory, as the returns to the cultivator from his market-garden produce are much below the retail prices.

The prospects of this season's crop are generally good in Upper Egypt, but unsatisfactory in Lower and Middle Egypt.

It is noticed that fumigated plants are bearing more heavily than those not so treated, and it is hoped that the conclusion of the war will lead to the popularising of the practice of fumigation by making it easier and less expensive to obtain the necessary materials. This is the only practicable method of controlling the scale insect, which at present constitutes the chief obstacle to the spread of citrus cultivation in Egypt.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The general position of the market remains unsatisfactory. Demand has not been quite so dull as earlier in the year, but buyers still restrict their purchases to small lots. There continues much discussion with regard to Egyptian cotton problems. It is understood that the Government will not take action until towards the end of this season. It is realised that sooner or later there will have to be a big adjustment of prices, as the fixed rates are now quite artificial. There continues talk of a restriction of acreage in the United States for next season. The whole outlook relating to future raw cotton supplies is very uncertain. In Egyptian yarns demand continues very slow. Users seem determined to adopt a waiting policy. There is the expectation of lower prices sooner or later. In piece goods for Egypt sales of weight have been quite unknown. According to mail advices the position in Cairo is steadily improving, but the process is slow. We are still without activity in cloth for India, and until this comes about there is no probability of manufacturers strengthening their position. China continues to give rather more support, especially in bleaching descriptions. Scarcely anything at all has been done for South America. Trade is now opening out for Beyrout, and an increased inquiry has been met with for the Near East generally. Operations in home trade fabrics have been irregular. A larger trade has been done in home American yarns. Some of the buying has been of a speculative character. Difficulties continue to be met with in arranging transactions in export yarns.

February 5.

Cotton Trade Control Abandoned

Considerable satisfaction has been expressed in Lancashire cotton trade circles at the decision of the Board of Trade to allow the Cotton Control Board to remove all the restrictions upon the running of machinery. Henceforth, all spinners and manufacturers will be permitted to work as many spindles and looms as they wish. The Cotton Control Board was formed in June, 1917, and its work as a whole has given satisfaction in trade circles. Owing to the shortage of supplies of raw cotton, and the critical state of affairs which has existed in the Liverpool market, it has been necessary for the Board to compel firms to run only a percentage of machinery during the past eighteen months. Latterly, mills engaged on American have worked 65 per cent. of the spindles, Egyptian mills 90 per cent. of the spindles, and weaving concerns 75 per cent. of the looms. Owing to the trade depression and the shortage of operatives, it is not anticipated that many spinners and manufacturers will be quick to take advantage of the decision of the authorities, but the removal of the restrictions is very welcome. The work of the Control Board will now be confined to dealing with questions relating to out of work benefits for the operatives. The Government is not yet in a position to cancel the order fixing maximum prices for raw cotton, or the regulations governing operations in the Liverpool market. This week, however, a new futures contract has come into force, trading being allowed in single months from May to September. The emergency contract will expire in April. Although the operatives in Lancashire are not very restless, one or two Labour questions will have to be dealt with during the next few weeks. The workpeople are pressing their demand for a reduction in hours from 55½ to 44 hours per week. It is expected that a joint conference of employers and trade union officials will take place next week to deal with the matter. Negotiations are now taking place between the masters in the manufacturing section and the officials of the weavers for the purpose of considering an application for a minimum wage. It has been arranged that if no agreement is reached by June the matter shall be settled by arbitration.

The King of the Belgians has conferred upon Mr. Frederick W. Emett, head of Reuter's Intelligence Branch in London, the Order of Leopold II. in recognition of "Constant and generous help given to Belgium in the course of the war."

COMPANY MEETINGS.

British Trade Corporation.

The second ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the British Trade Corporation was held on February 6 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Lord Faringdon, the governor, presiding. The Secretary (Mr. G. de B. Brounlie), having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Governor said: Gentlemen, we submit to you to-day our second report and the accounts for the year ended December 31 last. The report is very simple, and does not call for remarks, but to the accounts I would venture to direct your attention for a few minutes. They disclose a position differing in many respects from that submitted a year since. Taking, in the first instance, our liabilities, it will be seen that our capital remains as before at £2,000,000; our current and deposit accounts have grown from £632,636 to £1,673,440; acceptances on account of customers are £212,181, no corresponding item appearing in 1917. On the assets side it will be seen that we have:—Cash in hand and at the Bank of England, £75,346; money at call and short notice, £610,000; British Treasury Bills, £1,000,000; and investments amounting to £572,890. Our bills discounted, loans, advances, and sundry debtors amount to £1,090,041, while the liability of our customers for acceptances is the amount stated on the other side of the account—namely, £212,181.

The next item, capital in subsidiary companies, calls for some explanation. At our last meeting I stated that to meet the demand for an organisation for the insurance of commercial credits we contemplated the formation of a separate company, the particular object of which would be to deal with this business, and in April last the Trade Indemnity Company came into existence. As I ventured to predict twelve months since, the restriction of exports has not allowed great scope for the company's operations, but, nevertheless, it has fully justified its creation, and there are clear indications that it will be a useful organisation, especially to the small trader.

A subsidiary company to which I desire particularly to draw your attention is the Levant Company, Limited. It will aim at reviving the commercial side of the activities of the old Levant Company, famous during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as the representative of British influence in the Near East. It starts with the acquisition of a considerable interest in the Constantinople and Salonika firm of J. W. Whittall and Co., and it is making arrangements to launch out in other parts of the Mediterranean, where hitherto Austrian and German interests have predominated. The capital of the company, which amounts to £1,000,000, is not yet ripe for public issue; in the meantime we have subscribed for £200,000. The company has already promises of the agencies of many prominent manufacturing firms, and we believe that the corporation has, by the assistance given and promised to the Levant Company, adopted a course that will materially assist in pushing British trade. As part of this assistance policy, and to some extent as a corollary to our "fathering" of the Levant Company, we have acquired the whole share capital of the National Bank of Turkey. Constantinople has always played a prominent part in Near Eastern politics, and its importance is not likely to be diminished when settled Governments are established in the Balkan States—countries with great potentialities when peace and good government are assured to them, when the vast wealth of Asia Minor is developed and Mesopotamia irrigated and populated. There will be fields here for the British merchant and manufacturer, and we hope and believe that our acquisition of the National Bank of Turkey will enable us to furnish the financial facilities that will be required. Our manager, Mr. Dickson, is now in Constantinople putting things in shape for the industrial development that we anticipate at an early date. I should, perhaps, mention that the purchase price paid for the National Bank shares does not figure in the accounts before you, as the money was not paid until January 1.

The profit and loss account does not show any brilliant results, but I would point out that that is the result of keeping our assets in a very fluid state, pending their use in channels likely ultimately to be more remunerative. The interest received amounts to less than 4 per cent., while our expenditure, when much spade work is being done, is naturally on the high side. An enterprise such as ours must, of course, have time for development. We suggest that out of the £81,260 0s. 10d., representing the profits for the year, together with the amount brought forward from 1917, there should be written off the whole of the preliminary expenses, amounting to £10,204 9s. 5d., and the whole of the expenditure incurred in the adaptation to our uses of the premises we occupy at No. 13, Austin Friars, which amounts to £4,139 9s. After making these provisions, and paying the income-tax—£2,417 14s. 3d.—in respect of 1917 profits, and depreciating our furniture by £246 4s., there remains a balance of £54,252 4s. 2d. We recommend a payment thereout of a dividend of 5s. per share, leaving £14,252 4s. 2d. to be carried forward.

Leaving the accounts, I should like to mention that during the past year we have been able to render financial facilities to traders in many directions, notwithstanding the fact that the export business of the country has been at a standstill, and I think I can claim that we have done this without poaching upon the preserves of any other financial institution. We have made our first industrial issue, and we look forward to much business of this class in the future. Trade is still harassed by restrictions of various kinds, and until these are removed we are hardly likely to see any considerable revival. One thing is abundantly clear, and that is that the world is very short of many necessaries that this country is able to supply, and the primary difficulty is the provision of the money for the purchase of the goods required. I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts be, and they are hereby, received and adopted."

Mr. F. Dudley Docker, C.B., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The payment of a dividend of 5s. per share on the issued capital of the corporation was also agreed to.—A vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding and to the board of directors was unanimously accorded, on the motion of Mr. F. Walker, seconded by Mr. Agius.

Gharbieh Land.

The report of the Gharbieh Land Company, Ltd., read at the ordinary general meeting held at Cairo last year, states:—

The area of the company's estates at February 28, 1918, was 7783 feddans, 20 kirats, 11½ sahms, the cost price of which amounted to £E436,917.602. This figure comprises purchase price, capital outlay, and the value of the buildings, machinery, cattle, etc., on the property at that date.

Notwithstanding the adverse circumstances which the company had to face since the war and which are explained in the two previous reports, the works of improvement have been continued without interruption. The company's lands at the beginning of the year under review were divisible into four classes, viz., (a) Lands occupied by canals, drains, roads, etc., 338 feddans; (b) Lands uncultivated to be levelled and brought under cultivation, 535 feddans; (c) Lands levelled and under amelioration crops, 1,405 feddans; (d) Lands cultivated (excluding lands sold), 5,854 feddans. During the year nearly 400 feddans were transferred from classes (b) and (c) to class (d). The lands of class (b) still remaining to be levelled were the most difficult to deal with on the whole estate. For the levelling of these lands it will be necessary to employ steam-ploughs, and as coal is now at a prohibitive price, the work will have to be postponed until means are found to adapt the ploughing engines to burn a cheaper kind of fuel, such as crude oil or the wood of the cotton plant.

With the exception of the few scattered plots composing the 500 feddans of class (b), all the company's lands are now cultivable and their gradual development is assured without further care than good management and crop rotation. In the last report mention was made of certain improvements which it was hoped it would be possible to make in the irrigation system on the company's lands. These improvements have since been carried out, the company having last year obtained

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from the Government a concession for three intakes on the Sahel Canal (the old Sherbin Canal), viz. one 1m. 10 in diameter at Sawalem and two 0m. 85 in diameter at Ras-el-Khalig for the sefi (summer) irrigation of all the lands at Sawalem and Ras-el-Khalig and the entire southern part of the Wastany division, a total area of about 5,300 feddans. These intakes are connected with the company's two main canals at Sawalem and Ras-el-Khalig which had previously been widened and deepened to meet the new requirements. In addition, a new canal 800 metres in length has been excavated (siphoning under the old canal and connected with it) for the 20 inch pump at Ras-el-Khalig, in case it should be necessary to have recourse to both methods of irrigation simultaneously. In future it will, therefore, be possible to irrigate either by free flow or by lift machinery, the latter method being necessary only during rotations and when, as rarely happens, the level of the water in the Sahel Canal is not sufficiently high.

The agricultural results were decidedly satisfactory. Receipts increased by £E14,254.508 and the net profit was £E230,019.387, as compared with £E9,642.209 for the year 1916-17. This progress is, of course, due in a large measure to the rise in the prices of agricultural produce, but is also a consequence of the successive improvements made during the past few years in the working of the estate which, since the retirement of the company's technical adviser, Lieut.-Colonel J. Hicks Paull, and the death of Mr. T. Hood, the company's Inspector, killed in action in France, has been under the control of the managing-director, who, despite the absorbing calls made upon him in the exercise of his official duties, has assumed the difficult task of personally supervising the working and reclamation of the estate.

Although the cotton crop was repeatedly attacked by worm, it amounted to about 6,200 kantars, of which the company sold for its own account and that of tenants nearly 4,500 kantars at an average price of £E8.650 a kantar. The remainder of the crop was disposed of direct by growers after payment to the company of all rents, annual instalments and arrears due by them. In 1917, the company grew cotton for its own account on 440 feddans, but this year there will be only about 100 feddans under direct cultivation, all the other cotton lands having been let or sold. Notwithstanding sales made to date, the estimates for the current year are not lower than the results of the year under review.

Transactions in land in this district were until lately unfavourably influenced by the forced sale at low prices, to which reference was made in the last report, of an extensive estate in the neighbourhood of the company's property. This circumstance prevented the company from taking greater advantage of the improvement in the land market which has taken place in the country. A few sales have, however, been made at profitable prices and there is every reason to believe that, as soon as the next cotton season opens, it will be possible to make more numerous and important realisations. During the year the company disposed of 141 feddans, 23 kirats, 12½ sahms and since February 28 last, more than 100 feddans have been sold. The prices obtained vary between £E85 and £E130 a feddan, the average sale price exceeding £E105 a feddan. The total sale proceeds amounted to £E15,002.049.

The securities held by the company, of a nominal value of £E73,575, are shown in the books at only £E8,232.500.

The balance due to the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company at February 28, 1917, was £E37,212,507. All the advances made to us by that company in the past financial year have been refunded and the greater part of the interest accrued to February 28 last has also been paid. The balance standing to the credit of the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company at February 28 last, amounted to £E38,831,120

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Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

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EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caifa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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in principal and interest, and this debt is guaranteed by a deposit of securities and by the Gharbieh Land Company's obligation to give the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company on demand a second mortgage on the whole of its landed property.

The net profit for the year amounted to £E11,424.852, as compared with a loss of £E4,696.962 for the preceding year; hence a difference in favour of the year under review of £E16,121.814. From this profit is to be deducted the minimum remuneration of the Board of Directors for 1917-18, £E1,000; leaving £E10,424.852. Deducting this sum from the amount of loss brought forward from previous years, £E116,684.376, the debit balance will be £E106,259.524, which it is proposed to carry forward.

The balance sheet and accounts were unanimously approved by the meeting, and resolutions were also passed re-electing M. P. L. van Hemert and M. N. Shakour Pasha as directors, and appointing Messrs. F. H. Russell and J. C. Sidley, of Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co., chartered accountant, as auditors for the current financial year.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway.

The report of the Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Company states that the company's share of the net earnings during the year was £151,479, compared with £133,704 in the previous year. The balance brought forward was £18,978, and after providing for (1) the ad-interim dividend of 5 per cent., with a bonus of 1 per cent., declared for the half-year ended March 31 and paid on July 29 last, (2) transferring £13,000 due to gain by exchange to reserve, (3) interest on the Debenture and Preference stocks, (4) income-tax, and (5) interest on capital advance, etc., the balance remaining to be dealt with is £69,711. The directors now recommend that a final dividend of £5 per cent., also a bonus of £2 per cent., less income-tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, be paid on the ordinary stock, making 13 per cent. for the year, and that the balance of £27,011 be carried forward.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

The directors of the Southern Punjab Railway recommend a final dividend on the ordinary stock of £7 per cent., together with a bonus of £1 per cent. (less English income-tax at 4s. 9.24d. in £), making, with the interim dividend and bonus paid in September last, a total distribution of £14 per cent. for the year ended September 30 last.

The directors of Monerakelle Rubber Estates recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., less tax at 5s. 3d. in £ on the ordinary shares, making 14 per cent. for the year ended June 30 last, payable on 24th inst.

The directors of the Pabbojan Tea Company have declared a second interim dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent., less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in £, on account of the year 1918, payable to holders registered 11th instant. Warrants, which will be posted on 27th instant, will be payable on and after 28th inst.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, 724 tons (previous week, 23 tons. Hurgada, 5,161 tons, against 2,802 tons.)

Import of sugar into Egypt is prohibited until the end of the year except by licence.

NEW COMPANIES.

Societe Generale de Commerce.

A company has been formed in Athens with the above title, for the promotion of British and Swiss trade in the Levant. The paid-up capital of the company is 600,000 drachmae, comprising French, Swiss, American, and Roumanian capital. The company has in view the import and export of general merchandise.

THE ALGERIAN MARKET.

High French tariffs are not considered, in the opinion of the British Vice-Consul at Phillipville, for the disappearance of United Kingdom cotton goods from the Algerian market. German competition, he states, was severe before the war, and was felt more strongly than the competition of French goods.

There is an opportunity at the present time, therefore, to regain and extend our trade with Algeria. United Kingdom firms are advised by the British Vice-Consul at Phillipville to devote special attention to agricultural machinery, pumps, pumping engines (including windmill pumps), mining tools, wire for baling, glass, cutlery, and hardware.

Glass and cutlery were supplied by Germany before the war, and they are now in great demand. Tenders for the construction of electric tramways for the town of Constantine are expected to be called in the near future.

It must be noted that American interests are cultivating this market, commercial propaganda and catalogues in French being much in evidence from this quarter. Catalogues in English and the quotation of prices f.o.b. in sterling are a waste of paper and money in Algeria.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended January 20 amounted to £E10,230, making the total for the year £E295,322. The corresponding figures for the previous twelve months were £E10,032 and £E223,700.

Mr. Richard Sims Donkin, member of the Chamber of Shipping and a director of the Suez Canal Company, died at his house at Wimbledon last week. From 1895 to 1900 he was M.P. for the Tynemouth Division.

H.M. Consul at Syra states that the stock of olive oil at Syra is 55,000 okes (excluding large quantities of the 1918 crop expected from Crete, Calamata, and Mitylene). There is no local production of olive oil in this district. The wholesale price per oke is 3.90 to 4 drachmæ, and the retail price is 4.20 to 4.30 drachmæ.

The British steamer Castalia, bound from Bombay for England, went ashore on February 7 in a heavy southerly gale thirteen miles from Newport Rock. Information has been received by Lloyd's that the vessel was floated and arrived at Suez on the 8th.

The Aldgate branch of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, was opened on February 10, at 93, Fenchurch Street, E.C., under the management of Mr. H. C. Allen. A branch of the bank was also opened on that day at 7, Bedford Street, Plymouth, under the management of Mr. T. C. Cutler.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a fair amount of business doing this week without, however, much change in the prices on the whole. The scarcity of sellers continues a feature, and no doubt business would be a good deal more active if this were not the case.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have been in strong demand and are again fractionally higher at 91, but sellers have been few and far between. In Egyptian 3½ prefs. the market is exceptionally ½ down at 78 with some small sales.

Amongst Bank shares Nationals, after a very fair business, close 1-16 easier at 22½, Agriculturals have remained firm at 6 7-8.

In Land shares there has been a fair amount of transactions in Aboukirs round the quoted price. The company is understood to have had a very good year in 1918, and to have made some excellent sales of land, and it is generally expected that the report shortly to be issued will recommend a satisfactory dividend for the past year. In Beheras the price has receded ¼ to 13¾. Delta Lands are 3d. easier at 16s. 9d., and New Egyptians have lost a like fraction at 25s. 3d. There have been some fairly large transactions in the latter share. Gharbieh Lands are 1-32 higher at 2 23-32, and Sidi Salems after receding to 2 11-16 are closing firm again at 2¾, all the shares on offer having been absorbed. A biggish business has been doing throughout the week in Sudan Plantations, but the price remains unchanged. Union Foncieres have improved 1s. to 72s. 6d. on some demand both from Egypt and locally.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 1-16 higher at 12. Egyptian Markets have improved 3d. to 28s. 3d., and Salts and Sodas 1-32 to 2 15-16 up to date. A feature has been the demand for Khedivial Mail Ordinary shares which have, on persistent buying, jumped up 16s. 3d. to 112s. 6d.

In Greek securities the market continues dull and there has been a drop of 1 point all round except in Greek Currant Bonds, which are exceptionally 1 point higher at 96.

Oil Shares.

There has been considerable activity in the oil market this week, and the tone has been good, though profit taking set in at the close. Burmahs at 8⅞ are 1-16 lower on balance, but British Burmahs at 19s. 6d. are 1s. 3d. up. Anglo-Persian Prefs. are unchanged at 26s. 9d., but Anglo-Egyptians B are ¼ lower at 3⅝.

Roumanians have been favourably affected by the reports regarding the position of the oilfields there, and Roumanian Consols are 1s. 9d. up on the week at 18s. 3d. Anglo-Roumanian and Traians have both shared in the advance, and while the former has reached 12s. 9d. the latter is 3s. up at 15s. 3d.

Ural Caspians are a shade lower at 1 13-16, and Bakus are 3d. lower at 5s. Russian Generals and Russian Petroleums are again unchanged.

Paris Bourse.

Prices have shown an upward tendency. Suez Canal shares at 5,310 francs are 113 francs up on the week. Other prices are Egyptian Unifieds 94.25 (unchanged), Serbian 1895's 61.05 (against 61.50), Turkish Unifieds 72 (against 69.75), Banque d'Athenes 97 (against 101.50), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 800 (unchanged), Land Banks 190 (against 188), and Ottoman Banks 560 (against 544).

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanjue, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Feb. 4	Feb 11.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	93	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90⅞	91
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78½	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	73	72
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	73	72
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	59	58
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56	55
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	73	72
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	65	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	79	79
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95xd	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	83½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7 1/16	7 1/16
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16½	16½
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅛	7⅛
British Trade Corporation	—	9⅜	10½
Chartered Bank of India	65	71	71
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	18½	18½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅛	22 5/16	22½
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8 7/16	8 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/3	25/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	14	13½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/-	16/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/6	16/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2 1/16	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/6	25/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	4 1/16	4 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	71/6	72/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/4½	3/4½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 1/16	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	28/-	28/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	2 3/16	2 1/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	96/3	112/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅜	4⅜

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

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Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

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Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Baghdad, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.52,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,61,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 25,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Narainguage, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

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Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
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Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000 | **Called-up Capital - - £580,000**
Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | **Reserve - - - - - £237,500**

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER - LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

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CANARY ISLANDS:—
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WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL **£2,000,000**
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. **£2,000,000**
Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) **£1,000,000**
Reserve Fund **£1,350,000**

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ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman.* ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq. SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, Esq. J. N. STUART, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

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

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

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

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 407.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The outstanding feature of the past week has been the publication of the Covenant of the League of Nations. It is true that many of the details of the Covenant—some indeed of the most controversial—have yet to be filled in; but a League has definitely been called into existence by the unanimous report of the representatives of fourteen nations. Their purpose has been to devise an organisation for the better government of the world and for the safeguarding of peace as far as it can possibly be achieved. To this end they have pledged themselves: (1) to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all States members of the League; (2) to reduce national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety; and (3) to submit disputes amongst themselves to arbitration and to carry out in full good faith any award that may be rendered. The recommendations embodied in twenty-six articles stand until modifications have been approved by the States whose representatives compose the Executive Council and by three-fourths of the States whose representatives compose the Body of the Delegates.

It is, perhaps, a legitimate criticism to contend that it would have been more logical to settle first the territorial limits of the Contracting Parties than to undertake to respect and preserve boundaries which in some cases the States concerned are making every effort to change or obliterate. Circumstances, however, called for an early draft of the Covenant, with the result that many important points remain to be settled by the Executive Council. The League in any case is not meant to supersede the Allied Conference. It can only come into effect when the latter has completed its labours, and it is essentially an instrument for securing permanency for the Conference's decisions.

Whatever weaknesses may be discovered in the Covenant in regard to its bearing on the Great Powers, including Germany, there can be no doubt that it holds out the prospect of a happier future for the smaller States. It is of interest to examine its application to the Near East. Czecho-Slovakia, Greece, Roumania, and Serbia (representing Yugoslavia) are signatories to the document. The territorial integrity of each State is guaranteed by the whole League which is pledged to exert its authority by means of an economic blockade of the aggressor and, if necessary, by armed action. Bulgaria, an object of suspicion at the present time to the other Balkan States, remains outside the League, but this circumstance does not prevent any of the neighbouring States from appealing to the League in the event of any dispute with the Bulgarians or any threatened act of hostility on their part. In other words, Bulgaria is rendered powerless for any hostile action by her geographical position; and it may be taken for granted that she will seize the earliest opportunity of endeavouring to qualify for admission to the League. Should she be successful in this quest, the whole Balkan Peninsula—Albania, whatever its future destiny, will certainly fall into line—will have entered upon an era of assured peace. The Executive Council of the League will be able to reduce the armaments of the different States to a minimum, and there will be nothing to prevent the inhabitants of every nationality from reaping the full benefits of their industrious habits.

In the economic sphere the signatories agree that provision shall be made through the instrumentality of the League to secure and maintain freedom of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce of all States members of the League. Here will be found, perhaps, an inducement to the League as at present constituted to admit Bulgaria to membership, in order that the Balkan Peninsula may be freed from any artificial trade barriers. On the other hand, Article XX. of the Covenant opens up the prospect of some national heart-searchings. The high contracting parties by this clause undertake to "endeavour to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labour for men, women, and children, both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend, and to that end agree to establish as part of the organisation of the League a permanent Bureau of Labour." If the Bureau, on the strength of the clause, conceives it to be its duty to attempt to equalise the standard of labour conditions in the Far East, the Near East, and the United States of America, it will lead a laborious and possibly acrimonious existence.

The Covenant, naturally, does not usurp the prerogative of the Allied Conference by prescribing the terms of peace to be imposed on Turkey. It does, however, make some provision for the future government of the territories to be detached from what was the Ottoman Empire. "Certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire," runs a paragraph in Article XIX., "have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognised, subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory Power until

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such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory Power." This clause at any rate disposes of the fatal suggestion that some form of international government should be tried. The specific allusion is to the Arabs, Armenians, and Syrians; but it may be taken for granted that wherever the trusteeship of the League has to be exercised, it will be by a single Mandatory and not by an international body.

The reference to Cyprus in these Notes has afforded an opportunity for a wider discussion of the future of the island in our pages, and we gladly pay a tribute to the restrained manner in which the Greek case has been urged by our correspondents. If there is to be a change in the ownership of Cyprus, it will make for its good government hereafter, we may hope, that the misgivings which must inevitably accompany its transfer should be known. The case of Crete is not on all fours. There it was a question of freeing the island from Turkish misrule. Cyprus has had the advantage of British government for forty years. Its economic development may have been neglected; but no one disputes that its actual administration has been conducted on unimpeachable lines. When Crete obtained union with Greece the administration passed at once into the hands of M. Venizelos, and Greece was quick to acknowledge that the union brought benefit to her no less than to Crete. There may be several Venizeloses in Cyprus awaiting union with Greece. If it be so, they have been hiding their lights under a bushel, and Great Britain would be false to her trust of forty years if she did not utter a warning against the possibility of the government of the island passing into the hands of the town politician, who recks far more of the emoluments and privileges of office than of the welfare of the agricultural population that forms the bulk of his fellow-islanders.

The Paris Conference has listened this week to a statement of the Yugoslav territorial claims, and the consideration of them, with the exception of the frontiers in which Italy is directly interested, has been referred to the Commission already charged with the examination of the question of the Banat. Serbia now looks for a rectification of her existing boundaries not only to the north, but also on the east, where the country marches with Bulgaria. The object sought is to guarantee the security of the Vardar, Morava, and Timok valleys, with their railway systems, which experience has proved to be inconveniently exposed to sudden attack. The weakness of the Uskub-Ghevgeli line in its southern section has long been a Serbian grievance; but if we may judge from the official map of Yugoslav territory, issued in September, 1915, by Dr. Niko Zupanitch, the claim for any material alteration of the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier as a whole is an outcome of the Allied victory. The trouble lies in the fact that the two countries are neighbours. Less than a hundred miles separate Nish and Sofia, and the frontier, as far as the railway is concerned, is nearer the latter than the former. There is consequently not much room for rectifying one injustice without creating another. The Serbian demands are only natural, and if they should not be conceded, Serbia will be able to reflect that guarantees against sudden attacks are henceforth to be supplied by the League of Nations, and in all probability they will prove more effective than the mere shifting of a frontier line a few miles.

In the Banat the Yugoslav claim is based on the presence of a considerable number of Serbs in this territory, and it is not disputed that they form a substantial proportion of the population within a fifty-mile radius of Belgrade. The Roumanian contention is to the effect that the Banat is a geographical entity which does not lend itself to partition; that its natural boundaries are the Theiss and Danube; that the quarter of a million Serbs should be set against the fifteen million Roumanians in what is really Roumanian territory; that the distribution of the Serbs in patches in the Banat points not to any natural expansion from Serbia proper, but an artificial settlement encouraged by Austria, and that if these Serbs have acquired any special prominence in these districts it was as a result of Austria's deliberate policy with a view to introducing a check upon the Roumanians. Finally, they point to the three hundred thousand Roumanians in the Timok valley as a complete rejoinder to any qualms that the Serbians may have regarding the incorporation of a Serbian community in Roumania.

Such in brief are the rival claims in the Banat, and if the Commission is unable to persuade one or other of the claimant States to abandon its position on general principles, it will be necessary to attempt to draw a frontier which will thread its way in and out of the small communities and be the least liable to serious challenge. In the case of the controversy between Yugoslavia and Italy the Southern Slav delegation adopted the course of suggesting formally that the matter should be submitted to the arbitration of President Wilson on the ground that, as Italy was represented in the Council of Ten, she would be both judge and litigant. The Italian Government is understood to have refused to support the application, which is held in some quarters to infringe the prerogatives of the Paris Conference. Clearly if one question is to be taken out of the province of the Conference and submitted to private arbitration, there is some danger of an awkward precedent being set. Unnecessary complications are the more likely to be avoided, it is held, if departures from the normal course of procedure in such matters are ruled out of order.

If the territorial settlement of the Balkans presents difficulties, the position in regard to Transcaucasia is still worse, if only for the fact that the country is less familiar to the Conference, and is far less accessible. Feeling between the rival claimants runs no less high, and has probably been indulged more freely in the absence of such restraints as there have been in the Balkan Peninsula. An attempt was made by the Georgians, Armenians, and Tartars of Russian Azerboijan to arrive at a federal arrangement among themselves, but the experiment was quickly abandoned for promiscuous hostilities. Peace has been restored by the arrival of British troops, and, it is to be feared, will only be maintained in the future by the same or a similar agency. The Georgians are understood to resent the suggestion that they will need the assistance of a Mandatory Power of the League of Nations; the Armenians, on the other hand, ask for one. It will probably prove unsatisfactory to split up these near neighbours, whose territories are almost inextricably mixed, among two or more Mandatories, as the suspicion that one people was experiencing more congenial tutelage than another would be a constant incentive to unrest.

For some time past persistent reports of insurrectionary outbreaks in Roumania have been circulated from Austro-German sources. They contain the most circumstantial details, even to the extent of attributing to the Royal Family an attempt to flee to Jassy and representing King Ferdinand as having been wounded as a result of shots being fired at the Palace. The denials of these reports have not been altogether satisfactory, in view of the fact that all the Allies are interested in proving their inaccuracy, and the impression is being formed that some measure of unrest has come to a head in Roumania which is being exaggerated by German or Austrian agencies on principle or in the belief that the reports serve a useful purpose. On the other hand, we are promised a resumption of the Orient Express services, which indicates that the railway authorities have not allowed their plans to be interfered with by the rumours. At the same time a large consignment of foodstuffs has at last reached Roumania, and may materially assist the Bucharest authorities in meeting the main grievances of the population. A very grave picture of conditions in the country has recently been drawn, and the people are said to have been dying of hunger, cold, and disease. Not only are food supplies required, however, but also raw material and machinery to enable industries to restart.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 27.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate left Cairo last Monday evening by special train for Port Said, where they embarked on board a transport for England. Sir Reginald, who was accompanied by the Hon. Mervyn Herbert, Second Secretary; Colonel G. S. Symes, C.M.G., Liaison Officer; and Captain Alexander, A.D.C., was seen off at the station by H.E. Said Zulfikar Pasha, representing his Highness the Sultan, and by Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham and the rest of the Residency staff. It is understood that his Excellency has been summoned to London in connection with the various Near Eastern questions which are at present under discussion with the Powers. During his temporary absence Sir Milne Cheetham will be Acting High Commissioner, a position he has twice held before, the first occasion being when the Proclamation was declared until the arrival of Sir Henry McMahon, and the second from the latter's departure to Sir Reginald Wingate's arrival from Khartoum.

Death of a Distinguished Armenian.

The death took place this week of H.E. Yakub Artin Pasha, one of the most distinguished Armenians the East has known since Nubar Pasha and Tigrane Pasha died. Artin Pasha, who was the son of the Minister of Communications under Mohammed Ali Pasha, was seventy-six years of age, having been born in 1842. He had a brilliant scholastic career, and, coming under the notice of Ismail Pasha, became his personal secretary and tutor to his sons. Subsequently he took service under the Egyptian Government, rising to the post of Under-Secretary of State for Education, in which he did yeoman service for this country, and which he held for nearly a quarter of a century. Artin Pasha was more a student than an administrator, but he played a great part in the reorganisation of education in Egypt, and was regarded by the late Lord Cromer as an authority on educational matters. He represented Egypt at the Oriental Congress of Vienna of 1886, and was for many years President of the Egyptian Institute, of which he was at the last Honorary President. Artin Pasha ever displayed a profound and practical interest in science, arts, and folklore, to all of which he greatly contributed by his own studies and personal research work. His reputation as a savant was not confined to Egypt, for he was well known to and *persona grata* with all the leaders of the intellectual world in Great Britain, France, and America, with whom he was in constant correspondence until the illness to which he finally succumbed laid him low, a year ago. In him Armenia loses one of her most loyal and honourable sons and Egypt one of her most sincere friends, who, while always working and hoping for the liberation of his mother-country, never forgot the land of his birth, and devoted to her service all his energy and all his natural gifts. A man of great personal charm, Artin Pasha will be sadly missed in Egypt; and the cosmopolitan nature of the enormous crowd which followed his remains to their last resting-place may be regarded as the measure of the esteem and affection in which he was held by all classes of the local population.

The Question of Leave.

No sooner was the armistice signed than everyone began asking themselves, "When can we get away on leave?" Comparatively few officials and residents have been able to go home since the outbreak of war, and it is to be foreseen that there will be a fairly large demand for steamer accommodation throughout the current year. Whether the shipping companies will be able to cope with this demand is another matter, for most of the steamers coming from the East will have to provide room for passengers from India and other Far Eastern parts, who are as numerous as, if not more so than, those from this country. It was apparent that unless something were done on behalf of the local residents very few of them would find any accommodation this year; and the Egyptian Government has made arrangements for the drawing up of two lists, one of officials and the other of ordinary British residents wishing to proceed to Europe this year, with a view to trying to get the necessary accommodation reserved on certain steamers. It is understood that Mr. Burnett Stewart, Director of Personnel in the Ministry of the Interior, who has just proceeded on leave, has been asked to negotiate this matter with the shipping companies concerned during his stay in London, and it is hoped that at least two ships will be provided, one about April and the second about July.

The New Year's Honours.

The share of Egypt and the Sudan in the New Year's Honours is not a very large one, but all whose names are contained in the list fully deserve the recognition thereby conferred. Colonel Bernard, who receives a K.B.E., is, of course, the able Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, who has filled that post for the past eighteen years, and who now receives belated but none the less well-merited recognition for his hard work and efficient handling of the difficult problems which the financial administration of that vast territory has produced. Commanderships of the British Empire are conferred on Mr. John Langley, who has been Under-Secretary for Agriculture for the past two years, and who has done an enormous amount of war work on the Permanent Arbitration Board and as President of the Graves Commissions; on Mr. Ross Taylor, the President of the Supplies Control Board, who has also in his capacity of Legal Adviser to the Ministries of Public Works, War, and Agriculture rendered very valuable services during the war; on Mr. Ward Boys, the Licensing Officer, who has done excellent work in connection with the control of the enemy firms and war trade in general; on Captain Midwinter, who has been Director-General of Sudan Railways since Sir George Macaulay was transferred to the Egyptian State Railways; and on Mr. Sidney Wells, Director-General of Technical Education, who has organised the recruiting of civilian clerks, etc., to replace able-bodied military staff returned to the firing line.

The more important recipients of the O.B.E. are Mr. G. D. Hornblower, Chief Inspector of the Ministry of the Interior, who since the outbreak of war has filled the somewhat thankless post of Press Censor with much tact and ability; Major C. Garvice, D.S.P., who, as Sub-Commandant and latterly as Commandant of the Alexandria City Police, has rendered signal services to the Army; Dr. Frank Madden, F.R.C.S., who, as senior surgeon to Kasr El Aini Hospital, had a good deal to do with the wounded in the early days, when that establishment was taken over by the R.A.M.C.; and Captain C. A. Willis, the able Assistant Director of Sudan Intelligence at Khartoum. Honorary O.B.E.s have also been conferred on Ali El Din Gamal Pasha, Mudir of Menoufia; Hassan Hassib Pasha, Mudir of Gharbia; and Ibrahim Halim Pasha, Mudir of the Behera, all of whom have been of great assistance to the military authorities in their respective provinces.

In addition to the general New Year's list many Anglo-Egyptians and Britons well known in the Near East have been the recipients of honours. Amongst them are Colonel, now Brigadier-General, Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., who has done such extraordinarily good work in Palestine, and who is at present acting Chief Administrator; and Colonel C. Garner, who is Chief Medical Officer of the O.E.T.A., and who will, it is understood, succeed to the now vacant Director-Generalship of Public Health, both of whom are nominated to Commanderships of the British Empire. Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Graves, C.M.G.; Major Macdonnel, of the Frontiers Administration; Lieut.-Colonel Hubbard, of the Coastguards; Lieut. P. W. Stout, D.S.O.; Capt. Gabriel Haddad, late of the Egyptian Public Security Department; and Capt. W. H. Crosthwaite, of the Egyptian Survey, receive the O.B.E.

Egypt's Deluge.

Egypt has been visited by a rainstorm the like of which the oldest residents do not recollect. The visitation was a very sudden one, for the meteorological authorities state that it was preceded by none of the usual atmospheric warnings. It appears to have affected the whole country from Aswan down to Alexandria. Complete reports are not in from all parts, but the

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damage done to crops, buildings, and communications must have been considerable, judging by what one can see for oneself and what one hears. Cairo seems to have fared the worst. Here the rain fell almost incessantly for twenty-four hours, for six of which it came down with terrific force. During the twenty-four hours over 1¾ inches of rain fell, and when it is added that the annual rainfall is under 1 inch it can be gathered that the storm was an unusually intense one for this country. As a matter of fact, while it lasted the visitation could not have been worse in any more rainy clime. As might be expected, the train and tram services were dislocated, the worst instance being that of the Heliopolis Metropolitan. At one point the line was completely swamped and the cars were stopped by the rush of water, while to make matters worse the side of the cutting fell in. It will take several days yet to repair the damage. To add to the serious state of things a village which was adjacent to the line at the point in question was entirely washed away, and the unfortunate inhabitants were stranded. Special relief work has had to be provided for them. Even now, a week after the downpour, pools of water are still to be seen everywhere, whilst in the districts the roads are not yet dry.

Cairo, February 4.

The Mixed Tribunals.

As foreshadowed in a previous letter, the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals, which would have expired on January 31, has been renewed for a further period of nine months ending on October 31 next. The decree signed by the Sultan appeared in the *Official Journal* of January 31. At the same time several important decisions were passed by the Council of Ministers. This does not, however, signify that the "political crisis" is at an end. A Council of Ministers, in the sense that the members of the Cabinet met, as they were wont to do once a week, was not held; but the papers were circulated by the Secretary to the Ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education, whose resignations are still in suspense, and each signed the decisions in question, which were then submitted to the Sultan for signature and promulgation. How much longer the crisis itself is going to last no one knows; but from day to day a settlement is expected. At all events it is very satisfactory that in the meantime a way has been found out of the apparent *impasse* created by the indefinite postponement of the Council meetings and the consequent holding up of all important decisions since the beginning of December last.

The Egyptian Expeditionary Forces.

Not unnaturally the question of demobilisation is much exercising the minds of the members of the E.E.F. Many who have been out here for two or three years have felt that they should have been amongst the first to be sent home. Very wisely the military authorities have issued very complete details of the scheme under which the demobilisation is being carried out, accompanied by a statement explaining the situation, pointing out, amongst other things, that if certain members of the forces have already been ordered home, it is not primarily in their own, but in the interests of the nation that they have been given preference over their comrades. This statement has gone a long way towards allaying the somewhat sore feeling among the men, and there is every reason to believe and expect that they will one and all submit to what is after all the inevitable in the same gallant manner as they have borne their share in the past four years' struggle.

That the Commander-in-Chief has implicit confidence in this respect in his men is shown by the special order of the day which he has issued. In it he reminds all ranks that during the trying and unavoidably extended period that must elapse before the force can be completely demobilised the good name of the British Army depends upon the individual conduct of each member of the forces. Courtesy and consideration to the inhabitants of the countries in which they are stationed were never more essential, even during the period of active operations, than they are now; and he relies on every member of the E.E.F. to maintain the traditions of the British Army in this respect. He enjoins them to treat all women with courtesy, but to avoid all undue intimacy. "Final impressions," says General Allenby, "are usually the more lasting," and on the behaviour of the troops during the present period will depend the final impression left by the British Army on the inhabitants of the countries where they are stationed. He concludes by saying that the honour of the E.E.F. is in the hands of the men, and that he does not fear to leave it there.

The Arab Government.

Several important appointments have been made to its administrative service by the Arab Government. Amongst these have been Lieut.-Colonel R. V. Graves, C.M.G., O.B.E., at the outbreak of war Adviser to the Ottoman Ministry of the Interior and lately attached to G.H.Q. of the E.E.F., who is now Political Adviser at Damascus; Captain Gabriel Haddad, O.B.E., for some time Assistant Director-General of Public Security in Egypt, and until recently Local Adviser to the Governor of Jerusalem, who is now in charge of the Public Security in Damascus; Captain W. A. C. Baines, of the Egyptian Bench, who is to be Judicial Adviser to the Arab Government; and Lewa Mussalli Pasha, of the Egyptian Army, who is retiring in order to take over the direction of the Public Health Administration in Damascus. From the nature of these appointments there would appear to be little doubt that the King of the Hejaz and his sons are imbued with far-seeing and enlightened ideas, and that, whilst being determined to start the new administration under the best auspices, they are not allowing any bigoted policy to influence their selection of the more important officials.

Death of Premier's Secretary.

It is with much regret that I have to announce the death of Sadik Bey Rifaat, Private Secretary to H.E. Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, which has occurred quite suddenly. A young man of great promise, Rifaat Bey has had a brilliant career, and was marked out for early promotion. Of great intelligence, with an infinite charm of manner, courteous, conscientious, and level-headed, he was just the man to fill the post of secretary to such a hard-working and active chief as Rushdi Pasha. He will indeed be a serious loss to the Prime Minister, whom he served faithfully and well throughout the past critical five years.

An Experiment that Failed.

Some three or four months ago, when the wheat crisis was imminent, I reported that an arrangement had been made by the Supplies Control Board with the principal cereal merchants, whereby associations were to be created in every province for the supervision of the cereal trade, and that a Central Committee was to be set up in Cairo to which the provincial associations should send delegates. Under the scheme licences were to be issued to merchants recommended by the Committee to enable them to trade in cereals, the idea being to prevent speculation and profiteering, such as had been going on in the past, and to ensure proper distribution of the crops. Beyond the fact that the presidency of the Central Committee was given to the President of the Supplies Control Board, the Committee and the associations were left to work quite independently, the Government, however, giving them its support whenever they required it.

It has now been found necessary to terminate this arrangement, as it has completely failed in attaining the object for which it was made. Far from assisting the Government in its task of controlling the cereal trade and providing the urban centres with their proper quantity of cereals, most of the merchants have used their position on the Committee and their membership of the associations to profiteer on their own account, and the Government has itself had to intervene and control the cereal trade through its own agency. It is very disappointing that this experiment in giving the Egyptians a free hand in the regulation of what is after all one of the purely Egyptian branches of trade should have failed in this manner; but it clearly shows that even with the full authority of the Government, when they want it, at their back they are still not capable of satisfactorily directing even the most elementary enterprises on their own without close outside control.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Present Unrest.

There have been rumours again that a revolution has broken out in Roumania. The sources of these reports are German and Magyar, and they are spread mostly from Berne, where Count Andrassy has a big propaganda organization. But the story is not entirely without foundation. Roumania has suffered incredibly heavy losses in the war, and misery and death are still taking toll of the exhausted population. It is not at all an exaggeration, as it might appear, that Roumania has already lost more than 12 per cent. of her population. Pharmaceutical necessaries have become memories of the past, and new clothes are so scarce that only millionaires can afford to buy them. Means of transport have been mostly destroyed; and this explains why, in a great timber-growing country, a cubic metre of wood (used as fuel) costs 800 lei (about £30*). The general discontent is thus easily accounted for, and were it not that the long-desired national unity is providing a silver lining to the dark clouds, Roumania would in probability have been already involved in a terrible revolution. The great war found her politicians engaged in endless discussions concerning social and political reforms. The very imperfect system of government then existing in the country deprived the masses of political rights; and when, apparently, the politicians were disposed to concede any reforms they were always with an eye to their special privileges. It is necessary to recognise that very often the laws were dead letters, and that the power of a very small class of so-called *chocoi* was boundless. These *chocoi*—without any definite nationality, religion, moral or social responsibility; adventurers of the worst type—were ready to do anything and everything for their own interests. They destroyed the old Roumanian nobility and reduced the peasantry to practical serfage. Roumania possessed the most imperfect land system in Europe, and this was the reason why the peasants revolted so often.

These conditions made Roumania peculiarly liable to a social uprising. The old methods of government, the police, the gendarmes, still further increased the discontent, and precipitated the trouble. That trouble could not be prevented merely by sending food, clothing, and other necessaries, and by distributing the land to the peasants. What is called for is a proper social organization and the establishment of right and justice for the masses. The Allies could do the greatest service to the Roumanians by sending them, together with economic and financial help, a kind of economic police—some good organizers, who could bring order out of this chaos. Roumania has, unfortunately, an enormous number of bureaucrats, and therefore she is helpless now from the point of view of social organization, and unable to take prompt and practical measures for her own salvation.

* At pre-war rates.—Ed.

English in the Roumanian Schools.

The Ministry of Public Instruction intends to introduce the teaching of the English language into all the secondary schools. Heretofore the German language has been obligatory for every secondary school, whilst English was taught only in some Lyceums (the modern section) and in the commercial schools.

The Political Situation.

It is nearly certain that the new elections will not take place until after the Peace Conference, partly because of the permanent mobilization, and partly owing to the impossibility of communication between various parts of the country. It seems that M. Bratianu has not succeeded in forming a National Government, and that he intends to assume the responsibility of building the Great Roumania with only the forces of the Liberal Party.

ROUMANIA'S URGENT WANTS.

Under date of February 14, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—M. Blank, a Roumanian economist and a specialist in all questions relating to that country's food supply and finance, declares that the misery in Roumania has reached an unheard of degree. The country is dying of hunger, cold, and disease. The stocks of seed corn required are still in France, Great Britain, and America, although the gathering of the crops should begin in July.

M. Blank urges the necessity for expediting the dispatch of food supplies to Roumania by a Danube port, preferably Galatz, and asks for raw material and the necessary machinery for re-starting the country's industries, and the means for re-establishing her commercial intercourse. In exchange for these imports Roumania promises within a period of fifteen to thirty months to furnish supplies of corn and petroleum to the Allies.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Future of the Island.

Letters received from the Greek deputation to England, and published in the local Greek papers, state that they met with considerable difficulties during their journey, viâ Genoa and Paris, though the time spent in the former city was fully appreciated. They have telegraphed that their "work proceeds well," and they mention that interviews in London have been satisfactory. The Press has every confidence that M. Venizelos will be able to secure for Greece the fulfilment of her claims, which include not only the Dodecanese and the Smyrna zone, but also Cyprus.

The Turks held a large meeting at Nicosia, at which it was resolved to send representatives of their community to Constantinople and Paris, to ask for the return of the island to Turkey; or, should this petition not be favourably received by the Conference, that it should remain under British administration. It was decided that the Mufti Effendi should be one of the representatives. The Greek papers comment on the futility of any such mission, and argue that it is unreasonable that the voice of a minority should prevail over that of four-fifths of the inhabitants, and that the Turks need be under no apprehension as to any prospect of illiberal treatment by a Greek Government, as is evident from the character of Hellenic rule in other provinces. In reply to suggestions that there is no proof that the Greek deputation represents the real wishes of the Cypriots, and that the rural classes should be fully consulted as to their views, they assert that it is preposterous to imagine that there can be any doubt on the subject that all Greeks are one in their desire for liberty, and that liberty is with them synonymous with absorption in the Motherland.

The Anglican and Orthodox Churches.

Considerable space is devoted to articles respecting the friendly relations between the Anglican and the Orthodox Eastern Churches. The cordial reception of the Metropolitan of Athens (formerly Bishop of Kition) in America has given great satisfaction. The meeting held in honour of the Metropolitan in the Synod Hall at New York has tended greatly to strengthen the hopes of those who desire to promote still closer union between the Churches.

The Bishop of Papho, as senior prelate in Cyprus, acts for the Archbishop, now in London, and is in residence at Nicosia. He has paid an official visit to the Acting High Commissioner, Mr. M. Stevenson, cordial expressions of mutual esteem being exchanged.

At Larnaca the Commissioner has had occasion to comment on some recent utterances of the Bishop of Kition, suggesting that it would be well if the prelate were less outspoken, as his words might be open to misconstruction by the people. The Bishop replied that he should always speak in a manner which he deemed to be consistent with his duty.

Agricultural Outlook.

Agricultural prospects are very promising in all parts, the position having been, up to the end of 1918, satisfactory, and weather conditions generally favourable. It would seem that the state of the roads in some parts of the island is leading to much dissatisfaction, and the Government is urged to take the matter in hand. Great damage has been done by the exceptionally heavy rains of last month.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CYPRUS AND THE DODECANESE.

(*To the Editor of* The Near East.)

Sir,—In your issue of the 7th inst. the question of the Greek islands of the Mediterranean is discussed, and, more precisely, that of Cyprus with regard to England and that of the Dodecanese with regard to Italy. The two cases are substantially and historically identical, in view of the fact that, as The Near East itself recognises, the populations of both Cyprus and the Dodecanese are in majority Greek, but neither has ever belonged to Greece politically. The Near East, however, comes to the conclusion (p. 106) that Cyprus should remain to England, while (p. 115) the Dodecanese should be handed over to Greece.

I do not profess to know how the question of the Dodecanese will be solved, nor do I propose here to advocate any special solution either in favour of Greece or of Italy. But I will simply mention the fact that a tendency towards an Italo-Greek understanding is daily growing stronger in Italy, and also that quite recently newspapers of different shades of opinion, such as *La Gazzetta del Popolo*, *Il Tempo*, *Il Messaggero*, and *Il Popolo Romano*, have expressed the view that it is quite possible to find a basis of mutual agreement between Italy and Greece.

The problem, as I put it, is quite different. Why, I ask, even admitting that (p. 115) the negotiations for the peace after the great war are acknowledged to be conducted "on national lines of thought and not of strategic or imperialistic annexations," why does The Near East propose for identical questions a solution favourable to England and against Greek interests where England is concerned, and on the other hand one opposed to Italian and favourable to Greek interests in the case of Italy? Is it not to be hoped that one of the elements of peace should be to apply to outstanding questions the same principles for all the Allies, or, if it be necessary to make an exception in favour of one of them, consideration should be had for the claims of other Allies in identical positions?

In the case of the Dodecanese I may be allowed to mention that the latest settlement concerning these islands, confirming their Italian occupation, was made in London and bears, among others, the signature of the British Government.—I am, etc., An Italian.

[The question of Cyprus and that of the Dodecanese are not on all fours, if only for the reason that the former has been for forty years under the jurisdiction of Great Britain. Italy's title to the islands of the Dodecanese was to lapse as soon as Turkey had withdrawn her forces from North Africa.—Ed.]

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your last issue a correspondent, in attempting to enlighten the readers of The Near East on the Cyprus question, made several original and startling statements, which are easily disposed of.

To commence with, we are told that Greece never for a single hour possessed Cyprus, a statement which shows a lamentable misunderstanding, or lack of understanding, of the Ancient Greeks' conception of Hellas. If the gentleman will take the trouble of perusing an authoritative work on Ancient Greece two things above all will be impressed upon his mind. First, that in so far as political entirety was concerned, Greece was non-existent, the whole people being bound together only by ties of blood, civilization, and religion; and, secondly, that, to the Greek, Hellas meant not only the southern portion of what is now called the Balkan Peninsula, but every town, district, and island inhabited by Greeks. Since Cyprus, even in ancient times, was occupied by Greeks, and since for quite a lengthy period it was a federation of Greek States, it therefore follows that Cyprus was an integral portion of Hellas for considerably longer than one hour.

But let us leave ancient history behind and face present-day facts. Candidly, it does not matter a *sou* whether Cyprus acknowledged Alexander the Great, was conquered by Cœur de Lion, and sold by him to the rest of Europe's riff-raff that posed under the name of Crusaders. The main point is who inhabit the island nowadays, and what are the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants This being, of course, if President Wilson's fourteen points were worth bringing across the "pond."

According to these points, all people are to have the right of self-determination, and if doubts are cast upon "those persons who are supposed to represent the majority of the inhabitants of Cyprus," surely a plebiscite could be taken, and the question of the islanders' wishes settled once and for all.

The main reason advanced why Britain should retain Cyprus is the island's proximity to the new British spheres of influence in the Near East. But Italy could just as well claim to keep the Dodecanese, owing to their proximity to her promised sphere of influence round Adalia. It is extremely unlikely that Italy will evacuate the Twelve Islands so long as Britain remains in Cyprus, this being quite in keeping with an "imperial way of thinking," but it does not require a prophet to predict that the trouble you expect the Moslems to cause on the cession of Cyprus to Greece will be nothing compared with the trouble that will keep breaking out all over the Near East if Italy remains in the Ægean.—I am, etc.,

Alexander Callinicos.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, Feb. 15, 1919.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

On more than one occasion I have referred to the assistance that our archæologists and excavators have been able to render to the Army. But the favours have not been all on the one side. On the Gallipoli Peninsula, for instance, there are to-day visible many ruins that were uncovered—none too gently, one supposes—by the British Fleet. Bombardment as a method of exploring ancient ruins is unlikely to become popular: it is too expensive for one thing, and too indiscriminating for another. But the fact remains that the ships' guns *did* bring art treasures to light, and that the French, at any rate, followed up the clues thus presented to them. Again, did not enthusiastic Australians unearth, clear, and eventually remove a fine mosaic pavement somewhere in Southern Palestine during the early days of our advance? Unless my memory plays me false, they actually did much of the work under fire. If so, they certainly deserve the thanks of the archæological world.

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Another example of co-operation between the Army and archæology is afforded by Captain R. Campbell Thompson's work at Abu Shahrein, regarding which the fortunate digger read a paper recently before the Society of Antiquaries. These ruins, which mark the site of the ancient Eridu, were examined in 1855 by J. E. Taylor, British Consul at Busreh, and the excavations which he conducted there served to identify the site and to indicate its importance from the digger's point of view; and, naturally, not a few of his successors in the archæological field cast longing glances—metaphorically—at it. But it was difficult, almost impossible, to get at. It lies some way back from the river, in a deep valley, which is only open to the Euphrates on the north; and, as it was in the "territory" of particularly turbulent and independent Arabs, the Turkish Government was never willing to let travellers try to visit it. Nor would the Arabs themselves help the would-be explorer; and one heard so much of the risks of the undertaking that it did not seem worth while to make the attempt to reach the site. Now, however, the war has changed all that. Captain Thompson and his Irish orderly were well received by the local *Sheikh*, who provided them with fifty workmen, and seems to have accompanied them himself. That is a pretty good testimonial to the popularity of the British soldier in Lower Mesopotamia; and at the same time the incident affords another bit of evidence, if such be wanted at this late date, of the dislike of the Arab for the Turk.

***

That Captain Thompson made good use of the opportunity thus put in his way we may feel sure. He has excavated at many sites on behalf of the British Museum; and in pursuit of knowledge of the Past has travelled much in Turkey, Persia, the Sudan, and Sinai. If you have not read his entertaining book, "A Pilgrim's Scrip," I advise you to do so at once. It is to be hoped that he will give us in due time a written account of his work at Abu Shahrein and his experiences in Mesopotamia.

***

Malaria is such a terrible scourge that anyone who suffered badly from it would probably be ready to take very drastic measures if they held out any promise of a cure. Yet I doubt whether the worst sufferer would care to face such an experience as that which befell an Indian woman not long ago, even though it effected a cure. The woman referred to, a widow of forty, had been suffering much from malaria; and is described as having become so weak that she could scarcely move on her bed. Her friends were, therefore, not surprised when she (apparently) died. She was taken off to the Bally *ghat* for cremation, and the pyre was lighted. But at once cries of alarm came from "the corpse." The attendants rushed to the pyre, flung aside the wood, and rescued the woman, almost unharmed. And to the intense surprise of all who had known how weak she had become, she was able to sit up and hold an informal reception of the multitude that quickly gathered to see the miraculously preserved one. From which it would appear that "shock" is not without virtue as a cure for malaria.

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In connection with the subject of "shock," I was interested to read the other day that gum-arabic has been found very useful in the treatment of this complaint—for complaint it must be called, although in the case quoted above the "shock" proved a blessing in disguise. I gather that in cases of "shock," no matter how caused, the victim loses a certain amount of fluid from the circulation; and to overcome the evil this loss must be made good by the injection of some viscous fluid. The most likely materials were gelatine and gum-arabic; and of the two gum-arabic was preferable, because it was free from certain dangers attaching to gelatine. Professor Bayliss, who recommended its use, has performed a very great service to humanity; for it is said to be certain that it has saved the life of many patients. I suppose this is not likely to increase the demand sufficiently to cause a "gum-arabic" shortage. But let us be thankful to the Sudan for sending us such a useful material—useful for repairing not only our broken household goods, but also our broken bodies.

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My curiosity has been aroused by the following paragraph in the *Egyptian Gazette* of January 30:—

> "Abdel Aziz Yehia Bey, Governor of Fayoum Province, arrived in Cairo on Tuesday morning on duty in connection with his promise."

What *was* the promise? To whom was it made? And did the Bey keep it?

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It is safe to assume that a certain young Mohammedan of Calcutta is not a whole-hearted admirer of the modern practice of employing scientific methods in the detection of crime. The young man in question was at a Calcutta race meeting recently, when he was seen to snatch a thin gold chain, about a foot long, from the neck of an infant who was being carried by his (or her) father. Arrest followed almost immediately, but the chain could not be found on the Oriental Noah Claypole. For the moment it looked as if he might get off. But an up-to-date inspector decided to call in the aid of the X-rays, and the result was that the missing chain was located in the prisoner's interior. The *Pioneer*, from which I glean my information, adds tersely: "A petty surgical operation followed, and the stolen chain was recovered. The man is to be sent up for trial." Another instance of the awful methods employed by a brutal police in dealing with an unsophisticated people!

CORSAIR.

THE NUSHKI-SEISTAN RAILWAY.

At the meeting of the Central Asian Society last Tuesday, Colonel Webb-Ware told the story of the building of the Nushki-Seistan Railway. He said the railway passed parallel to and a little south of the boundary between Afghanistan and Baluchistan. The late and present Amirs of Afghanistan both pursued a policy of isolation. Moreover, there were no real roads or telegraphs in the country; and not only dues on goods brought in for domestic consumption, but also those on goods passing through, were very heavy. Consequently, India did but little trade with Afghanistan; while, as for Central Asia, the Russians, after building the railway to Samarkand, had followed this up with a series of tariffs which, combined with other obstacles, made Indian trade with Central Asia almost impossible. In 1897, said Colonel Webb-Ware, following on the boundary agreement with Afghanistan, he had been deputed to take charge of the country which fell to us, with instructions to establish overland trade communications with Persia. When he first went to Nushki the country was in a very unsettled state, and the people much given to raiding and blood feuds. But he had won their confidence, and, in spite of great difficulties, had opened a trade route, with wells and caravanserais. Gradually the country became more settled, crimes of violence became exceptional, the carrying of arms ceased, tribal forts were abandoned and fell into ruin, cultivation—rude though it was—increased, and peace reigned in the country. A railway from Quetta to Nushki was built in 1905, and since the war this had been extended to the Persian frontier and beyond to Seistan; so that now, in place of a tract of country very difficult from the point of view of transport, there was a broad-gauge railway running from Karachi and linked up with the Indian railway system. Apart from the benefit of opening up a country in which, on our side of the frontier, salt in vast quantities was to be obtained, and where lead, copper, antimony, iron, ochre and sulphur had been found, as well as outcrops of marble and jasper, Seistan would now become the great distributing centre for South-Western Afghanistan, and was itself capable of great agricultural development. The River Helmund there discharged on to an open plain. Its waters were richly charged with silt, and there were immense stretches of land fit for cultivation. Irrigation presented no difficulty, and there was cheap and abundant labour. Beyond lay Meshed, the capital of Khorassan, with a population of 80,000 and attracting 50,000 pilgrims annually. Here there were untouched deposits of copper, iron and coal, and the most celebrated turquoise mines in the world. As to what had already been done, the trade of India through Nushki had increased tenfold since the year of the first working of the caravan route.

The Postmaster-General states that letters and postcards of a personal and domestic character, but not other classes of postal packets, addressed to Bulgaria may now be posted in the ordinary way, and, if passed by the War Office Censors, will be forwarded by the best means available. Delivery cannot be guaranteed; and correspondence cannot be accepted for registration.

The *Matin* publishes a Zurich telegram reporting that the Chief of Police at Bucharest has discovered a plot to murder the Crown Prince Carol. The conspirators' grievance is said to have been that the only regiment which fired on the workmen during the recent demonstrations in Bucharest was the 8th Regiment of Chasseurs, of which the Prince is Colonel-in-Chief.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Montenegro.

February 13.

Mr. McNeill asked to what extent, and through what agency, the schemes for relief of Montenegro, which were under consideration on November 7, 1918, have since been carried out; and whether it is a fact that the Serbian troops in occupation of the country have prevented the supplies reaching the Montenegrin people for whose relief they were intended?

Mr. Harmsworth: I understand that shipments of relief supplies have already been made to Montenegro in accordance with a decision of the Supreme Council of Supply and Relief. The Supreme Council, which sits at Paris, is charged with the relief of Montenegro. They have not yet reported the particulars of the shipments made or contemplated. They decided at a meeting on 13th ultimo that Mr. Hoover, the United States delegate, should designate an American officer to act on behalf of the Associated Governments for the moment in provisioning Montenegro. No report has reached me that Serbian troops have prevented supplies reaching the people for whom they are intended.

Mr. R. McNeill asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was aware that, in consequence of the refusal of the Government to allow the government of Montenegro to be diplomatically represented in London the interests of that country throughout the war have been informally entrusted to an English private gentleman, Mr. Alexander Devine, whose position in that respect has been known to the Foreign Office through correspondence and personal interviews; and would he say why Mr. Devine was for two months refused a passport to Paris when desiring to go there, since the Armistice, on a mission to consult with Mr. Hoover and the American Red Cross with regard to the revictualling of Montenegro?

Mr. Harmsworth: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Mr. Devine visited Paris in August last and has lately been permitted to proceed there again. But the Foreign Office has seen no reason to press for the removal of the restrictions on travelling in order to enable Mr. Devine to make frequent journeys to Paris, where the Montenegrin Government is already fully represented.

In reply to a further question, Mr. Harmsworth added that the question of the best method of arriving at the true wishes of the Montenegrin people as to the future status of their country without outside interference was at present engaging the attention of the Allied and Associated Powers, and it would be premature to make any declaration at this stage.

Mesopotamia Commission.

Mr. Bonar Law, replying to Captain Viscount Wolmer and Mr. R. McNeill said the Government did not consider that it would be in the public interest to publish at present the evidence given before the Mesopotamia and Dardanelles Commissions.

Viscount Wolmer inquired whether the right hon. gentleman would indicate why it would not be in the public interest—whether because there were diplomatic considerations or because it was necessary to shield individuals.

Mr. Bonar Law: It is not at all because it is necessary to shield individuals. The whole subject has been minutely considered by the Cabinet, and they were quite clear that, at all events until peace is signed, publication would not be advisable.

Bombay Mill Strikes.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for India whether the mill strike in Bombay has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion; and whether he has any information to give the House regarding the riots by which it was accompanied?

Mr. Montagu: Through the intervention of the Governor, a settlement of the Bombay mill strike was come to on January 22, and the men returned to work. Sir G. Lloyd has since reported that some mills have again suspended work. The presence of cholera is said to be making the workers restless and anxious to return to their villages. There were sporadic riots, accompanied by shop looting and intimidation, in the first few days of the strike. These were kept within bounds by tactful management of the police and show of military force. The Governor reports that though nearly 200,000 strikers were demonstrating in the streets for some days and attempting violence, law and order were preserved at the cost of only seven lives.

Indian Reform.

February 17.

Mr. Montagu, replying to Sir J. D. Rees, who asked when the Bill dealing with reforms in Indian administration would be introduced, said: I hope, this Session. But the precise date depends largely on the time when the Government receive the reports from the Committees which are now investigating certain questions connected with the proposed reforms. I can assure my hon. friend that no avoidable delay will be allowed to occur in the introduction of the Bill.

Albania at the Conference.

Mr. C. Harmsworth, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, asked by Major Hills whether Albania was represented at the Peace Conference, said: Albania not having been a belligerent, and no formally constituted Government for the whole country having been recognised, the question of official Albanian representation at the Peace Conference could not arise. Committees of the Conference on territorial questions have, however, been given discretionary powers to hear any interested parties representing disputed territories; and there is no reason to doubt that under this arrangement certain prominent and representative Albanians at present in Paris will have full opportunity to state their case.

Enemy Aliens in India.

Replying to Colonel Yate, Mr. Montagu (Secretary for India) said: The Government of India have in contemplation the transfer out of India of all enemy persons, interned and uninterned, subject to exceptions for cogent reasons. Further, they possess adequate statutory powers enabling them to exclude or expel aliens at their discretion.

Colonel Yate: Will these powers be put in force?

Mr. Montagu: Presumably the Government of India will adopt the policy of the Home Government.

Cast Horses in the East.

Earl Winterton asked the Prime Minister whether the Government adhered to the undertaking given that no Army horses should be sold in the East?

Captain Guest: The only undertaking given was that no cast or worn-out horses should be sold in the East. As regards other horses the instructions issued to General Officers Commanding in Eastern theatres of war were as follows: Animals no longer required by the Armies in the Eastern theatres of war should be disposed of to the best advantage, by sale or otherwise. At the same time, General Officers Commanding are instructed to exercise a very liberal discretion in destroying instead of selling horses, especially those of British origin, which it may be found impossible to repatriate or which are not worth the freight, and for which good homes cannot be found on the spot.

Earl Winterton: Before the Government proceeds with this scheme, will it take the advice of those who have served in the East, who have seen the unrestricted cruelty with which animals are treated?

Captain Guest: Certainly.

Missing Prisoners.

February 18.

In a written reply to a question put by Major Hennessy, Captain Guest says: Active steps have been taken by the High Commissioner to trace all missing prisoners of war in Turkey, but owing to the difficulties of communications this must take a considerable time. The number of missing prisoners of war in Bulgaria is small. The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Salonika has been instructed to make every possible investigation.

ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A council meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held on Wednesday, February 12, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London. Mr. S. G. Hough (vice-president) was in the chair. There were also present: Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, H. Musgrave Clark, A. Stanley Cochrane, R. A. Willis, Capt. L. Edmunds, and the secretary, Rev. D. B. Montefiore (Islip, Oxon.).

The Council recorded the acceptance of Prince Feisal of Arabia of the position of Patron of the Society, and of Colonel T. E. Lawrence, C.B., and of Brigadier-General Nouri Saed (members of the Emir Feisal's staff) as honorary members. The following new members were elected:—Baemberger, Morton De Witte, Cholderton, Salisbury; Beckley, Major R. H., 2nd Battery R.F.A., Mesopotamia; Browne, Arthur Scott, Buckland Fidleigh, High Crompton; Clegg, Assheton, Brackendene; Denham, Massey, Altringham; Edwards, Miss P., Cholderton Lodge, Cholderton, Salisbury; Fenton, A. Douglas, Maristow, Roborough, S. Devon; Forsyth, Major F. R. G., 4th Dragoon Guards, A.D.C., Royal Hospital, Dublin; Richards, Miss C. D., Silvie House, Meigle, Perthshire; Rogers, Chas. Coltman, Stenage Park, Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire; Sabine, Major G. A., 16, St. James's Street, S.W.; Stewart, Bimbashi W. A., Sub-Dep. Agriculture, Tokar, Sudan; Williams, Major John Lloyd, I.D., Bailey's Hotel, S.W.; Zogheb, Comte de, 19, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.

The Council examined and accepted further entries for the Arab Horse Stud Book, and also for the Arab-bred Register. It was decided to have a section for Eastern horses and mares other than pure-bred Arabs, this section to be in the Arab-bred Register, the Arab Horse Stud Book receiving entries for pure-bred Arabs only. The number of entries in the Arab Stallion Class for the Newmarket Show was considered highly satisfactory. The Council then adjourned until their next meeting on April 9 at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.

The annual meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund was held at the rooms of the Royal Society on February 14, when a very excellent report was read and adopted. The number of members and subscribers is practically the same as eighteen months ago (for the report covers that period), and financially the society has been the recipient of a number of special donations. The *Journal of Egyptian Archæology* has continued to appear, and has kept up its reputation. Dr. Alan Gardner, the editor, has ample material for the back numbers due and for those for 1919. Naturally, as the object of the Fund is chiefly to carry on explorations for antiquities in Egypt, the committee are anxious to resume this work. Dr. Grenfell, the papyrologist, is expected to visit Egypt next winter, but no decision as to his excavating any site for papyri has yet been come to. The uncovering of the Osireon, which was carried out by Dr. Edouard Naville, is not entirely completed, but it is possible that work there may be postponed next season in favour of some other place that would probably yield more prolific results. Meanwhile, time is precious, because the spread of irrigation destroys many papyri by the resulting moisture, and the continual absorption of the desert areas into cultivable land renders acquisition for archæological examination too costly.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

BULGARIA.*

No one who wishes to form an accurate judgment on Balkan affairs should fail to read Mr. Clenton Logio's "Bulgaria," and it should certainly be in the hands of every member of the Paris Conference. Let it be said at the outset that it is not a propagandist publication, as the term has come to be understood in this country. Rather is it a cold searching analysis of Bulgaria, its people, politicians, economic conditions, and national aspirations. The Near Eastern question cannot be settled satisfactorily by those who understand only a part of it, and we doubt whether anyone can read this book without adding to their knowledge. There will be a strong reluctance in certain quarters to accept the author's view of the exclusive responsibility of King Ferdinand and his advisers; but it will require something much more definite than mere scepticism to shake the impression created by the masterly character reading to which political parties in Bulgaria are subjected. Mr. Logio is sure enough of his facts to risk at least half a dozen libel actions, but only by lifting in this way the veil from the amazing corruption of Bulgarian politics can he show the country as it really is. He wants a commonsense settlement for the whole Balkan Peninsula:

"Our Balkan Allies must certainly exact safeguards for the future, and before giving any satisfaction to the Bulgarian people it is absolutely essential for the security of peace in the Balkans that the cleansing of their Augean stable be imposed on them. Bulgarian Imperialism is not an invention of Bulgaria's opponents; it is a reality, and constitutes a danger for all Balkan nations, including the Bulgarians themselves."

Mr. Logio shows how Bulgarian Imperialism had been fostered by King Ferdinand. He stoutly maintains that "nothing could be more foreign to the nature of the Bulgarian peasant than a desire for conquest, and it is grotesque to ascribe to him Imperialistic tendencies of which he would be the first to feel the evils and the last to reap the benefits." In order to stifle what there is of Bulgarian Imperialism, the author continues, we should help the Bulgarian people to obtain the upper hand in the Government of their country. Bulgaria is small, and cannot hope to develop freely, if left to herself. If the Allies, or rather Great Britain, will not offer aid and support, she has no alternative to economic and political gravitation towards Germany. Incidentally, Mr. Logio suggests that the Allies should insist on Bulgaria's repudiating her war debt to Germany, as otherwise she will remain at the mercy of the latter.

For those who have no personal knowledge of Bulgarian affairs it will be necessary to read the account given in this book of the recent history of the country in order to understand how completely the nation had allowed itself to become the victim of its politicians. "And yet, in spite of this blight on Bulgarian political life, thanks to the unceasing toil and industry of the peasant, Bulgaria had attained a foremost place among the Balkan States." It is these characteristics which must be relied upon in the future to enable the Peninsula as a whole to exorcise the past and to get the best for itself out of the Bulgarian nation. For that, after all, should be the object continually kept in view by Balkan statesmen when once the danger of any recrudescence of Bulgarian Imperialism has been removed. At a moment when passions run high between the different nationalities, it is of interest for those who believe in the future of the Balkans as a league or federation of friendly nations, having common interests, to be reminded that the antagonism between Serbian and Bulgarian dates back only to the Russo-Turkish war. Mr. Logio has marshalled a formidable series of quotations in support of his contention that "never were Serbo-Bulgarian relations more cordial than towards the middle of the nineteenth century." The reason, he adds, is easy to find: "Serbians were not asked to look for their conationals in Macedonia, but, on the contrary, respected Bulgarian susceptibilities, and far from seeking aggrandisement at the expense of their Eastern neighbours, laboured wholeheartedly to assist them." Subsequent history, no doubt, cannot be altogether ignored. Certain it is that the Balkan States require no outside help in keeping their feuds alive; but all those who desire to live up to the spirit of the League of Nations, and appreciate the necessity for neighbouring people living so close together to be at peace and amity with one another may feel grateful to the author of this book for helping them to unravel one of the tangles connected with South-Eastern Europe.

* "Bulgaria." By C. Clenton Logio. (London: William Heinemann. 10s. net.)

INDIA'S PRESENT DISCONTENTS.*

Sir O'Moore Creagh has produced a most interesting book, but we must demur to the title he has chosen. We should call most of the chapters Impressions rather than Studies, for the truth is that the General is out with a thick stick, and takes a hit at almost every head which comes within his reach. Secretaries of State, Viceroys, Lieutenant-Governors, Financial Departments, civil officers generally, politicians and eminent citizens, all fare alike, and since the General has a good eye and a strong right arm, some at least of the heads sustain considerable damage. The book will thus be a godsend to the Extremist party in India, for they will be quick to argue that if the administration be really as bad as the General makes out, the case for a complete change is decisively established. The objective value, however, of the different chapters varies greatly. Where the writer has full knowledge, as of the inner working of the Indian Army, or of the recent Hardinge regime, he usually comes very near the truth; where he gets out into the fields and villages, he is obviously dependent on his informants, and since these are almost all of one class, the resulting picture becomes partial or even prejudiced. The real interest of these chapters lies, in fact, in their accurate reproduction of the sentiments of the martial classes of Northern India; they have few spokesmen of their own, but General O'Moore Creagh voices their ideas and aspirations with a fidelity which will be admitted by everyone who really knows them. Reduction in land revenue, cheap canal water, good pay and pensions for the Army, a few more Englishmen in the civil administration, and a clean sweep of the whole crowd of town-bred Indian subordinates—that is the gist of his account, and it is a programme which would undoubtedly carry the Punjab almost solid in an election on a popular franchise. Politicians will doubtless reply that the voters must first be "educated" out of such barbarous ideas, but if we know the Punjabi, it will take a vast amount of education to alter his convictions on such matters as these, and should the Franchise Committee provide for really representative constituencies, the politicians in that part of India may find that they have met their masters. However that may be, it is well that a really popular programme should have been put forward, and the whole book may be read with profit as well as pleasure, if the reader will remember that there are two sides to almost every case.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Industrial Development of Palestine." By Maurice H. Farbridge, M.A. (Skeffington and Son, Ltd. 1s. net.)

"The Kingdom of Serbia." By R. A. Reiss. (London: Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Memorandum on the Industrial Situation after the War." The Garton Foundation. Revised and enlarged edition. (Harrison and Sons. 2s. net.)

"Studies in Early Indian Thought." By Dorothea Jane Stephen. (Cambridge: University Press. 6s. net.)

"The New Eastern Europe." By Ralph Butler. (London: Longman, Green, and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

The Council of the British Armenian Chamber of Commerce has elected Mr. E. Brayley-Hodgetts chairman, Professor Tounmaian deputy-chairman, Mr. F. H. Stephens hon. treasurer, and Mr. C. E. Town secretary.

* "Indian Studies." By General Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., G.C.B G.C.S.I. (London: Hutchinson and Co.)

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

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

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

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. February	1919. February.		1337. Jumada I.	5679. Adar I.
21	8	Friday	20	21
22	9	Saturday.....	21	22
23	10	Sunday	22	23
24	11	Monday	23	24
25	12	Tuesday	24	25
26	13	Wednesday	25	26
27	14	Thursday	26	27

Mr. Rudyard Kipling has been staying at Bath.

Major Norman Coates, M.C., of Newton Manor, Swanage, who arrived in England early in December, has left London for Egypt.

Colonel Boyovitch, formerly Serbian Minister of War, accompanied by his wife and daughter, left London on Monday for Belgrade.

General Sir Reginald Wingate and Lady Wingate had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen on Tuesday, at Buckingham Palace.

His Excellency Monsieur Jean Gennadius (Honorary Greek Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary) was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

Accompanied by General Sir C. C. Monro, Commander-in-Chief, the Viceroy of India, on February 5, reviewed ten regiments of the Nepalese Contingent at Delhi prior to their return to Nepal.

Sir Charles Marling was received in audience by the King on Monday morning, at Buckingham Palace, and kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Copenhagen.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Lord Carnegie, Scots Guards, eldest son of the Earl and Countess of Southesk, and the Hon. Anne Thesiger, second daughter of Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy of India, and Lady Chelmsford.

The engagement is announced of Captain Reginald Onslow Skinner, R.G.A., younger son of Colonel Swinton Skinner, I.S.C. (retired), and Mrs. Skinner, and Gwendolyn, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Osborne Baldry, of Rushmere, Leighton Buzzard.

An engagement is announced between Major Colin Arthur Jardine, D.S.O., M.C., R.F.A., second son of Sir John Jardine, Bt., K.C.I.E., J.P., and Jean Evelyn Livesey, only child of Major-General W. A Liddell, C.B., and granddaughter of Mr. James Livesey.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Captain R. Maurice Bayley, D.F.C., Royal Air Force (late Royal Navy), son of Mr. Ernest W. Bayley, of Rye, Sussex, and Enid Care, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Peake, Port Tewfik, Egypt.

The engagement is announced of Josiah (Peter), lieutenant, R.A.F., elder son of the late Rev. Josiah Wedgwood, of Norwich, and Mrs. Wedgwood, of Neatishead, Norfolk, and Edith Helen, only daughter and younger child of the late Neville E. Maltass, of Westbourne Terrace Road and Harrow, and the late Mrs. Maltass.

The engagement is announced between Captain J. R. H. Hutchison, 17th Cavalry, I.A., elder son of the late Mr. T. H. Hutchison and Mrs. Hutchison, Cranley, Carstairs, and Dorothy Joan, elder daughter of Major Surtees, of Redworth Hall, Darlington, late 2nd Life Guards, and of Mrs. Surtees, 28, Basil Street, London.

On February 6, at All Saints' Church, Darton, Yorkshire, Captain E. J. Caldwell Ashmore, D.S.O., 10th Gurkha Rifles, I.A., was married to Dulcie Marguerite, youngest daughter of the late Frederick Dransfield, of Longsight House, Darton, and of Mrs. Dransfield. The Rev. G. B. Dransfield, brother of the bride, officiated.

The second Slavo dance in aid of the Hon. Evelina Haverfield's Fund for Disabled Serbian Soldiers will be held on February 24, at the Piccadilly Hotel. Countess Cathcart, Lady Muir-Mackenzie, Lady Nownes, Lady Williams, and the Marquise de Bourbel will act as hostesses, and the Marchioness of Carisbrooke will present prizes for the most artistic and original costumes.

On February 15, at the British Consulate and All Saints' Church, Cairo, the marriage took place of Nevinson William de Courcy, Ministry of Public Works, Egypt, son of the late Col. N. W. de Courcy, C.B., R.M.L.I., to Grace Russell, M.D., Ministry of Public Health, Egypt, daughter of the late J. B. Russell, of Auckland, N.Z., and Mrs. Russell, 18, Westbury Park, Bristol.

General Sir Charles Townshend authorizes the statement that he has not definitely decided to stand as an independent candidate in the forthcoming by-election in the West Leyton division. At present General Townshend is an officer on the active list of the Army, and he is not desirous of entering Parliament except in the event of his ceasing to be employed in a military capacity by the War Office.

The marriage between Captain Basil Drew, M.C., second son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius C. Drewe, of Wadhurst Hall, Sussex, and Drewsteignton, Devon, and Ruth, only daughter of the the late Mr. Frank Haselden and Mrs. Haselden, of East Lymden, Ticehurst, Sussex, and Alexandria, Egypt, will take place very quietly, in consequence of influenza, on Thursday, February 27, instead of as previously announced.

A telegram received from the Bishop of Khartoum says that he is unable to leave France before July, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. He will naturally need a few weeks' rest and time to attend to various matters which have been standing over for some time before he starts back to the Sudan, and it is unlikely that he will be able to start back until October. When he reaches Egypt he will very possibly find other matters to delay him there, and therefore his arrival in the Sudan will probably be postponed until December.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Admiral Calthorpe is returning to Malta from Constantinople for a short stay.

Mr. W. H. H. Thorne has been appointed Judge of the Alexandria Mixed Court of First Instance, in place of Mr. Carey, who has resigned.

Mr. W. R. Gourlay has been appointed to be Secretary of the Committee which is to report, under the Chairmanship of the Marquess of Crewe, on the India Office and the Home administration of Indian affairs.

The following announcements are made through the Press Bureau:—

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, in succession to the Right Hon. Lord Sinha, K.C.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Saiyid Ali Imam, K.C.S.I., a Puisne Judge of the Patna High Court, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in succession to Mr. Saiyid Sharf-ud-din, who has relinquished his appointment owing to ill-health.

His Majesty has also been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Profulla Ranjan Das, Barrister-at-law, to be a Puisne Judge of the Patna High Court, in succession to Sir Saiyid Ali Imam.

OBITUARY.

SIR MARK SYKES, M.P.

We regret to announce that Lieut.-Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P., died in Paris on February 16. He only quite recently returned to England from Palestine and Egypt, where he had been engaged on a special mission for the Government, and he proceeded almost at once to Paris for the Conference. There he contracted influenza, which terminated fatally.

Sir Mark was the only son of Sir Tatton Sykes, of Sledmere, Yorkshire, and was born in 1879. Since 1911 he had been Member of Parliament for Central Hull, and during this period had acquired a considerable reputation in the political world. Good judges predicted a brilliant career for him in this sphere, the Foreign Secretaryship being regarded as a prize that he might almost certainly count upon securing sooner or later. It was at one time reported that the Under-Secretaryship had been definitely offered to him, and that he had refused it because he felt he could better serve his country abroad at the time. However that may be, he himself declared that he would be unlikely to take office under any Government because he valued his freedom of action too highly to sacrifice it in such fashion. This characteristic independence made him always interesting, but it was not invariably appreciated by his political chiefs. On the Irish question, for instance, he struck out a line of his own, and followed it tenaciously. He was a pleasing and effective speaker, and his maiden speech in the House of Commons was so admirable that it won a special compliment from the Premier.

In spite of his successes in politics, it is probably as a traveller and author, and especially as a student of the Near East, rather than as a politician, that Sir Mark Sykes will be best remembered. The work he did in these directions was almost unique, and it proved of extraordinary value to his country during the war;

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while the books of travel in which he recorded the impressions of his journeys and the results of his study of Near Eastern questions are admirable, and will probably continue to delight many readers long after his political activities are forgotten. He first made acquaintance with the East as a very small boy, when his father took him to Syria and Palestine, and the taste thus implanted in him appeared to grow stronger with the passing of time. He was in the fortunate position of being able to gratify it to the full, and he made many journeys to and through Turkey, the Arabian portions of that Empire specially claiming his attention. These journeys were not mere "pleasure trips": he mapped thousands of miles of road, and his study of Turks, Arabs, Kurds and other "Near Easterns" was close and marked by great shrewdness of judgment. For a short period (1905-1907) he was an Honorary Attaché at the British Embassy in Constantinople, but much of the time was spent in journeys off the beaten track. He had a good knowledge of Turkish and Arabic.

Sir Mark served in the South African War, and on the outbreak of the recent war he raised a battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, and desired to accompany it to France. The authorities, however, recognised that his services and his rare knowledge were too valuable to be thus employed, and he was soon engaged on other work in the region he knew so well. He was sent, first, to the Caucasus on a mission to the Grand Duke, and, later, to Aden and Mesopotamia. His reports on the results of his missions are stated to have been of great value to our Government and to the military authorities. He is credited also with having drawn up the Proclamation issued by General Allenby on the British entry into Jerusalem. And it is certain that he rendered other services of which it is as yet too early to speak.

His death will be regretted not only by those who knew him personally, but by many admirers to whom he was known only by his writings and speeches; and by all those who value originality of character and fearlessness in expressing an opinion.

Sir Mark married in 1903 a daughter of the late Sir John Gorst, who survives him. He leaves three sons and three daughters.

Mrs. Patteson, wife of Mr Harold Patteson, Acting Vice-Consul at Saffi, Morocco, died at Marrakesh, Morocco, on February 4.

Mr. Charles James Weir, of the Indian Civil Service, formerly Chief Secretary and Member of the Revenue Board, Madras, died on February 11 at Moorcroft, Cobham. He joined the service in 1879, and served until 1911.

A Calcutta telegram, dated February 7, announces the death of Mrs. A. Sinha, Lord Sinha's eldest daughter-in-law, as the result of injuries received through her *sari* accidentally catching fire on Wednesday last.

News has been received from India of the death at Dehra Dun of Mr. George Kempthorne Watts, of the Public Works Department, India, and late Commissioner of Public Works, Nairobi. He was appointed to the Public Works Department in 1875, and retired in 1907. He was afterwards Commissioner in the Public Works Department of British East Africa, a temporary engineer in the United Provinces, and on special duty in Tehri-Garhwal State.

Sir Roper Lethbridge, K.C.I.E., died at Exbourne, last Saturday, aged 79. He was born in Devonshire, educated at Plymouth and Mannamead College, and at Exeter College, Oxford. On leaving Oxford he was appointed the Government Professor of Political Economy in the State Colleges of the Calcutta University. He became secretary of the Simla Education Commission in 1877, was created C.I.E. in 1878, and was Indian Political Agent in 1878. He was the author of several works on Indian education.

The death has occurred at Richmond of Mr. Alexander Finn, who was for forty years engaged in the Consular Service. He was a son of Mr. James Finn, Consul in Palestine, and first went to Teheran in 1874 as clerk in the Chancery of the Legation. Later he served as pro-consul and vice-consul at many places in Persia. In 1884 and 1885 he was employed on special service on the Perso-Afghan frontier. Thereafter he was transferred to America, where the rest of his official career was spent. He retired in 1912.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A civil Post Office has been opened at Nejef.

Fifty missionaries have sailed from New York for Turkey.

Outbreaks of typhus are reported from Belgrade, Sofia, Philippopolis and Varna.

A Greek Deputy, who has recently visited Smyrna, says that order has been completely restored there.

A regular Paris-Bucharest train service, with direct connections with Warsaw and Prague, has been opened.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary for India, will preside at a public Rhodes lecture on "The District," to be delivered by Sir J. D. Rees at University College, Gower Street, next Monday.

Captain Shortridge, of the Royal Air Force, has left Cape Town for the north for the purpose of arranging landing grounds at Bulawayo and other places in Central Africa in connection with the flight of Brigadier-General Herbert from Egypt to the Cape on a Handley Page machine.

According to a telegram from Bucharest, the Roumanian Jockey Club has expelled certain well-known personages compromised during the German occupation.

General Allenby, who had been to Constantinople in order to enforce compliance with certain conditions of the Armistice, has returned to Haifa and Jerusalem.

Bulgaria's obligations now reach about £400,000,000 excluding Germany's claim to £80,000,000 for munitions of war, which Bulgaria may disown, and also a German advance of £54,000,000.

General Torcom, Head of the Armenian Military Mission in England, has addressed a letter to President Wilson in which he complains that Armenia is being ignored at the Peace Conference.

It is announced from Salonika that Bulgarian komitajis, escaping the notice of the Greek guards, penetrated on to Greek soil. They entered a village where they committed robberies and killed one of the inhabitants.

The Australian Canteens for Serbians, through Sir Charles Wade, Agent-General for New South Wales, have despatched to Serbia large quantities of shirts and socks for relief purposes which have been donated by the Australian Comforts Fund.

The Times Literary Supplement of February 13 contained the Arabic text of an address presented to the Emir Faisal by Mr. Séfi on behalf of a deputation of Syrians resident in London and Manchester. The address welcomed the Emir to this country, and expressed hopes for a brilliant future for the Arabs and the Arab Kingdom.

It is proposed to hold a Bombay Presidency war dinner, at which Lord Willingdon will preside, at 7.15 p.m. on Friday, February 28, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W. Any who may wish to attend are asked to send their names and addresses, on or before February 22, to Mr. O. C. B. Wimbush, the hon. secretary, at the Norwich Union Life Buildings, 39, St. James's Street, S.W.1.

A Reuter's message from Constantinople, dated February 3, says:—The notorious Dr. Reshid Bey, ex-Vali of Diarbekir, and a prominent member of the Unionist party, who was accused of complicity in the massacre and deportation of Armenians, and who, it will be remembered, escaped from custody a fortnight ago, was finally run to earth yesterday, but met with a sudden and tragic end. While the Turkish police were surrounding his place of refuge in the Deshiktash quarter, Reshid Bey, finding his means of escape cut off, committed suicide by blowing his brains out with a revolver.

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THE PROBLEM OF INDIAN LABOUR.

Events which have recently occurred in Bombay, Madras, and other parts of India must have brought home to the general public the truth of the opinion which has long been held by many men of experience that the position in regard to Indian labour is by no means satisfactory. It is true that in some localities strikes have been attributed, and apparently on good grounds, to the instigation of outside agitators, concerned rather to make political capital than to ameliorate the conditions of industrial life, and no condemnation can be too severe for such conduct, which, if persisted in, must cause almost as much injury to politics as to industry; but at the safe time external interference is by no means the only cause at work, and the frequency of strikes due strictly to social or economic causes is by itself sufficient to show that widespread dissatisfaction exists among the workers in whose hands the economic future of the country so largely lies. It would be an error to assume that the particular methods by which this dissatisfaction is manifested are copied from Western models: in India strikes are far older than organised industries, and when large bodies of workmen suddenly "come out," we must remember that they are attempting to exercise against their employers that particular form of communal pressure which was for so long the sole defence of peasants and shopkeepers against the oppression of Hindu and Moslem administrators. In India, then, as elsewhere the strike shows that dissatisfaction exists, but Indian workmen have not yet learned the art of putting their case before the public, and it is often exceedingly difficult to ascertain the reasons underlying their acts, or to form an independent judgment on the merits of a particular dispute. Students of this perplexing question have been waiting for the report of the Indian Industrial Commission in the hope that full light would be thrown on the dark places, but their hope has been to some extent disappointed. The report lays stress on the inefficiency of Indian labour, endorses the common view that in existing conditions higher wages result only in less work, and concludes that nothing material can be done until the standard of comfort has been raised: it then proceeds to indicate an official programme of education, housing-reform, and sanitary improvement directed to this end, while in regard to welfare-work in general it invokes the disinterested labours of private individuals and associations. The weakness of this scheme lies in the fact that it requires more time than can be spared. It is admitted that, with one or two brilliant exceptions, welfare-workers as yet scarcely exist: education can produce no influence until the children now to be sent to school become old enough to take the lead; and until then better housing means simply more lodgers, while sanitary measures, however desirable and urgent in themselves, will tend to be regarded merely as additional drawbacks to industrial life. India, in fact, must wait for something like a generation before measures of amelioration can have any practical result.

This conclusion is so discouraging that we are led to ask whether the Commission has really probed the full depth of the industrial situation, and a further study of the report shows that this question must be answered in the negative. Thus the important matter of the length of the working day is definitely put aside as requiring more detailed consideration than it has been possible to give, while we have failed to trace any discussion of the effect of different systems of remuneration on the quantity and quality of the output. The report deplores indeed the slavery to debt in which so many workers habitually live, but it does not indicate how far this ugly fact is due to the common practice of paying wages in arrears. We are told, for instance, that in Bombay the textile operatives are paid monthly, one month in arrears; if this means that a newcomer has to work for two months before he gets any wages, then the initial cause of indebtedness is not far to seek, and its perpetuation follows naturally in the conditions which prevail. Such examples as we have given indicate that the report is weakest on the human side: the high officials and prosperous employers composing the Commission have looked upon the workers from above, and, except in the case of one or two particular industries, there is nothing to shew us what the worker himself thinks, or, what is perhaps even more important, what the worker's wife feels. The report tells of many things which would be good for the worker, but it does not tell us what the worker wants. There is ample evidence to show that dissatisfaction exists: there is good reason to believe that it is increasing in intensity, and extending steadily over a wider and wider area, but we have only the vaguest knowledge of its precise nature and its underlying causes.

The matter should not be allowed to rest here. Alike for security and for subsistence, India requires a large immediate development of organised industry, and as the Commission justly remark, "no industrial edifice can be permanent which is built on such unsound foundations as those afforded by Indian labour under its present conditions." Surely, then, it would be worth the while of the Administration to probe these matters further, and ascertain definitely the workers' point of view: given accurate knowledge of what the workers dislike, and of what they want, the whole industrial situation would be clarified, and employers, whether existing or prospective, would be able to know how they would stand, and to make their plans with a reasonable prospect of stability. Such knowledge would in any case be worth having, but there is a further and cogent reason for endeavouring to secure it at the present juncture. The existing dissatisfaction may mean one of several things, and among other possibilities it may be the first faint indication of that desirable change in attitude for which we have been waiting for so long. All authorities on industrial questions are agreed that the worker's standard of comfort must be raised, but the experience of the world demonstrates that no class will ever climb while its members are satisfied with their present status, and it is quite possible that Indian workers are at last getting ready to climb: if that should happily prove to be the case, the future would be comparatively clear, and no time should be lost in taking occasion by the hand, and making the upward path as smooth and easy as may be. No such action is, however, possible without wide and detailed knowledge of the motives now at work: whether it be that the Indian labourer is beginning to cast his eyes upwards, or whether the existing dissatisfaction has an entirely different significance, the broad facts remain that he wants something, and that until the nature of his wants be known, neither the employers nor the Administration can act with confidence. We recognise that the necessary knowledge will not be easily obtained; the ordinary workman does not wear his heart upon his sleeve, and a spectacular inquiry conducted by prominent politicians would serve merely to confuse the issues. What is wanted is rather a small number of men and women, familiar with the details of industrial life, studying the problems presented by the working-classes at different centres, and meeting from time to time to co-ordinate and harmonise their experiences, until the facts of the situation are made clear, and the lines of a constructive policy can be laid down. Such an undertaking would doubtless be a novelty in India, but the situation itself is new, and calls for a departure from existing precedents. A new industrial population has come into being; its expansion is essential to the progress of the country, and the administration cannot afford to remain ignorant or neglectful of its interests and its aspirations.

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ITALY AND THE ADRIATIC.

By JULIUS M. PRICE.

The trend of events in Eastern Europe appears to be bringing about so complete a modification of Italy's position and ambitions with regard to the Adriatic that it is small wonder that the Italians await the result of the deliberations of the Peace Conference on the question of the demarcation of the Yugoslav territory with undisguised anxiety.

As a result of the momentous *pourparlers* between Baron Sonnino and Count Berchtold in those fateful days of May, 1915, which culminated in the declaration of war, there could be no shadow of a doubt as to the pretensions of Italy with regard to the eastern shore of the Adriatic and its immediate hinterland. In fact, is it now fully recognised that, had the Austrian Minister given way and conceded the Italian demands even at the eleventh hour, Italy would have remained neutral, These demands practically meant the control of the Adriatic, as they comprised the most important section of the Dalmatian coast line and included Trieste and the naval base of Pola. The possession of these points would counterbalance the peculiar geographical weakness of Italy's eastern frontier. The creation of the Yugoslav State raises considerable obstacles to the realisation of Italy's dream.

The importance of the Dalmatian coast has been long recognised, and it looms up with added significance at the present juncture. It has been frequently asserted that this seaboard in itself was likely one day to bring about a European war, and there is no blinking the fact that the Italians would regard any allotment of it in which they did not largely participate with the most extreme indignation and resentment. With the disappearance of Austria from the Adriatic Italy's constant bugbear vanished; but now has again arisen her imperative necessity for ports and dockyards on the Adriatic, the absence of which has always been Italy's greatest weakness.

It is almost needless to point out that this is owing to the peculiarly tame configuration of her coastline. As compared with that on the eastern side of the Adriatic no greater contrast could be imagined. Nature was indeed lavish in her gifts to Austria in this direction. Deep-water inlets forming natural harbours which were invaluable as havens for warships or as submarine bases are to be found all along the Dalmatian coast, as for instance Tager, Zara, Lesina, Lissa, Curzola, Meleda-Sabioncello, Gravesa, and Sebenico. Several of these natural harbours have of late years been transformed at enormous expense into naval ports. Millions, it is said, have been spent on Sebenico, and it has been so fortified as to be absolutely impregnable from the sea, even the rocks facing the harbour having been cased in concrete.

The whole coast-line of Dalmatia is fronted by a chain of islands, and in the rear of these is a succession of navigable channels, the Spelado, Brazza, Narenta, Meleda, etc., through which a fleet of warships could pass under cover of the coast the whole way from Pola to Cattaro. As evidence of the great importance the Austrians attached to this passage a canal, named the Sabioncello, was cut at enormous expense specially to avoid a *cul de sac* at one point.

The Italian coast-line is the very antithesis of the Dalmatian. Between Venice and Brindisi, the whole length of the Adriatic, there is not a single natural harbour or, in fact, any port sufficiently large to shelter a battleship or a liner, or to be of any use for naval or commercial purposes, with the exception of Porto Corsina, close to Ravenna, which during the war was used as a base for torpedo-boats and other small craft. Ancona harbour is very shallow, and is only used by small coasting vessels; and the same may be said of Bari, Ravenna, and Pesaro. About eight years ago a publication appeared in Italy drawing attention to the potentialities of Varano Lake as a big naval base, and the Government, anxious not to leave a stone unturned in the endeavour to strengthen their position on the Adriatic, went into the matter; but on investigation it was found that it would necessitate an outlay of hundreds of millions, as there was no depth of water and no natural protection whatever, so the scheme was not taken up.

The claim of Venice to be mistress of the Adriatic belongs to a remote age. It has long since been ousted by Trieste, which for many years past has been progressing by leaps and bounds. In this connection it is of interest to mention that Trieste never came under the complete domination of Austria, as it has always been what is termed a "free town," like Hamburg, and all the Hanseatic towns, in fact; quite 90 per cent. of its population is Italian, this big majority being mainly composed of wealthy Venetians who settled there several generations ago. One of the first things that strike one on going through the city is that there is nothing Austrian about it, for the nomenclature of the streets and even the names over the shops are all Italian. There is, therefore, no change beyond the disappearance of Austrian uniforms and flags as a result of the Italian occupation; and the Italian troops were welcomed by the inhabitants with open arms as their "liberators."

The bearing of all this on Italy's claims is significant. In the early months of the war, and, of course, before the question of the establishment of a big Yugoslav State was seriously on the *tapis*, the question of the supremacy of the Adriatic, whilst concerning the interests of all the Allies, affected Great Britain more particularly, as it meant the safeguarding of the Mediterranean as the key of the Empire. In the remaking of the map of Europe, whilst recognising that the newly born Yugoslav State is entitled to its legitimate apportionment of the eastern coast-line of the Adriatic, Italy's ambitions with regard to the Dalmatian coast cannot altogether be ignored. The possession of Trieste will be found to be outside all argument, so far as the Italians are concerned. Whenever I raised the question in Italy I always received the one reply, "Trieste is Italian, and Italian it must remain." Nor is this surprising when one recalls the sacrifices Italy has made during the past three years to get there.

We regret to learn that a certain number of copies of last week's issue of "The Near East" were despatched from the Printers with eight pages out of twenty-eight omitted. If any readers who received defective copies will communicate with "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, E.C. 2, other copies will be forwarded to them.


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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

New Equilibrists?

In an interesting article, "The Balance in the Balkans," which he contributes to the *International Review*, Mr. H. N. Brailsford expresses the fear that, although Austria and Russia no longer menace the Balkans, "another two-Power balance may be discerned" already:—

Italy aspires frankly to a career as a Balkan Power, and official France seems to be reviving the interest which for a brief moment Louis Napoleon took in the Near East. The Sonnino policy involves an open antagonism with Great Serbia. No one who has tried to piece together the fragments of censored news during recent weeks can doubt that the presence of American and Allied contingents on the Adriatic Coast alone prevented the scandal of an open war. If the Peace Conference should give effect in this region to the Secret Treaty, that war is only postponed. With Greece the relations of Italy are only a little less strained. The pretensions of Italian Imperialism to Southern Albania, to Rhodes and the Twelve Islands, and, above all, to Smyrna, are a challenge to the Greek race only a little less defiant than the simultaneous claim to the Serbian heritage in Fiume and Dalmatia. If Italy remains in lasting antagonism to Serbia and Greece, their common enemy, Bulgaria, will inevitably turn her eyes to Rome. Once more, as on the eve of the war, the clumsily astute diplomatists of Sofia will offer their services to Serbia's Western antagonist, and a new Balkan Balance of Power will be adjusted. Indeed, the Bulgarian Cabinet is already agitating for permission to send a special envoy to Rome. Similar antagonisms in other directions will recruit the group further. The logic of the Balance will cause a diminished Hungary, fatally opposed to the Serbs, to look instinctively towards Italy. Thus two groups emerge. One composed of Serbs, Greeks, and perhaps Roumanians (with Czechs and Poles in the distance) looks to France. The other, composed of Bulgarians and Hungarians, gravitates to Italy.

Of Albania and the Albanians, Mr. Brailsford writes with sympathy. Of the people he says:—

This lonely race has no affinity with any other stock on our Continent. Divided between three religions, it can make no single appeal to faith. Its sons are not cosmopolitan traders, permeating Western finance and journalism like the enterprising Greeks. There is no one to speak for them save the few travellers who have lived among them. And yet the fact is, that from Byron's day downwards, it would be hard to find a West European who has learned to know the Albanians without admiring them. Consuls, soldiers, missionaries, ethnologists—all come under the spell of this attractive and original race. I have known them myself in all stages of culture. When I survey my own memory's gallery of Balkan character, the men who stand out in it with a certain native aristocracy are nearly all Albanians. They are of all classes and faiths. It was a servant who first excited my curiosity. He was a handsome, spirited lad, and in a time of insurrection I used to employ him to carry large sums of money over dangerous roads. One day when I asked him if he knew a certain short cut, he answered with the simplest of smiles: "Yes, we always used that path at night when I was with Shahin." Shahin (the Falcon) was the most noted brigand of that region. My man, then, who had just brought me a big bag of gold, was an ex-brigand. Troubled to know if I dare trust him, I told the story to the Bulgarian bishop. His comment was short and decisive: "The man is an Albanian, is he not?" That was the verdict of an hereditary enemy on this singular race. It has a name for honour. Again, I think of a pale, stooping, studious-looking man, with a name that indicated his Moslem religion and landowning origin, who once introduced himself to me. After a brief conversation, conducted on his side in meticulously perfect French, he suddenly inquired: "Are you a descendant of Joseph Brailsford who wrote chamber-music in the early eighteenth century?" In point of fact, I am, but even among professed students of music in England I have never yet met one who had ever heard of the old composer's name. A musician with a passion for eighteenth century work, a brilliant philologist who knows Gothic and Sanscrit, as well as French, German, Italian, and all the Balkan tongues, a student of history who has by long grubbing unearthed a whole treasury of discoveries about the unworked history of Old Albania, I soon came to rank my visitor, born in a wild upland village of the Pindus, as the most learned of all my friends. I could go on indefinitely. Now I think of a simple peasant—a Protestant colporteur, who by his sheer moral ascendency would, day after day, alone and unarmed, rescue Bulgarian victims, after a bloody insurrection, from under the very bayonets of the Turks. Again, I recall an official in Abdul Hamid's time, who steadily defied all the inhumane orders of his Turkish superiors.

It is a race worth saving, but if the "Balance" is to come, its fate will be to be dismembered among its hereditary foes. The London Conference of 1912 having created Albania a perpetually neutral State, under the guarantee of the Great Powers, Mr. Brailsford asks by what casuistry these same Powers now hold themselves competent to divide it up. Wherein has Albania sinned? What is to become of her?—

My own solution is rather practical than ideal. Politically, Albania is not yet quite ripe for unaided independence: she is much too ripe and much too conscious for partition. Any destiny is better than dismemberment. The best available fate for Albania is now to bring the whole of its territory as defined in 1912 under an Italian protectorate. Let Italy for a term of years do this work as the mandatory of the League of Nations, subject to the condition that her lease is not perpetual and may be revised or revoked. Let her educate and develop; she must not colonise. The coast will be under her control, and with this addition to her power and prestige she might the more easily be persuaded to relinquish what she has claimed amiss in Dalmatia.

Egypt's "Nationalists."

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* contributes to that paper (February 14) an article on "The Egyptian Nationalists." He begins by reporting that the "spirit of self-determination which is abroad in the world has perhaps not unnaturally spread to Egypt, where in certain circles the statements made by European and American statesmen on the subject have been interpreted to include the Egyptians among the peoples whom the war has liberated from oppression, and who are to be permitted to enjoy the political liberty to which their moral and intellectual development entitles them, and of which they have hitherto been deprived." These circles began to talk of their "rights" as a nation as soon as it became evident that we were going to win the war; and a movement has manifested itself, which "has so far been conducted within constitutional limits." The leaders are a section of the Intelligentzia, and some of them are men disappointed in their aspirations, who see some chance of personal gain in their political activity.

Their demands, as far as they can be understood, are so extremist that for that reason alone they would not commend themselves to the Powers, to whom they profess the intention of submitting their grievances, and from whom they confidently expect to receive satisfaction.

Disdainful of the fact that from the earliest days of the Occupation we have consistently endeavoured to associate with ourselves in the administration of the country the better elements of the population, and that the Egyptian nation to-day enjoys a great degree of prosperity and well-being, these misguided members of the Intelligentzia would try to make out to the world at large that their country is in the same position as some of those nations above referred to. Equally disregarding the peculiar political and financial relationship of Egypt to Europe, they would claim the right to govern themselves without any interference from without. This blindness to the practical requirements of the situation is perhaps one of the strongest points in the case against any such departure as they advocate, since if, as they claim, they are representative of the nation, it shows that the Egyptians do not as yet possess the sense of proportion and of public spirit indispensable to responsible government.

It is, however, a fact that these people do not represent even the social class to which they belong. Their more enlightened fellows disapprove their actions very strongly, and it is felt that any extension of their activities will do the country an incredible amount of harm at the present time, when there is some prospect of local reorganisation. The writer continues:—

No one would deny to the Egyptians the right to aspire to govern themselves, but they must not forget that in the history of all nations that have attained to that condition it has been a long, gradual, and at times painful process, which has only been the result of development of the moral and intellectual character of the nation as a whole. Apart from the fact that the extremes to which this clique yearns to go at one jump are incompatible with the situation as it will be in Egypt after the reorganisation at present in course of elaboration, the political independence of the country as they want it would lead to but one thing—the supremacy of the very small intellectual section of the population, the exclusion of the comparatively small but very important European community, and the complete submersion of the very large mass of the population, which is as yet in no condition to combat the Intelligentzia.

It has always been, and it still is, part of our policy to raise the moral and intellectual level of the nation as a whole, and meanwhile to protect the voiceless masses from the identical state of affairs which acquiescence in the present demands would bring about. Until that consummation is completely attained, and each section of the population is capable of holding its own against any encroachments on its rights, it will be useless to talk of greater or complete political liberty for Egypt.

The article concludes by advising those Egyptians who have the welfare of their country at heart to devote their activities at present to local government.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The decision of the Board of Trade that, under restrictions, trade may be resumed with Turkey and Bulgaria is very welcome. These countries are in an entirely different category from Germany, and it was impossible to make out a good case for an indefinite delay in resuming commercial relations with them. Manchester merchants have been agitating for some time for permission to trade with the Levant, where British cottons have always been largely imported, and where it was essential to re-enter the market as early as possible in order to anticipate the competition of others, and in no quarter is the decision calculated to give greater satisfaction. It is to be hoped that the keenness of Manchester will infect manufacturers of other commodities, and that they will lose no time in availing themselves of the numerous openings for business in those countries.

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Besides Turkey and Bulgaria the Black Sea ports are now open to British trade under certain conditions, and as South Russia presents from many points of view a unique market I trust that our merchants and manufacturers will not fail to take advantage of the opportunity. Odessa has proved an excellent market for British goods in past years, and in the absence of German competition for the time being it should be possible for our traders to establish themselves firmly in the market. They have every encouragement to do so, and they will be admirably served as regards shipping facilities, for I see that six steamship companies are arranging for the immediate establishment of services with the Black Sea ports.

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An important memorandum has been issued by the Federation of British Industries containing some of the information gathered by its representative, Major Kennard, during his recent visit to Greece. Major Kennard was greatly impressed at the opportunity now presenting itself for re-establishing British trade in its old position of predominance in the Levant, but the Federation emphasises the necessity for speedy action if we are to utilise the Anglophile sentiment which exists in Greece as strongly as in Roumania, as the commercial houses of other countries are sparing no effort to establish themselves in the Near East markets. The Federation further points out that while the need for immediate action is great, the forthcoming Athens exhibition will presently afford a unique opportunity of entry into the Near Eastern market.

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The arrangements for this exhibition are well advanced. It will be held, as already stated, in the Zappeion, which is in every way suitable for the purpose. Aeroplanes, agricultural machinery, and other exhibits will be shown in an "annexe," where land will be available for demonstrations. Members of the Federation have already received a preliminary notice of the exhibition, and full details, with plans of the floor space, are being prepared. Firms desiring to participate in the exhibition will naturally require all manner of specialised information, and the Federation is arranging for Major Kennard to visit a number of centres, including those visited by the Greek delegates, when members requiring particulars regarding openings for trade in the Near East will be able to obtain them at first hand.

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Apropos of the question of the future of the Khedivial Mail, which was recently discussed in these columns, I see that Dr. J. G. Levi, speaking before the Economics Section of the Sultanic Society of Economics, Statistics, and Legislation, drew special attention to the inadequate steamship services directly connected with Egypt. The Khedivial Mail, he pointed out, was the only line, and this company, assisted by the Russian line, carried Egyptian products valued at £E340,000. The development of this trade obviously requires adequate shipping facilities, and the opening for an extension of the services of the Khedivial Mail is too obvious to need emphasis. Certainly it is absurd even to contemplate liquidation in view of the prospects before the company.

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The death of Mr. D. P. McGillivray, general manager of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, which took place last week in London, removes from the business world connected with the Near East one of its most prominent figures. Mr. McGillivray was for a time associated with the National Bank of Egypt, and subsequently, in 1908, joined the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and became managing director of that business. A man of remarkable ability and sound business acumen, Mr. McGillivray was greatly liked and esteemed by all who knew him, and his death will be deeply regretted by wide circles of friends here and in Egypt and the Sudan.

***

I have had a very interesting letter from Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co., Busrah, with reference to my comments on the price of dates in the issue of THE NEAR EAST of November 15. "We quite agree with you," the firm states, "that 2s. 6d. per lb. for dates is absurd, but you are entirely wrong in putting the blame on the importers, as last season all the importers received from the Food Controller was 2d. per lb., or, to be exact, 17s. 2d. per cwt., which you cannot consider excessive. As a matter of fact, this price left us with a considerable loss owing to the increased cost of production, cost of wood, materials, etc."

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I see that the Dutch Press has been devoting considerable attention to the resources and economic prospects of Serbia. Holland's commercial interests in that part of the world have hitherto been insignificant, and I imagine that the explanation of this sudden and rather curious show of interest is that new fields have to be found for the capital which Holland, in common with other countries not involved in the struggle, has acquired during the past four years. The fact that the industrial possibilities of the country are discussed at some length supports this view. The point is emphasised that the country has been backward for lack of labour and capital, and that the most promising openings are for millers, distillers, brewers, and for the meat, timber, leather, and sugar industries, as all the necessary raw materials are available in the country.

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The reports for the past half-year show that banks in India have enjoyed almost, if not quite, as great prosperity as those in this country. Thus the Bank of Madras was able to declare a dividend of 10 and a bonus of 2 per cent. per annum, carrying forward Rs.2,57,550. The Bank of Bengal declared a dividend of 12 per cent. per annum, a bonus of 4 per cent. per annum, and a special bonus of 1 per cent. per annum, in each case free of Income-tax, while the carry forward was Rs.5,60,167. The Bank of Bombay declared a dividend of 15 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 4 per cent. per annum, Rs.3,20,606 being carried forward. The position is further illustrated by the results of the Tata Industrial Bank, which only commenced operations in April, but up to December 31 made a net profit after providing for taxes and depreciation, of Rs.4,32,398.

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The Administration Report of Railways in India for 1917-18 is of special interest in view of the negotiations now in progress between the India Office and the East Indian Railway in reference to the company's contract for working the system, which expires on December 31. If the company succeeds in achieving its object the contract will be prolonged for ten years, but may be determined at the end of five years, provided two years' notice is given. The report states that the question arises whether, in the event of the present system being continued, it would not be better to have Indian companies with boards in India instead of in England. "These matters have been reported on to the Secretary of State," it adds, "and are now under his consideration. The prosperity of railways and the prosperity of the country are interdependent, and his decision will be a momentous one for both."

COMMENTATOR.

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TRADE IN TANGIER.

British Merchants' Views.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, January 23.

With reference to the rumours regarding the future of Tangier, there is a certain feeling of uneasiness in some commercial circles. So far as British trade is concerned, the most responsible French statesmen and officials, both in Paris and Morocco, have given assurances of equality of treatment, and it is to be hoped that both in the French zone and in Tangier they will take steps to see that their subordinate officials and—possibly a more difficult task—their colonists, carry out this principle. How necessary this is with regard to the latter is shown by articles in some Protectorate newspapers and questions raised in their public bodies during the last year or two. The authorities must see to it that no undue influence, direct *or indirect*, in favour of French manufactures is brought to bear on any native from the most powerful Kaids to the humblest peasant.

Further, the conditions which have made it easier for British firms in the French zone to sell produce to French houses for re-sale at a profit to the Intendance, instead of selling to the latter, must be changed. Not only that, but the possibility of French colonists buying from British firms produce at the same price at which the colonist will re-sell to the Intendance should not exist. If British traders can feel assured of the co-operation of all officials, civil and military, with their Resident General in the matter of equal treatment, there should be no cause for nervousness regarding the security and extension of our trade in the future, but confidence would be greatly strengthened by the appointment of a strong Commercial Counsellor, who should have business experience of Morocco: one who will be able to judge the value of any complaints made to him, who will understand that in many cases it is useless to ask for proofs, and on the strength of assurances from reliable firms, and after prompt investigation, would bring the complaints before the French authorities—who would otherwise probably be quite ignorant of them—and then, if necessary, to the notice of the British Government.

If British traders can thus feel that in case of difficulties arising he has his own Government behind him he can go on with full confidence in the future. These remarks apply especially to the French zone at present, but also, of course, to any extension of the Protectorate that may take place.

Vegetable Fibre Freed.

A notice has just been published announcing the cessation of the purchases by the Intendance of vegetable fibre, which may now be freely exported, and it is to be hoped that the restrictions on the export of other products will soon be removed. In this connection, however, it should be remembered that some time ago it was stated to be the intention of the Intendance to buy the 1919 crop of the most important cereals. A certain amount of vegetable fibre is manufactured at Tangier, and the quantity could be doubled or trebled. There has long been a market in France for this fibre, which was supplied from Algeria, and although its use for war purposes may have ceased, there should be some demand for it in England by furniture manufacturers and others.

Neither here nor on the coast is there any improvement in trade. Tangier is worse off than the coast towns: there those wishing to realise have some chance of finding buyers according to the amount they are prepared to lose: here there are no buyers at all.

Efforts are being made to have the restrictions removed on the re-export of imported goods which are overstocked, and permission has been granted for some articles; the difficulty has been that the French zone has very large stocks of the same articles, and so far the permission has been confined to re-export to other Moroccan ports, and even if it were extended to neutral countries, several of the articles would not find a market without going far afield.

Fuel Position.

There have been arrivals of gazolene and petroleum at Casablanca, and the authorities have somewhat relaxed the restrictions on motor traffic. Further shipments are expected, and it is hoped that motoring may be soon as free as it was before the gazolene crisis. We have also received a small supply of gazolene and petroleum at Tangier, and more is hoped for, especially of the latter, as the lack of petroleum has been more widely felt than the shortage of gazolene. The price of candles was prohibitive until quite recently, and charcoal was very dear, and for very many petroleum was the only means of lighting and, for some, of heating their houses.

British Trade Commission.

The British Trade Commissioners are expected back at Tangier shortly—they are at present at Mellilla. They have been very busy in the French zone, and have accumulated a large amount of information that should enable them to make a very full and useful report.

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MOROCCO.

The Agricultural Position.

The prospects of agricultural enterprise in Morocco form the subject of the following report from the British Commercial Mission there:—

Considerable agricultural and stock rearing developments are to be observed in the Chaouia and adjoining districts behind Casablanca, Mazagan, and Mogador, and also in the Gharb to the north of Kenitra. In view of the relative proximity to the United Kingdom in comparison with, for example, Canada, enquiries have been made into the prospects these districts offer for successful farming by British settlers. As a result of such enquiry, it must be pointed out that there are many grave difficulties to be encountered in any enterprise of this character, and that these difficulties are to a large extent peculiar to Morocco.

As a preliminary step the conditions under which land is purchased require the most careful examination. In no case should any holding be purchased unless the land in question has been "immatriculated," i.e., the vendor has registered his claim thereto, such registration being only made after public announcement in the *Bulletin Officiel* for a specified period, after which no opposition or counterclaim is admissable. This preliminary is necessitated by the peculiarities of the Moorish law of inheritance, whereby a property is divided among a multitude of descendants, and an exclusive right by an individual is consequently the exception. The matter is further complicated in that the "immatriculation" system is by no means universal, and in certain districts, notably in the south, no immatriculations have yet been made.

Apart from privately-owned properties, there are large tracts of land at the disposal of the Government, but the first condition for the tenure of these "domaine" or Crown lands is that the holder shall be of French nationality, and there is no reason to suppose that this condition is likely to be relaxed. Finally, there is land in the possession of large British and French firms, which is in some cases to let or for sale to intending settlers, and in regard to which negotiations could doubtless be conducted without special precautions, but such property is limited in extent.

High Cost of Land.

The cost of land in Morocco is at present decidedly high, particularly as regards the last-mentioned class, which, when cleared and irrigated, obtains as high a price as 2,500 to 4,000 francs per hectare. The average rate for land which has been cleared but not irrigated is estimated at about 500 francs per hectare, but the essential character of irrigation and its difficulty in many districts requires to be fully realised by intending settlers.

A brief visit to the country may give a very misleading idea as to the value of the land for grazing and similar purposes, since recent rains will temporarily convert what is normally a desert into rich pasture. In estimating the price that can profitably be paid for land, the ever present risk of drought must be borne in mind, since it is usually reckoned that two years of drought swallow six years' profits.

The most serious difficulties of all, however, reside in the arduous and peculiar conditions of life in the up-country districts of Morocco. In addition to the normal absence of water, there is in most parts of the country a complete absence of timber, which renders impossible the erection of temporary dwellings and shelters, and necessitates the use of stone for practically all purposes of this character, thus involving the heavy labour of quarrying, and also of transport where even this material is not locally available. The alternative building material is mud, and this gives some indication of the mode of living that has to be endured.

Need for Economy.

An extraordinary degree of economy is also necessary if the settler's venture is to have the slightest chance of proving profitable, and the French peasant is better suited by his normal upbringing to such a mode of life than is the Englishman. A great many of the established colonists have come from Algeria, where more or less identical conditions prevail, and these will necessarily always prove very severe competitors, especially in view of the fact that a thorough knowledge of the French language is essential, and some knowledge of both Arabic and Spanish advisable. Knowledge of the languages of the country is, of course, important, and unless a settler in Morocco is acquainted with them he will be out of touch both with the local authorities and with the natives and Spanish foremen he will have to employ.

In view of these and kindred objections, it does not appear that Morocco can on the whole be regarded as a favourable field for farming enterprise by the individual English settler, and this it may be stated is the considered opinion of those resident in the country best competent to judge. It may be mentioned that if the opinions of the local press can be relied upon, the French colonists themselves are far from satisfied with the facilities granted to them by the Government; but even if, as the result of agitation, greater facilities are granted, it does not appear probable that the position from the point of view of the British settler is likely to be appreciably improved. On the whole, therefore, the small farmer cannot be advised to venture into this field. It would rather seem that if any attempt is to be made to take advantage of these unexploited lands, it should be undertaken by a comparatively large farming organisation possessed of considerable capital reserves to meet emergencies, and to stand the unremunerative period that would inevitably be experienced at the outset.

Certainly, in view of the situation of Morocco and the undoubted richness of its soil when irrigated, an investigation by a farming and cattle-rearing expert would be well worth while, and some steps, it is understood, have already been taken in this direction. But, until a thorough investigation of this character has been made and its results carefully examined, emigration to Morocco for the purpose of farming can only be regarded as a very problematical venture.

Sir George Paish delivered a lecture on "The Interdependence of Nations" before the Institute of Bankers at the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, on February 19.

It is estimated that the total of Greek shipping losses during the war amounts to more than £40,000,000. One hundred and fifty-four steamers of a gross tonnage of 399,000 tons and 126 sailing vessels of a gross tonnage of over 12,000 tons were sunk, and eighteen steamers totalling 32,000 tons were seized in enemy ports.

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ABYSSINIA'S DEVELOPMENT.—II.

Market for Manufactures.

There is only one qualification to make in regard to what Mr. Southard, the American Consul at Aden, says in his report on Abyssinia as a market for manufactures, and that is that it must be borne in mind that the class of market into which Abyssinia falls is likely to develop rapidly, and the list of manufactures for which he indicates a special demand must be regarded in the light of that fact. The principal requirements of the market at the moment are mainly confined, he states, to cotton fabrics and yarns, iron and steel bars, corrugated iron roofing, enamel ware and hardware in general, wines and liquors, soap and scent, silks and silk thread, felt hats, and sewing machines. The leading imports are unbleached cotton piece goods, which, it is estimated, were imported in 1916 to the extent of 30,000,000 yards. The trade in this line has been mainly confined to American goods, but the war has brought about a change in this respect, and Japanese and Indian goods had last year practically taken the place of the American cottons. Mr. Southard says that the Japanese imitation of American grey goods promises to win a permanent place in the market, and also that the Japanese manufacturers have succeeded in placing on the market a sheeting that compares favourably with the American, and he thinks it is not improbable that Japan will permanently acquire an appreciable share in the markets for these goods. Imports of bleached cottons are also on a substantial scale, and it is satisfactory that they are mainly supplied by the United Kingdom. There is a growing demand, it is stated, for white shirtings, especially those with a style of fancy weave. Another commodity in increasing request is Turkey red shirting for clothing, etc. Mr. Southard also notes the excellent market for cotton shawls, in which both the Indian and Manchester mills have specialised, and points out, incidentally, that the use of cotton textiles of all sorts is growing. "Both men and women of the poorer classes," he adds, "have garments of unbleached cotton sheeting, shirting, or drill, and the wealthier classes use finer bleached cotton textiles or silks. The Gallas and other Mohammedan subjects of the Abyssinians wear more cotton prints or Turkey red as a rule. With 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 of people to clothe the importance of the Abyssinian market may be judged.

Hardware in Demand.

The demand for hardware of all kinds is stated to be excellent. In this line Mr. Southard makes special mention of the opening for enamelled ironware, corrugated iron roofing, iron and steel bars, jack knives, lanterns, metal lamps, and builders' hardware. The imports of enamelled ironware amount to about £40,000 a year, and the view is expressed that the demand will continue to increase. Among articles particularly in request mention is made of saucepans 8 to 20 inches wide and 4 to 6 inches deep, of large narrow-necked jars holding one to three or four gallons, of tea-kettles holding two quarts and upwards, and of quart cups with handles. As regards colour, it is pointed out that the national colours are red, yellow, and green, and it is suggested that these colours combined with white would most please the Abyssinians, but that green or blue enamels with white would be most popular with the Mohammedan population. Most of the enamelled ironware came from Germany and Austria, and there is at present a very considerable shortage of this commodity. The Austrian success in the market is attributed to excellent goods, moderate prices, and the great care taken to meet trade requirements. In some cases imitation is to be recommended, and if only British merchants will follow the Austrian method of cultivating the market there is every probability that they will take the place occupied by the enemy in this line.

Corrugated iron sheets are imported to a considerable extent, and at present it is stated that the demand exceeds the supply. Corrugated iron sheeting is utilised, it may be noted, not only for roofing, but also often for the sides of buildings. "Abyssinia has a heavy rainfall at certain seasons, and galvanised-iron roofing," says Mr. Southard, "is rapidly replacing the native straw and earthen roofs in the districts touched by the railroad." Iron and steel bars and rods are also imported mainly for the purpose of turning them into lance-heads, plough points, and horseshoes. As regards cutlery, strong and well-made clasp knives are particularly desired. "These knives," says Mr. Southard, "should have at least one large blade 5 or 6 inches, and a corkscrew, with a swivel ring to which a chain or cord may be attached to fasten it to the belt of the owner. One Adis Abeba firm estimates that it alone can sell 100,000 of these knives annually. They should not be too expensive, but there is no set standard of prices." There is a good market also for hurricane lanterns, as everyone in Abyssinia who goes about by night is required to carry a lantern.

Opening for Builders' Materials.

Better houses are now being built in parts of Abyssinia which have come under the influence of citizens of other countries, with the result that there is a growing demand for locks, hinges, screws, nails, and other builders' materials. Padlocks are also in demand, and this market has been recently supplied from India, but the Indian lock is apparently not altogether in favour with the Abyssinian.

Sewing machines are in fair demand, and this market was formerly almost a monopoly of Germany, which exported cheap machines for Abyssinia which were sold to dealers on favourable credit terms, and in addition the German manufacturers took an active interest in furthering the sales of the machines.

Soap affords a good opening for enterprising merchants, for the use of this commodity is on the increase. Care must, however, be taken to cater for the tastes of the Abyssinians, who are very fond of perfumes, and prefer strong scented soaps which must be a moderate price. The favourite scents are musk and geranium, and it is stated that the stronger they are the better. An opening also exists for scents, and here the qualifications are the same as in the case of soaps.

Other promising openings indicated by Mr. Southard are for silk and silk thread, which is used for the clothing of the wealthier Abyssinians, for cheap woollen carpets of light colours, for patent medicines, which appear to gain favour readily among the Abyssinians, for such commodities as vaseline, for candles, and for felt hats. "According to importers' estimates," says Mr. Southard, in discussing the opening for the last commodity, "the Abyssinian market can take about 50,000 cheap felt hats annually. Grey is the colour preferred, and hats with rather high crowns, medium brims, and green lining out to the edge of the brim seem to meet with the greatest favour."

COTTON BUYERS WAITING.

There are signs, according to the British Empire Producers' Organisation, that the present business "hold-up"—on account of buyers waiting for a slump which does not come—may at any time come to an end, for it is known that in certain trades, at all events, instructions have been received in this country for purchasing agents to get busy. Yet many who feel an intermittent impulse to place their orders are scared by others still displaying over-caution. In a report just received from Manchester a correspondent says that he can see a probable move to buy largely very soon. The big Eastern buyers there are inundated with heaps of orders, but are all waiting for one another to make the first move for their "grey" supplies, each hesitating to break the ice. One of the largest buyers of a most important Manchester house went on 'Change recently fully determined to place his "grey" contracts, but, finding others withholding their contracts, he decided finally to await the evidence of a move by other houses. The correspondent adds that it is plain that as soon as another indication of a move is made there will be some heavy bargains completed, and that raw cotton prices will not rule immediate supplies. The fall in raw cotton is largely for futures, but although this is conceded, it is quite evident that confidence has not yet been restored. The markets are not over-supplied with cotton fabrics.

SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

Railway Systems and Harbours.

The railway systems and harbours of Syria and Palestine, it is pointed out in an article on the economic resources of these districts in the *Board of Trade Journal*, possess an interest which is strategical rather than economic, and they cannot be regarded merely as a means for the commercial development of the countries in which they lie.

It is because Syria and Palestine are strategically so important that their railways have been developed to a much greater extent than might have been expected in countries so commercially humble. In Northern Syria we find the roadstead of Alexandretta linked up to Aleppo and Jerablus on the Euphrates by a section of the German Baghdad Railway of standard 4 ft. 8½ ins. gauge. This Syrian section had been completed before the war broke out and measured 295 kilometres (185 miles). Further south comes the French system with a narrow gauge of slightly more than a metre—3 ft. 5 3-7 ins. There are 682 kilometres of French lines forming a network and connecting up Beirut, Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, and Tripoli. A French line also runs from Jaffa to Jerusalem, 87 kilometres. Thirdly, we get to the east part of the Hejaz Railway, which was built to connect Damascus with the Holy Places of Arabia and to form a pilgrims' road. The Hejaz Railway, which is of the narrow French gauge, is connected up with the French railway system by short branches, though, of course, the Baghdad Railway's Syrian section, with its full standard gauge, cannot make a direct connection with either the French lines or the Hejaz Railway. All the lines are of single track. The Hejaz Railway belongs to the Turkish Government; the other railway systems are the property of companies, French and German respectively.

It will be clear that, in spite of the inconvenience due to the use of two gauges, Syria and Palestine are well supplied with railways. Altogether there are 2,080 kilometres (1,300 miles) of line within the borders of the countries, besides light tracks laid by the British Expeditionary Force. A good deal of damage has been done in the course of military operations, and the Turkish management of the French lines during the war must involve substantial claims for reparation. But, speaking generally, Syria and Palestine remain with railway communications in advance of their present economic development—and, in this respect, are in a more immediately favourable position than is Mesopotamia.

There are several roadsteads in Syria and Palestine but only one port—Beirut. Beirut alone possesses proper warehouse accommodation. Much French money has been spent upon Beirut, but it is too small and too shallow for the requirements of large modern steamers. The harbour, enclosed between two moles, is of not more than fifty acres, and there is a maximum depth of seven fathoms, decreasing to one fathom at the quays. One railway runs on to the main quay, and there are two coaling wharfs. The other ports, such as Alexandretta, Tripoli, Haifa and Jaffa, are open roadsteads without artificial protection. They are, however, regularly visited by steamers. Alexandretta, lying in the Gulf of the same name, though unprotected, has the safest anchorage on the Syrian coast. Alexandretta has advantages of position which can scarcely fail to make it the principal harbour of Northern Syria, when the works, projected by the Germans, have been carried into effect by other hands. Before the war, however, almost three times as much tonnage entered Beirut as lay off Alexandretta.

Even though Alexandretta, served by the standard gauge Baghdad Railway, may become the principal sea outlet of Northern Syria, the hinterland of Beirut—Lebanon, the Bekaa and Damascus—will ensure to it importance as a large distributing centre of foreign manufactured goods, especially of textile imports from England. Its wharves make it at present the chief coaling station on the coast, and through it passes much of the silk exports to France.

Haifa, especially if the harbour works projected there are carried out, may compete with Beirut for the Damascus trade. It is

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now the Mediterranean port of the Hejaz Railway, and has a fertile hinterland in the Plain of Esdraelon and the Upper Jordan Valley. Haifa has shown signs of attracting imports both for Arabia and Damascus. It lies under Mount Carmel, not far from the ancient Acre, and may become the chief port of Southern Syria. There would then be Alexandretta, Beirut and Haifa—situated in Northern, Middle and Southern Syria—each secure of a considerable traffic sphere yet each in competition with its neighbours. Tripoli, the sea-gate of the Homs district, and Jaffa, the port of Jerusalem, will no doubt also play their parts, especially after harbour works have been constructed. A French concession for harbour works at Haifa, Tripoli and Jaffa was granted in 1913, and some progress had been made before war broke out. The shipping trade with Syrian ports before the war was chiefly with Alexandria, whence goods were sent from Europe and reshipped to their destinations. . . .

Syria and Palestine have owed much to foreign enterprise and capital. French companies have built a large part of the railway system and have equipped the harbour works at Beirut. The Imperial Ottoman Bank, in which French influence is strong, has branches in Syria. French, German, Austrian, Italian, and Greek business houses are, or were, found in the seaports of Beirut, Jaffa, and Haifa, and in the towns of Aleppo, Damascus and Jerusalem. English firms usually employed native representatives. American companies had agents in many towns, the most important interests represented being sewing machines, oil and dealers in liquorice root. The French were prominent in Beirut, but elsewhere Germans and Austrians were strong and were well supported by the German colonists.

Although Syria and Palestine are well supplied with railways, there will be room for local branch lines as the country develops. The harbours are urgently in need of suitable works, especially Alexandretta, Haifa and Jaffa. The Baghdad Railway Company had a concession for Alexandretta, and a concession for Haifa and Jaffa was granted in 1913 to France. The development of electricity for water-power offers fruitful possibilities, especially as Beirut and Damascus alone among the Syrian towns have electrical supplies at present. Much drainage and irrigation need to be done if the land is to be made fully available for cultivation. Various branches of industry, for which the raw materials can be produced in the country, are capable of development. Milling and oil-pressing, sugar cultivation, manufacture of building materials, alcohol production and paper-making may be mentioned. Syrian industries are very lop-sided. Silk-spinning, the textile industry, and the production of olive oil and soap have attained some significance, but there the list practically ends. Mining is negligible, and the absence of local fuel has been a serious hindrance to substantial industrial development. Agriculture, upon which everything else depends, has been crippled by lack of security, the uncertain tenure, and a vicious system of taxation. The Turk has blighted Syria as he has blighted Mesopotamia. A revision of the land tenure system, a just method of taxation, irrigation and drainage might do much to restore the productiveness of Syria.

War has changed much in Syria and Palestine. It has improved the roads, more especially in the south, and it has opened up a new era, but for the immediate present it has drained the population, destroyed very many animals, led to the felling of the olive and mulberry trees, and stopped all overseas business. Flourishing industries, even those in Lebanon silk and Jaffa oranges, have lost their markets, the ports have been cut off from shipping, much land has gone out of cultivation. The future of the country will depend so completely on political conditions that it cannot be profitably discussed until these have finally been determined.

CEYLON.

Outlook for Plumbago Industry.

The plumbago industry in the island is at present in a difficult position owing to the elimination of the United States as a market, and it is feared that with the rapidly increasing competition from Madagascar the Ceylon industry is to some extent imperilled, says H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta in a recent report.

While exports remained fairly steady until the year 1917, the exports for the first nine months of 1918 decreased by almost 50 per cent., this being almost entirely due to the embargo placed by the United States Government upon imports. As the United States, however, must be short of stocks, it is considered that there should be revival in demand before the coming spring. Madagascar competition is, however, serious, and may permanently affect the prosperity of the Ceylon industry.

The total exports in 1907 were 32,026 tons, of which the United Kingdom took 8,507 tons, the United States 14,170 tons, Germany and Austria 4,884 tons. In 1917 the United Kingdom took 4,602 tons, and the United States 21,964 tons. In 1918 (1st January—4th October) the United Kingdom received 3,826 tons, and the United States 14,415 tons.

Mr. James Wilson, accountant of the National Bank of India, retires as from the 28th inst., after forty years' service in the bank. The directors have appointed Mr. G. B. Linton sub-manager and accountant, and Mr. J. A. Bunch secretary of the bank.

The number of units sold to consumers of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, during the four weeks ended December 27 amounted to 2,000,352, compared with 1,946,348 units in the corresponding four weeks of 1917.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Reopening of Near Eastern Markets

The permission given by the Board of Trade for the resumption of trade with Turkey in Europe, Asia Minor, Armenia, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Bulgaria will be welcomed throughout the Near East and Middle East, where there is a keen desire for commercial relations with Great Britain. However, the successful restoration of the once undisputed predominance of British trade in those desirable markets depends on the trade policy and also on the prompt action of British manufacturers, for the markets will also be open to others who, of course, will hasten to enter them and do their best to consolidate their position.

There is a special need of machinery and implements for all purposes throughout the East, especially in the above regions where, owing to the war conditions, machinery, like other private property, has been destroyed or stolen. Consequently, one of the foremost demands from these markets will be for machinery and implements of all kinds, and British manufacturers ought to do their utmost to take advantage of this opening.

The Russian Black Sea Ports.

The Russian Black Sea ports, to which the announcement referred to also applies, are the distributing centres of Southern Russia, Caucasia, Armenia, Kurdistan, and the Caspian coast, all of which are noted agricultural districts, and where agricultural machinery is very extensively used. Odessa is the chief port in Southern Russia, where the demand for up-to-date labour and time saving agricultural machinery has been increasing annually. There are, or perhaps were, local factories, but they have been so occupied with the manufacture of small and simple machines that they have been unable to devote their energies to the instalment of plant for the manufacture of more complicated machines, apart from the fact that they lack proper systems of economical production. According to official returns, United States manufacturers had about 90 per cent. of the trade in self-binders and reapers before the war, the balance being made up of Canadian, United Kingdom, and German goods. The large American syndicate was really controlling the market in these machines. Steam threshing machines and steam ploughs were imported from the United Kingdom, Germany, and Austria-Hungary; and horse rakes and hay-making machines, manure spreaders and sowing machines from the United States and the latter two countries. Motors of all kinds have been used to an increasing extent in factories and mills, and as motive power for agricultural machines. Owing to the higher price of crude oil the demand for suction gas engines has increased. In both these lines British manufacturers will have an excellent opportunity. The Caucasian districts, including Armenia, are very promising markets for agricultural machinery. At present the peasantry are using primitive implements for the most part, but the wealthier landowners of the country were in possession of machinery of modern type. Generally, Southern Russia, Caucasia, with the northern districts of Anatolia, all served from the Black Sea ports, offer exceptional opportunities for British engineer manufacturers, provided they lose no time in entering those markets.

Turkey in Europe.

Owing to the unsettled political conditions in European Turkey it is not probable that a brisk trade in machinery will be done before peace is concluded. Subsequently there will be a great demand for industrial and agricultural machinery; and it is strongly recommended that manufacturers of oil motors and tractors suitable for both agricultural and general industrial and engineering operations should be prepared to place their products promptly in that market. Milling machinery, steam ploughs, pumping machinery, machine tools, hand tools, etc., are much wanted in Thrace and in the Constantinople district.

Apropos of references in recent notes to the class of machinery that is in demand in Syria and Mesopotamia, we hear that representatives or agents of American, French, Italian, Japanese, and Scandinavian engineering firms are very active in those regions, offering, it is said, to send machinery on approval. It depends, therefore, on the energy of British firms what share will be secured by them in this trade.

The Bulgarian Market.

It has been suggested that a British firm, if it wishes to enter the Bulgarian market with success, must not depend on English catalogues and local agents, but must send out a representative with a supply of machines for show purposes, to work the country systematically, setting up the machinery and superintending its working for a season at least. The suggestion is very practical, but it is very doubtful whether a firm would decide at present to undertake such a comparatively expensive campaign in a mountainous country. The despatch of a competent representative with a good knowledge of engineering and commercial ability, able to speak the language, aided, of course, by a judicious advertising campaign, would be just as effective, at least to begin with. Official and private opinions agree that Bulgaria offers a promising field for the sale of agricultural machinery, as the farming and peasant classes are alive to the advantages of modern methods. Threshing machines are very popular in Bulgaria, and are frequently purchased by small groups of farmers, who share the expenses of a machine for their common use. Machines of from 4 to 10 and 12 h.p., fitted with a straw-cutting and bruising apparatus, are chiefly in demand. Hitherto they have been obtained from England, Austria, and Germany. Mowing machines and binders have been greatly used, imported principally from America, and also from Germany and Hungary. Sowing machines and ploughs have been imported in great numbers from Austria-Hungary and Germany. Pumps for various agricultural and industrial purposes have found a large sale; they have been imported principally from Germany and America. Tools of all kinds, especially the Alsace makes, have been supplied in great quantities by Germany. The whole of the business in agricultural machinery of the expensive varieties in Bulgaria is carried on by dealers possessed of strong financial resources, enabling them to offer terms of long-extended payments, carried sometimes over several years to the actual purchasers.

A Corn Dryer.

Owing to climatic conditions and inadequate means of storage corn is often damaged in the Near East and Southern Russia through an excessive percentage of moisture. Corn to bake well or to be stored with safety should not contain more than 11 to 12 per cent. of moisture. Thus, corn-drying methods, or special installations for the purpose, are much in use in some districts, which considerably increase the cost of the corn, but are not always quite effective. It may, therefore, be of interest to farmers and corn merchants to learn that a corn-drying apparatus has recently been invented, by means of which any damage from excessive moisture is prevented. It consists of a brick stove in which air can be raised to a temperature of 100 to 120 deg. F., and, by means of a fan, sent through the drying room at a pressure of 1¾ in. of water. The corn is placed in ordinary sacks and deposited in wooden hoppers in such a way that air entering at the narrow neck of the hopper must pass through the corn in order to escape. The apparatus is very simple, and does not require skilled attendants. In official tests the results were very satisfactory. It was possible to obtain an hourly evaporation of 50 lb. of water from 3 1-3 cwt. of corn, maintained at a temperature not exceeding 95 deg. F. The heat utilised was about 21.6 per cent. of the calorific value of the coal used. The process of drying does not injure the germinating power of the corn, as the temperature of the air is automatically regulated, and does not exceed a pre-determined limit. The corn can also be washed by soaking the full sacks in a special apparatus containing warm water, previous to placing them in the drying hoppers.

HOLLAND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Mr. Montagu, answering an inquiry by Sir J. D. Rees as to the action the Government of India proposed to take upon the report of the Holland Industrial Commission, said:—I have agreed to the appointment for the time being of Sir Thomas Holland, the President of the Commission, as the Industrial Adviser to the Government of India. But as regards the detailed recommendations of the Commission, I am awaiting the considered opinion of the Government of India and local Governments.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Egyptian Crops.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in December:—

Wheat and Barley.—The weather has been generally favourable; the very heavy rain which fell on the 16th and 17th of the month was beneficial in some districts to the growth of the plants, as the canals were closed for clearance. In a few instances, however, where the fields had been newly watered from artesian wells or where the drainage is poor, the crops suffered to a slight extent, turning off colour or being laid down. Owing to the recent arrival of nitrate of soda, chemical manure is now being applied on a wider scale than before, but the majority of cultivators are using farmyard manure and *kufri*. Cutworm is reported from Asyût; elsewhere the crops are free from pests. They are, on the whole, promising well, and wheat is in ear in advanced fields.

Beans.—The rainstorms of January 16 and 17 caused a certain amount of damage by knocking off flowers. They have, however, helped the growth of the plants by giving them a natural watering after the water supply had been cut off by the closure of canals. Sparrows have done a good deal of damage at Ma'âdi and in Girga province. Attacks from broomrape occurred in some provinces, but the damage caused is not greater than usual. Flowering is general, and the formation of pods has begun in early-sown fields.

Lentils.—The cold weather at the beginning of the month and the rain in its middle retarded the growth of the plants in Minya province, but elsewhere it was favourable. The crop is free from pests and has formed flowers in all provinces.

Helba.—Weather on the whole favourable. Flowering is general and early-sown fields are bearing pods. The crop is doing well and is being cut green for local consumption.

Onions.—Weather generally favourable. Transplantation is over in all provinces except in Beni Suef, where it is later than usual. Mildew is still noticed in Asyût province, but so far damage is negligible. On the whole the crop is progressing favourably.

Sugar Cane.—Weather on the whole favourable, though cold at night. Stalk-borer is still reported from most provinces. Cutting of canes for factories is general. The yield is satisfactory.

Bersim.—Weather generally favourable. The copious rainfall has been of help to the crop during the canal clearances. Slight attacks of dodder have been observed in Minya and Asyût, and a few attacks of cutworm in Daqahliya. Ploughing up the catch crop for cotton cultivation is going on everywhere, though somewhat delayed by the rain. Some of the land which was originally put to full crop is also being turned into cotton, seeing that cotton growing is now no longer restricted. The second cutting of *bersim* is general, and the third has been started in Minya. The crop is healthy and shows slight improvement on last month.

Price of Dates.

The Persian Dates (Retail Prices) Order, 1918, has been revoked, and all varieties of dates have been brought under the new Schedule to the Dried Fruits (Retail Prices) Order as amended, at the maximum retail price of 6d. per lb. This maximum price for all varieties of dates will not come into operation until March 3, 1919, up to which date Egyptian dates may be sold at the present maximum price of 10d. per lb., but on and after March 3 the maximum retail price of all dates, irrespective of variety, will be 6d. per lb.

Opening for Fertilisers.

During the war Egypt had to depend on her home production of cereals, and the need for nitrogenous manures was thus keenly felt, says the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. The application of nitrogenous manures to the wheat crop in Egypt results in an increase of from 1½ to 2 ardebs, or 7 to 10 bushels per acre. During 1913 more than 60,000 tons of these manures were imported, resulting in a probably increased production of 5,000,000 bushels of grain. A similar increase would result in the amount of straw. A shortage of nitrogenous fertilisers was thus bound to have a serious effect on the supply of grain.

With the end of the war there should be a favourable opportunity for the introduction of nitrate of lime. Experiments made here proved its efficiency, inasmuch as the land of Egyptalready contains small quantities of soda. Superphosphate had begun to be imported before the war, but the quantity is insignificant as compared with nitrogenous manures. Should a demand arise, however, this manure can be manufactured locally, seeing the large deposits of mineral phosphate in the country.

RESUMPTION OF TRADE.

Opening of Turkey, Bulgaria and South Russia.

The Board of Trade has issued a general licence authorising, so far as the trading with the enemy legislation is concerned, the resumption of trade with Turkey (including Turkey in Europe, Asia Minor, Armenia, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, and Syria) and Bulgaria. Trade with Russian Black Sea ports may also now be resumed.

It will be necessary for exporters to obtain licences from the War Trade Department before shipping to these countries and ports goods of kinds which are prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom, and for importers in this country to obtain licences from the Department of Import Restrictions before importing goods covered by the Prohibition of Import Proclamations. The general licence does not remove certain existing restrictions in respect of the payment of pre-war debts and the return of property held or managed before the war for persons in Turkey or Bulgaria. Moreover, any permission which may be necessary in respect of any transaction under Defence of the Realm Regulations 41D or 41DD must be obtained from the Treasury.

Arrangements have been made to grant permits for travel to South Russia to persons having business interests there, who are recommended by the Department of Overseas Trade, provided that such persons are willing to undertake the journey at their own risk and provided also that no objection is seen by the naval or military authorities. In reply to communications received from the Association of Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of British Industries, the London Chamber of Commerce, the British Russia Club, the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, and the Manchester Association of Importers and Exporters, full particulars have been supplied with regard to the matter of travelling to South Russia, and it has been suggested that members should in the first instance make applications for the necessary permits through these bodies, instead of approaching the Department of Overseas Trade direct. The Department of Overseas Trade feels sure that firms will not fail to consider whether they cannot take early advantage of the opportunity now provided for sending representatives to South Russia. It is realised that in view of the disturbed state of the country, it is not possible at present to transact business in more than a comparatively small area, but firms who know Russia need no reminder of the advantage of having representatives on the spot who can keep their headquarters informed of any improvement in this respect and of local conditions and who will be ready to proceed without delay into any new districts which may become available for trade. It is felt that when normal conditions return to Russia it should be possible for British traders to obtain a far larger share of Russian trade than in pre-war days, and it is hoped that this possibility will encourage firms who have not previously dealt with Russia to investigate the great potentialities of this market. It will be remembered that in the last year before the war Germany's exports to Russia amounted to 643 millions of roubles. Britain came second with 170 millions, and an exceptional opportunity exists now, owing to the temporary elimination of German competition from the South Russian market

A list of commodities which are known to be urgently required in certain districts of South Russia and the Caucasus and goods which are available for export from those territories is now in preparation and will be communicated to firms and bodies known to be interested and also to others, on application.

The Department of Overseas Trade has been informed that the following steamship companies are making arrangements for the immediate establishment of services with Russian Black Sea ports.—The Cunard Steamship Company, Limited (London and Liverpool), Ellerman Wilson Line (Hull), Ellerman Papayanni Line (Liverpool), William Johnston and Co. (Liverpool and London), Maclay and McIntyre (Glasgow and Liverpool), James Moss and Co. (Liverpool), Westcott and Laurance Line (Limited) (Thorners Chambers, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3).

The Department of Overseas Trade understands that these companies are prepared to accept cargo at once, and also that they will be glad to supply the inquirers with any information that may be available with regard to the carrying of passengers, sailing dates, etc.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Position More Hopeful.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Throughout the past week a rather more hopeful feeling has prevailed in the market. Producers with machinery stopped are not securing relief as quickly as they would like, but in some quarters the turnover has shown some improvement. The shorter hours question was discussed at a joint conference of employers and trade union leaders at the beginning of this week, and it was decided that the masters would give their considered reply to the operatives' demand at a meeting to be held on March 20. In cloth for export purposes rather more business has taken place for China, some fair sales having been put through in both grey and white goods. Most shippers to India are still inclined to mark time, although inquiry has broadened and a few lines of dhooties have been booked for Bombay. Buyers for Java and Singapore have again looked on, and operations for Egypt and South America have been of a sorting-up character. A rather improved demand has been experienced in home American yarns, and prices have been steady. Bolton spinnings have dragged, and quotations have been irregular, with an easier tendency.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR, 1919.

The British Industries Fair, organised by the Board of Trade, will be held in the Pennington Street premises of the London Dock from Monday, February 24, to Friday, March 7.

The fair will be confined to the same trades which exhibited last year, but about 150 more firms are exhibiting this year.

The number of firms exhibiting in each section is as follows:—Paper, printing, and stationery, 130; glass and pottery, 114; fancy goods, 128; toys, 198.

As in former years, admission to the fair is confined to trade buyers, the general public not being admitted.

The Board of Trade have already issued over 80,000 invitations to firms and individuals in the United Kingdom interested in the trades covered by the fair, but any firms which have not yet received an invitation and are anxious to visit the fair should apply to the Director, British Industries Fair, Board of Trade, 10, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

For the convenience of visitors and exhibitors, a service of motor-omnibuses will ply between Mark Lane Station, on the Metropolitan and District Railway, and the fair.

A Ukrainian Economic Mission recently arrived at The Hague. There is great scarcity of colonial produce in the Ukraine, and the object of the mission is to establish relations with the big Dutch firms representing Dutch East Indian firms.

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ROUMANIA'S FUTURE.

"Since her dramatic entry into the war, Roumania has assured for herself a position of vast importance. In fact, from a mere name, which most people had vaguely but erroneously associated with the group of nations known as the Balkan States—for it is not, and never has been, a Balkan State—Roumania now ranks with the nations that count." This is the introduction of a valuable treatise on Roumania issued by the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., dealing with the history and growth of the country, its system of government, financial resources, commerce, etc. The intention of the booklet is to meet the demand for more and reliable information about Roumania, and it is admirably designed for this purpose for its twelve and a-half pages of reading matter are a perfect mine of material. As an example of the art of condensation it unquestionably deserves a very high place, for it gives just those details that are required to furnish at a glance a bird's eye view of the country and its potentialities.

The strength of Roumania's position before the war, both financially and commercially, is well brought out. The surplus on the Budget for 1914-15 of nearly four million francs is quoted, and it is pointed out that the internal loan of £6,000,000 (at five per cent. and issued at eighty-four) floated in May, 1916—the first to be issued in Roumania—resulted in subscriptions being received for £16,000,000. Then as regards commerce, the considerable surplus of exports over imports during the last three normal years is emphasised, and an interesting comparison is also given of Roumanian commerce and that of Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 13:—

Rain nearly general throughout Orissa and Bengal Coast; light to moderate in parts of the Central Provinces. The situation is improving, but more rain is required in the Punjab.

Bombay cotton market continues irregular; fully good broach, April-May, quoted at Rs.573. Piece goods market steady; rice market unchanged. Prices of gunnies lower, and market very quiet owing to delay in cables and lack of demand from America.

£400,000 deferred telegraphic transfers on London applied and allotted in Bombay on February 6.

Notification issued on February 8 prohibiting the export of barley grain, maize, and pulse to all destinations; also transferring telephone and telegraphic material to Class D (compare U.K. Class C) for export from India.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES

An additional 9,000 tons of Australian wheat have been sold to India at 5s. 6d. per bushel, f.o.b.

According to the *Mokattam*, Mr. John Wells is leaving the service of the Egyptian Government on April 8.

The Dominion Government authorises substantial credits for Greek and Roumanian purchasers from Canada.

The annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt will be held on February 24 at Alexandria.

It is rumoured that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha intends to open a direct route between Japan and Copenhagen.

It is stated that one of the most vital questions for the economic life of Greece is the release by the Allies of the requisitioned Greek merchant ships.

Hamid Effendi Shakir, an official of the Wakfs, will be at the head of the technical mission which is being sent from Egypt to Mecca for the construction of drainage.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
RAOUL MALLET,
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
38, Rue St. Ferreol.

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East).

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Venesta.

The report of Venesta, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 last states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss is £146,294; £133,457 was brought forward, making £279,752. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. (less income-tax) on the ordinary shares was paid on July 31. It is now proposed to pay on the 28th inst. a further dividend of 15 per cent. (less income-tax of 5s. 3d. in £), to place to reserve for losses on Continental assets £100,000, and to carry forward £114,752. Meeting, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., 27th inst., noon.

County Westminster & Parr's Bank.

An extraordinary meeting of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank was held on February 14, when the extraordinary resolution altering the articles of association passed at the extraordinary meeting on the 30th ult. was confirmed. At a further extraordinary meeting which followed a resolution increasing the capital to £33,000,000 by the creation of 3,000,000 new shares of £1 each was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Walter Leaf, the chairman, announced it had been decided that the price to be paid for the new shares would be payable in one amount of 35s. on July 1, 1919, instead of in two instalments as originally contemplated.

Monerakelle Rubber.

The report of Monerakelle Rubber Estates for the year ended June 30 last states that the balance at credit of profit and loss at June 30 was £8,606. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. (less tax) on the ordinary shares, making 14 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £5,473. Meeting, 12, Fenchurch Street, E.C., 21st inst., noon.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

The report of the directors of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, 1918, states that the year's working has resulted in a net profit of £6,182 13s. 1d.; this has been placed to the credit of profit and loss account, bringing the credit balance (after making sundry adjustments amounting to £344 19s. 11d.) to £11,958 17s. 10d., which it is proposed to carry forward. Investments have been taken in at cost; a valuation at current market prices at December 31, 1918, shows a shortage of £15,480 11s 1d. on cost price. During the year Sir Alexander Roger, Mr. A. T. Cruickshank, and Captain B. A. H. Goldie resigned their seats on the board, and Messrs. A. Mitchelson, J. S. Holmes, and T. L. Farnes were elected directors. Under Article 88 of the articles of association the appointment of these gentlemen has to be confirmed. Meeting, Dashwood House, 9, New Broad Street, E.C.2, February 26, 12.30 p.m.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

The report of the Del Rey Tea Co. for the year ended August 31 states that net profit amounted to £5,417, which, added to interest and £4,366 brought forward, makes £9,927. After providing for excess profits duty 1916-17, £1,522, and income-tax £970, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 8 per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary shares, carrying forward, subject to excess profits duty, £4,158.

Oil Outputs.

British Burmah Petroleum.—Total production of crude oil by company and Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 81,257 barrels for January.

NEW COMPANIES.

A Shipping Company.

A group of Greek capitalists in Constantinople have formed a shipping company with a capital of £T20,000,000, and have purchased four vessels.

New Roumanian Oil Syndicate.

The Dacia Romana Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., has been registered with a nominal capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, to acquire oil-bearing lands and other properties and rights in Roumania, or elsewhere, to work and refine oil, and to adopt three agreements, the parties to which are not named. The subscribers appoint the directors. Notice of situation of registered office has not yet been filed.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to November 30, 1918. (New Style, January 14 to December 13, 1918):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Nov. 1918		2,516,579	2,371,000
Do. do. do 1917		3,108,836	2,146,000
Estimated receipts for 11 months (Law of Control)		26,491,666	9,808,333
Actual do. do. 1 18..		34,296,054	28,944,000
" " " 1917..		31,118,358	12,705,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 11 months	1918	+ 7,804,488	+ 19,135,666
	1917	+ 4,626,691	+ 2,896,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended January 30 were: Cattle markets. £1,530; general markets, £676; total, £2,206. Total for year, £8,250. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918, ended January 31, were: Cattle markets, £827; general markets, £467; total, £1,294. Total for year, £5,799.

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA.

The Mercantile Bank of India has now been informed by the Treasury that the restriction on sale of the new issue has been withdrawn. Certificates will be forwarded in due course. The emission consists of the unallotted portion of the bank's capital, representing 15,000 "A" shares of £25 each, and is being offered to existing holders in the proportion of one in three. There will be called up £12 10s. per share, the same as in the case of the existing shares. The new issue will rank for dividend as from January 1 last.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has again been a fair amount of business in Egyptian securities, but changes in prices have only been fractional; excepting for Aboukirs, which have had a smart rise of 2s. 9d. to 28s.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have remained in constant demand, but transactions have been restricted by the scarcity of sellers. Turkish Fours of 1891 have receded a point to 82.

In Bank shares Nationals are at the finish a quarter down at 22¼ after a very fair amount of business round 22½. Agricultural Banks are 1-16 easier at 6 13-16. On the other hand Agricultural Preferences are 1-16 better at 7⅝. Some small business took place in Land Banks at 7.

In Railways Delta Lights are ⅛ down at 8 5-16.

Amongst Land shares Delta Lands are 3d. easier at 16s. 6d., whilst New Egyptians have improved a like fraction to 25s. 6d. There has again been a good deal of business in the latter share. Sudan Plantations, after improving to 4 9-16, are closing 1-16 easier at 4⅜. United Egyptian Lands are 4½d. down at 3s. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts, in spite of a very excellent report, are 6d. lower at 16s. The intrinsic value of these shares, from the report just issued, would appear to be about 17s. 6d., so that during the past year a great deal of leeway has been made up.

In Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters are ⅛ up at 12½. On the other hand Salts and Sodas are 1-16 lower at 2⅞; while Khedivial Mails, after rising to 115s., are unchanged at 12s. 6d.

In Greek securities the Rente Loan is half a point up at 55½, while Bank of Athens shares are fractionally lower at 4 nominal. Otherwise there are no changes to report.

Oil Shares.

The oil market has been quieter. Burmahs are ¼ lower at 8⅜, but British Burmahs have continued their rise, and are 6d up at 20s. Anglo-Persian prefs. are 1s. down at 25s. 9d. Anglo-Egyptians "B" are stronger at 3 25-32.

Roumanians have been depressed on profit taking. Roumanian Consols at 17s. 7½d. are 7½d. lower, and Traians at 13s. 9d. are 1s. 6d. down. Anglo-Roumanians, however, at 13s. 4½d. are 7½d. up.

Ural Caspians are weaker at 34s. 8½d., and Bakus are 1½d. lower at 4s. 10½d.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—February 9-10, 760,000 francs against 470,000 francs.

At the meeting of the council of the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce, just held at the offices of the London Chamber of Commerce, Mr. E. Brayley-Hodgetts was elected chairman, Professor Toumaiain deputy-chairman, Mr. F. H. Stephens hon. treasurer, and Mr. C. E. Town secretary.

The Tata Industrial Bank in Bombay, which was opened in April last, made a net profit for the period ended December 31 of Rs.4,32,398-8-10.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanjue, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Feb. 11	Feb 18.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	93	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	91	91
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72	72
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72	72
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58	58
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55	55½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72	72
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	79	79
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	83½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16½	16½
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	10½	10⅜
Chartered Bank of India	65	71	71
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9	9⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	18¼	17⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22½	22½
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8⅛	8⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/3	28/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	13⅜	13⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/9	16/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/6	16/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅝	2⅝
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/3	25/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2¼	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	4 1/16	4⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	72/6	72/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/4½	3/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	28/3	28/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	2 1/8	2⅞
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	112/6	112/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4⅜	4⅜

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Baghdad, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

FOR GENUINE

TURKISH & EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES

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THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.,

ASK FOR PRICE LIST.

JOSEPH G. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Great Chapel St., Oxford St., London, W.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.52,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,01,01,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 25,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 408.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The almost defiant tones of President Wilson's inaugural speech on his return home shows that his words were addressed more to his own people than to the rest of the world; and they seem in some sense a justification of himself and his European policy in the face of those domestic criticisms which were meant to be audible across the Atlantic, but which an elementary instinct of good manners among his European hosts has perforce ignored. On that aspect of affairs silence is still the golden policy for the Allies; but in several directions of fundamental importance his speech was addressed to a wider audience than the United States.

President Wilson lays it down definitely that the new small States must be protected; he mentions by name Poland, Yugoslavia, and Armenia, and also included the new State of Bohemia as equally worthy and in not less need of support. So far as Poland is concerned, it is clear that her main need is, and is likely to be, protection against Germany, for the domination of Poland was the corner-stone of Prussian rule; the same is true of the Czecho-Slavs, who will form a smaller State and be in a relatively more difficult position. It might perhaps have been suspected that the Presidential reference to the Yugoslavs implied a hint that Italy had put forward rather large and conflicting demands, but his subsequent remark that national aspirations had been in every case moderately urged shows clearly enough that both the Yugoslavs and Italy have carefully avoided that tendency to intransigence in the council chamber which has not always characterised their rival propagandists. It is against a revival of Germanism that the Yugoslavs, like the Poles, need to be secured.

The textual reports of the speech make it clear that President Wilson means to see that this is done, and this is the first public pronouncement which states the fact definitely. The importance of this utterance can, therefore, hardly be exaggerated; for it is not only a direct message to the smaller and newer States of Europe that Washington is concerned with their interests and their future prosperity; but it is also an indication that the United States, if President Wilson has his way, will for ever discard her policy of aloofness. His reference to Poland and Yugoslavia commits him to a European policy; his reference to Armenia to an Asiatic policy.

His silence regarding Palestine, Mesopotamia, and Arabia, may, perhaps, be taken as an indication that the President has rejected the suggestion, which at one time seemed popular with a few publicists, that America should become the mandatory power of the League of Nations for those countries. Should that prove to be the case, we cannot but think that the renunciation may prove to be wise; for the United States is in many ways a conservative country in its politics, and the last thing its people thought of when they entered the war in 1917 was that they should be asked to become trustees of Jerusalem and Mecca in 1920.

Even as things are, and with their limitations, the change of policy which the President advocates is sufficiently startling. There will be no criticism of it in Europe, where it has long been felt that the isolation of the United States, like the one-time "splendid isolation" of Britain, was an outworn political dogma, unsuited for a world of quick communications and rapid transit; but it would be ridiculous to pretend that there will be no criticism of it in America. Indeed, the somewhat defiant way in which the President framed his question—"Do you believe in the aspiration of the Czecho-Slovaks and Yugoslavs as I do?"—suggests a doubt in his own mind whether the United States are as enthusiastic as he obviously is. It is a kind of categorical imperative in the form of an interrogation.

The proceedings of the Peace Conference during the past week, during the enforced absence of the chief actors in that rather lengthy drama, at which no audience is permitted except when the safety curtain rises at intervals for a second or so, have been of little apparent interest. The projected constitution of the League of Nations have on the whole had a bad press, and there have been the usual indications that the delegates, while talking about principles and ideals, were really thinking of territorial readjustments. Some further indications of the new map of Europe that may some day emerge from the Peace Conference have been given by the order to the Germans to withdraw from part of the Polish territory which they have so long occupied; but there have apparently been no decisions regarding the boundaries of the Balkans, or at least none has been published.

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President Wilson's hearty reference to the Greek scholars who interviewed him in Paris will be warmly welcomed in Athens. But the remark involves something more than appears on the surface. The President, who is a distinguished historian as well as a maker of history, is well aware that the original American constitutions, although modelled by practical men who were innocent of Greek, does in fact owe a good deal indirectly to Greek political philosophy. The keynote of the old Greek state was its independence; it was one of a loose confederation, whereas Roman political thought tended towards centralisation. The Roman model was imitated in Europe, but the Greek method, although unconsciously imitated by men who have worked out their own political philosophy for themselves, has always appealed more to the British and American mind.

There has been no confirmation of the report received from German sources of a revolution in Roumania, a report which would appear to have been the last expiring effort of that form of Teutonic propaganda which proved so singularly futile during the war, but there has been a very definite confirmation of the conjecture that Roumania badly needed feeding; and perhaps some of those who have been entreating us to love our brother German and to contribute to the "comforter" fund for infantile Germany may give a thought to the plight of our Ally, who underwent infinitely greater hardships than any German felt or is likely to feel. So far, it must be confessed, our humanitarian pacifists seem to have forgotten our friends in the joy of embracing the enemy.

But there is further and more hopeful news from Roumania. *The Times* correspondent at Bucharest sends details of the steps which have been and are being taken to reunite Transylvania with the mother country; apparently the Hungarians, if not reconciled to the inevitable, at least recognise that the loss of that beautiful province is inevitable. Its incorporation with Roumania is not merely an act of national justice but a fact of political importance, for the consequent increase of area and population will make Roumania a more important power than before, and will raise her higher in the category of second-class States than she was. Of course, now that the League of Nations has secured, or at least promised, us the Millenium, these matters of size and population and territory are only of academic importance; but in the inconceivable event of any of the old Adam of politics and national rivalry surviving in the new Europe, the accretion of Roumanian power would be a factor of some weight.

Hungary, by the same token, will bulk far smaller in the future. Transylvania was one of the strongholds of the Hungarian feudal aristocracy, and the future of that proud nobility under another allegiance is not easy to forecast. But this is in any event a less serious blow to the Magyar domination than the loss of the Southern Slavs; and it seems certain that the new Hungary, shut in as it will be by an enlarged Roumania on the east, a reconstituted Poland on the north, and a greater Serbia on the south, will have to moderate its pretensions in the field of politics very considerably. Its economic future, thanks to a fertile soil and an industrious peasantry, seems assured, after the present hardships are surmounted and the existing wave of Bolshevism has spent its force.

It seems quite certain that Hungary will be unable to stand entirely alone, and she will, therefore, have to come to terms with at least one of her neighbours. Which will it be? Not with Roumania, if she can help it; even in the new world one can no more forgive the ravisher of one's provinces than, according to Homer, Agamemnon in Hades could forgive the co-respondent in the Clytemnestra affair. With the national temper of Poland, an aristocratic and Catholic country of great landowners, Hungary is more likely to be in accord with Roumania; but it cannot be overlooked that a powerful party in Budapest may again attempt to open up an understanding with Berlin now that the future of Austria seems definitely determined as a German province.

It is quite probable that these advances would be welcomed, for Germany, for all her fair words about a League of Nations, still has an eye on the main chance, and the professions of a new heart which Count Bernstorff and his friends are making are not altogether convincing. In that event it would only be a question of time before German Near Eastern ambitions would revive, possibly under a different form. For the time being, of course, it is unlikely that anything will be done, for Germany is still faced with the necessity of revising the political faith in which two, if not more, generations have put unquestioning trust. Brought up to believe that the German army was invincible and that the German boot was universally efficient in treading on its neighbours, it has suddenly discovered that its creed was founded on a wrong assumption, and that the whole of German political philosophy will have to be recast. Fortunately for the rest of the world, that process will take some little time.

As if by way of commentary on this necessity, in an obscure paragraph in an obscure South German newspaper the fact is recorded that one day last week the German regiments from Tiflis and the neighbourhood returned home; but only a few flags greeted the troops as they marched through Munich, and the usually demonstrative folk of that city seem to have regarded them with indifference. So great is the contrast from a year ago, when Germany's Eastern adventure received columns of exposition, and prophecies of her impending domination of the East were frequent in every self-respecting Teutonic sheet. The change is less dramatic than Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, but it is none the less complete and, in a military sense, disastrous.

It is not, however, by any means certain that Germany has accepted the prospect of her utter downfall in the Near and Middle East. As an unquiet sleeper's dream may suddenly change its form completely but still remain the same dream at bottom, so a careful study of the German Press reveals that the dream of Eastern expansion still exists. The military idea, it is true, has vanished, and the idea of using the Baghdad Railway as a route for some new Teutonic Alexander the Great is probably too far-fetched even for a provincial *Stammtisch* in these days; but the belief in economic and commercial domination is still strong, and it may be found in time that the German confession of defeat in the field and on the high seas has only emphasised the determination of the German bagman to go forth conquering and to conquer.

The action of the Government of India in regard to the Emergency Powers Bill requires better justification than the cable has so far disclosed. The Rowlatt Committee, the strongest judicial tribunal which has ever met in India, considered it essential that the Administration should have these emergency powers in reserve, so that on the need arising action could be taken at once without the tedious, and also somewhat discreditable, preliminary of passing special legislation. The Government accepted this recommendation, and framed the Bill accordingly, but when the anticipated outcry arose, they agreed to limit its operation to a period of three years after the conclusion of the war, and thereby altered the whole foundation of the measure. It was intended to provide a permanent safeguard; it becomes yet another piece of temporary *ad hoc* legislation, the expiry of which may place the next Viceroy in an exceedingly difficult position.

We refuse to take the view which is being expressed in this country that the present Administration has finally succumbed to opportunism, and is content that

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the deluge should come, provided it does not come at once, while we should be sorry to think that Lord Chelmsford and his Council had failed to foresee the unanimous opposition to which they have so quickly bowed. The more probable explanation is that they have been "playing politics." Extremist opposition was in any case certain, while the Moderates have not yet secured a position sufficiently stable to enable them to face the "popular" abuse which would have resulted, if they had supported the official measure; the time-limit may have been intended to serve as a wedge to split the two parties; and, regarded as a piece of tactics, the move is not lightly to be condemned. Whether such tactics become the Government of India is another question, and we confess we should have preferred to see the original measure carried by the official vote on the straightforward ground that it was essential to the continued security of the country.

The situation has, however, another side, for it is reasonable to conjecture that the opposition, though it may be violent, is not altogether sincere. Indian politicians aspire to control the administration of the country, and there is not the least doubt that, when that time comes, they will use their emergency and other powers with a vigour and freedom which India has not experienced since the days of Aurangzeb. A popular Indian Government would, doubtless, shrink from asking the Legislature for special powers to repress disorders in the State, but it is equally certain that they would not hesitate to use powers which had been placed ready to their hand by the forethought of their bureaucratic predecessors. We suspect that these considerations have not been overlooked by the more far-sighted members of the Legislative Council, and they are probably as much disappointed as surprised by the success achieved by their opposition.

Silence has at last been broken regarding the exorbitant charges for homeward passages from India, but it cannot be said that the result is satisfactory. The position of the India Office is clear enough. Mr. Montagu has worked hard, and is still working, but so far achievement has fallen far short of aspiration. The Ministry of Shipping has not yet spoken officially, but we take it that its views are represented by the laboured apologia which appeared in *The Times* last Monday, the gist of which lies in the statement that "it is felt by authorities in London that in the present highly unsettled state of affairs any amendment would be entirely inopportune." The pure departmentalism of that sentence is calculated to appeal to Indian bureaucrats; translated into ordinary language, it means that, if the Ministry "sits tight" for a little, the present leave-season will be over and the trouble will pass away. Unfortunately, it also means that leave out of India, which is necessary for all ranks, is to remain a luxury for the rich, and the consequent injustice and hardships are so obvious that we hope Mr. Montagu will succeed in bringing the matter before the Cabinet.

Mr. Tilak's action for libel against Sir Valentine Chirol came to an end last Friday, when, after a hearing extending over eleven days, it took a special jury less than half an hour to decide that the criticisms passed on the plaintiff's conduct were justified in detail and as a whole. The decision is important at the present time, because the public in this country will very shortly be asked to pronounce on the future governance of India, and they are entitled to know the past record of the leaders who claim to represent the population *immediately* concerned. Thanks to Sir Valentine Chirol's book on "Indian Unrest," and still more to his public spirit in defending a costly and exhausting suit—which could have been terminated by the easy course of offering a formal apology—the country has now ample materials for "placing" one of the most conspicuous of the self-styled leaders, and the impending discussion cannot fail to benefit from the timely ventilation of these essential facts.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 11.

The Question of Judicial Reforms.

The question of the judicial reforms to be introduced as a result of the abolition of the Capitulations appears to be exercising the minds of the local legal community very much, and a series of notes, memoranda, and articles have appeared recently in the local Press and in the official organ of the Mixed Courts. Amongst these criticisms and commentaries on the work which the Capitulations Commission is at present doing, the most important has been a memorandum presented by the Mixed Bar to its leader, in which it attacked the Capitulations Commission and asked him to take up the cudgels in defence of the Bar's rights, and in order to safeguard the interests of the country itself.

The main grievances voiced in the memorandum, which is of considerable length, appear to be the proposed immediate introduction of an entirely new and complete legislation based, the writers allege, for the most part, on English law; the substitution at short notice of English for French and Italian as the judicial language; the failure to consult the Mixed Bar Council in connection with the scheme for the proposed fusion of the Mixed and Native Bars and for the creation of a special Bar attached to the Supreme Court; and the insufficiency of the publicity accorded to the projects in course of elaboration by the Capitulations Commission. To this memorandum the Acting Financial Adviser and Reporter to the Capitulations Commission, Sir William Brunyate, has now, on his own behalf, sent a reply, which appears in the *Journal de la Gazette des Tribunaux Mixtes*. The following is a summary of his remarks:—

To the protest that the Draft Judicature Law on which the Commission has been working has not been communicated to the Bar Council, Sir William replies that the Commission itself regrets this, but that it was impossible to give publicity to that document, as it was communicated to the Commission in confidence. The *communiqué* issued in March, 1918, contained substantially everything that it was open to the Commission to make public; but he trusts that at no distant date a larger measure of publicity may become possible.

English or French?

With regard to the fear that the French language may disappear at an early date as a judicial language, he points out that as far as the Commission is concerned in the draft before it the English and French languages are placed upon an identical footing; and as regards the question of making the English language the judicial language, on which the British Bar pre-



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sented a memorial to the Commission, to which the Mixed Bar has taken exception, he adds that the Commission in their comments on that document have already drawn attention to practically all the considerations advanced by the Mixed Bar against that proposal.

Dealing in this connection with the recognised fact that at some date in the more or less remote future English is destined to replace French as the "lingua franca" of the foreign communities of Egypt, he says that the rapidity with which that process is taking place is a matter likely to give rise to legitimate differences of opinion, but that his own personal impression is that in the business world it is proceeding somewhat more rapidly than the Mixed Bar suggests, whilst at the same time it is indubitable that the slowest progress has been made in non-Egyptian legal circles. He thinks the more simple explanation of this latter phenomenon is that hitherto no steps have been taken to render possible the hearing of cases in the English language. Measures in that sense will have to be taken in the near future, but in his opinion so long as any widespread demand continues to exist for facilities for the hearing of cases in French those facilities ought to be provided; and if that view is right, it is clear that those facilities will only disappear when the inconvenience and expense of maintaining them become altogether disproportionate to the demand.

Coming to the suggestion that there may be some desire to make the Supreme Court Bar a special preserve for British advocates, Sir William declares himself to be at a loss to understand how it has arisen unless it is based on the suggested provision that admission to the Supreme Court Bar should be controlled by the Supreme Court itself. He points out that the Commission considered that the creation of this special Bar would be in the interests of the Bar itself, and that some control for admission thereto is necessary lest its standard should be lowered by the admission of men of mediocre ability; and he adds that the reason why the Court itself has been suggested for the exercise of such control has been only because it appeared by its probable composition and by the lofty nature of its duties to offer guarantees of impartiality beyond what could be obtained elsewhere. He admits, however, that as regards the whole scheme for the creation of this special Supreme Court Bar, which the Commission considers to be in the public interest, they are entirely in the hands of the existing Mixed and Native Bars; for it can only serve its intended purpose if it includes men who by their experience and by the public confidence they enjoy are the natural leaders of the Bar; and if the present leaders of the two Bars prefer to stand aside, the whole proposal would necessarily fall through.

The Business View.

As regards the suggestion that the Commission's proposals for reform go beyond what even the present exceptional circumstances call for, he states that eventually it will probably be found that mere exigencies of time have out down their programme to little more than what is absolutely essential. He adds that nothing has been inquired into in connection with which the Commission was not unanimous that there was necessity for serious reform, and that in practically everything taken up the Commission has preferred to rely on the opinion of those most closely affected by the law. He says that to judge from the replies received from Chambers of Commerce and business houses and from recommendations made to the Commission by its representative sub-commissions on different branches of commercial activity a case could be made out for the need of much wider reform than the memorial under reply would appear to admit.

With regard to the suggestion that the Commission has failed to give effect to certain assurances given by himself concerning the consultation of the Bar as to Bar regulations, he gives a brief statement of the facts, from which it appears that for various reasons the Commission considered it more desirable to set up a sub-Commission where certain questions could be most conveniently threshed out in the presence of representatives of the two Bars than merely to consult the two Bar Councils as to proposals already formulated. He adds that the composition of the sub-Commission clearly shows that the interests most carefully protected were those of the Bar itself. The offer of the Commission to submit to the Mixed Bar for criticism the draft prepared by the sub-Commission having been declined, the Commission now proposes as soon as possible, and before itself taking the draft into consideration, to give it the widest publicity possible, so that they may have the benefit of the observations of all concerned on what are, after all, merely the recommendations of the Capitulations Commission.

Bars to Progress.

Sir William quite naturally refrains from dealing with other questions raised by the memorial, which, he says, would readily lend themselves to public controversy; and he concludes his letter with a reference to the difficulties that the Commission has encountered. He points out that they are all in favour of the greatest possible publicity, but that they have found themselves hampered at every turn. On certain matters, for instance, political considerations have been a bar to the publicity they would desire. Again, the many calls upon the time of every member of the Commission under war conditions have rendered their progress less rapid than they might have hoped. He claims that at a time when even most urgent matters were being postponed until the war was won they drew attention to the necessity of examining in advance problems which would become urgent so soon as the war was over and of settling them, if possible, by general agreement. He knows of no serious interests which were not adequately represented among them, and it has been their policy to make the widest appeal to help from outside. With the full recognition of the anxieties necessarily incident to great changes he feels justified in appealing for the continuance of public confidence in their efforts.

Sir William Brunyate's letter does not appear to have satisfied his critics, for simultaneously there appears in the *Gazette des Tribunaux Mixtes* two articles returning to the fray. The questions raised are too controversial and too technical for a layman like your correspondent to deal with them. All that he can say is that it is in the highest degree regrettable that at a time when there is so much to be done in connection with the judicial and administrative reforms necessitated by the abolition of the Capitulations so much time and energy should be taken up with the raising of controversial and in some cases purely academic points, which would appear to, and quite possibly may, have their origin in a misapprehension of the facts and of the true intentions of the British Government.

Unfortunate Polemics.

That the Capitulations Commission has no intention of imposing its projects on the community at large, that it has at heart the interests of the country and of the elements of the population for which the new legislation is intended, and that it is desirous of ascertaining and meeting the views of all qualified to present such views is proved by the facts that the leading spirit in the drafting of the new penal code, Mr. Percival, Counsellor of the Native Court of Appeal, has just given two conferences at the Société Sultanienne de l'Economie Politique, at which he has explained at length the alterations, additions, and omissions made in the old code, their reasons and the sources from which the changes have been drawn. Arrangements have also been made whereby all who have any criticisms, suggestions, etc., to make can send in their memoirs to the society for discussion at a special session to be held later on. Incidentally, it may be added that Mr. Percival, in the course of his conferences, laid stress on the point—and gave innumerable illustrations in support of it—that the changes made in the Penal Code are by no means all drawn from English law, but that in a very large number of instances foreign codes, Belgian, Swiss, Italian, Siamese, etc., have been followed. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the good faith evidenced by this departure, the explanations given by Mr. Percival, and the opportunity offered to criticise the proposed judicial reforms in a forum of such a high level, will conduce to the cessation of these unfortunate polemics.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Roumania, Bessarabia—

The problem regarding Roumania's claims to reincorporate Bessarabia is not a complicated one. It is particularly important at this time to remember that the Roumanian claim to Bessarabia rests on a firm foundation of history, as well as upon the indisputably Roumanian character of the present population. For more than five centuries (the fourteenth to nineteenth) Bessarabia was an integral part of the Roumanian principalities. Even before 1300 the dynasty of the Bessarabs, the builders of Wallachia, extended their power on both sides of the Danube as far as the sea; and at the death of Mircea the Old (1418), the Dobruja of our days, as well as the fortresses of Chilia and Cetatea Alba, or the southern part of Bessarabia, were among the Wallachian dominions. The name of the province itself is a reminder of the dominating power of the Bessarabs over its southern districts. To-day Bessarabia comprises the same area as in 1812, when, in accordance with the Treaty of Bucharest, it was severed from the Danubian Principalities and incorporated into Tsarist Russia. It is bordered by the Pruth, Dniester, and the Black Sea, and covers an area of about 17,620 square miles. The injustice committed by Russia against the Roumanians was only partially repaired after the Crimean War, in 1856, when, by the Paris Treaty of Peace, the southern districts of Cahul, Ismail, and Bolgrad were restored to Roumania. But at the Berlin Congress (1878) Bismarck and Andrassy, in their anxiety to prevent a *rapprochement* between Russia and Roumania, prompted the Russian Government to lay hands once more upon Bessarabia, the land and home of the very Roumanian soldiers who had been fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Russians at Plevna! After this annexation the commercial importance of Bessarabia waned, and the region became an asylum for all kinds of political adventurers and strange religious sects, as well as the object of a deliberate Russian colonisation. But beneath the frothy cosmopolitan surface the main current of Bessarabian life remained true and never lost its essential Roumanian character. Despite all the efforts of the Russian Government to denationalise the population by the influence of the clergy, of a bureaucracy, and of an apostate nobility, the "Moldavians," as they call themselves, have clung tenaciously to their Roumanian nationality, and have never given up the Roumanian language. Only in one or two cases, such as the great families of Purishkievitch and Krupensky, do we find any instance of success in the Russian policy of denationalisation. Throughout the nineteenth century Bessarabia retained her Roumanian character. In 1812, according to the reports of the Roumanian Academy in 1889, there were 350,000 Roumanians and 30,000 other nationalities. Fifty years later the Bulletin of the Russian General Staff, in a report on the Bessarabian Province, concluded that three-quarters of the whole population of the province were Roumanian. The Russian official statistics of 1890 and 1900 bear much the same witness; while an authentic and authoritative ethnographical chart published by the French historian Rambaud, shows clearly that the Roumanians form an absolute majority of the population. Thus, historical as well as economical reasons would weigh against a division of the province, and its reunion with Roumania has been proclaimed by the National Assembly of Bessarabia. The fullest political freedom and citizenship have already been granted to all sections of the population, whose racial aspirations it would be absolutely impossible to satisfy. The Near East has already published some particulars of the organisation of the schools in Bessarabia, according to the principle of nationality.

—and the Banat.

It is announced that the Roumanians and the Serbs have arrived at a compromise on the question of the Banat. The southern part of the province, where the Serbians are more numerous, has been ceded to Serbia, while the rest goes to Roumania. It is to be hoped that this adjustment of frontiers in the Near East will serve to draw the nations concerned more closely together, and will be a step towards a single economic unit, the only guarantee for their freedom and progress.

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AGRARIAN REFORM IN ROUMANIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

A new agrarian law had been passed almost without any dissentients by the Roumanian Parliament (*i.e.*, the Chamber sitting at Jassy in 1916) under the Coalition Ministry. These measures proved abortive, for there supervened the German occupation and the Marghiloman Ministry. The new Bratiano Government urged the enforcement of this law, and the King, by a decree of December 27, 1918, has put the law into operation, subject to ratification by a new Parliament, to be elected by universal suffrage. The provisions may be briefly summarised:—

The following categories of land are to be expropriated in their entirety, without regard to any trust under which they may be held or administered—all cultivable land belonging to the Crown Estates, to agricultural bodies (*Caisses rurales*), all public or private ecclesiastical foundations; secondly, country estates belonging to aliens; thirdly, estates belonging to absentee landlords who have for the past five years paid the double land-tax to which they are liable. Other estates are to be partially expropriated, to the extent of two million hectares* of cultivable land, in estates exceeding 100 hectares, in private hands. All this land is to be sold to working peasants.

This partial expropriation will reduce private estates to a maximum of about 500 hectares. The case had to be met of a landowner whose estates were scattered, and it is provided that he may keep on one estate the total that he may reserve, on the condition that he elect to conserve an estate which is unsuitable for division amongst the local peasants, and would only be useful to colonists from other parts. Private estates which are also petroliferous can be retained to an extent of 12,000 hectares; but the proprietor of any such estate must release an equivalent amount of cultivable ground, and in no event may he retain more than 12,000 hectares.

The purchase price is to be determined by the average prices reached locally during the five years preceding 1916 (the date of the original law), by local farm rents, by the net earnings per hectare, and similar considerations; but the sum may not in any circumstances exceed twenty years' purchase, to be ascertained by the local rentals.

Expropriation is to proceed synchronously throughout the kingdom, and detailed regulations are laid down to this end. The local commissions are to consist of the district Justice of the Peace, the owner and delegates elected by the peasants, or, in default, selected from them by the Justice of the Peace. Within one month and twenty days the title is to pass by virtue of the expropriation, and the Association of the Peasants can enter into immediate possession, unless there be an appeal pending to the Departmental Commission. This Commission will also have two peasant delegates to sit with the two landlords' nominees. A sliding scale has been drawn up of what may be reserved from compulsory expropriation, ranging from .4 hectare for estates of 105 hectares to a maximum of 500 hectares on estates of 10,000 hectares and beyond.

There is a further appeal to a Regional Commission; and this is final, save in the matter of a disputed price, which is irrevocably decided by the Court of Appeal in summary jurisdiction.

Similar procedure governs the ascertainment of the price. The landlord is to be recompensed for his improvements; the price is to be paid to private owners in 5 per cent. annuities determinable in fifty years, or in perpetual annuities to ecclesiastical bodies; and, to expedite peasant ownership, the State can contribute up to 35 per cent. of the price of expropriation.

On the delivery of the deeds, the title to the land expropriated passes to the State, free of all charges except moneys owing to the land-banks; and any legal claims that attached to the land thenceforth attach to the price paid for it; and, furthermore, all documents necessary in the process of expropriation are exempted from stamp-duty.

Roumania is now administering Bessarabia, and this law is to extend to this ex-Russian province. In Bessarabia the following estates are to be expropriated in their entirety:—Crown and State properties, land belonging to the Peasants' Bank and foreign monasteries; land belonging to the former *zemstva*, and to public and private ecclesiastical bodies; cultivable land belonging to the municipalities; land owned by foreigners; land belonging to local monasteries, save for half a hectare per monk; and land belonging to churches, save for a portion for the use of the officiating priest; furthermore, one other category, all land which has been leased out for successive periods of five years from 1905-1918—*i.e.*, held as an investment. For the rest, the regulations are much the same as for Roumania proper.

* A hectare is 2.47 acres.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, February 1.

Naval Movements.

Great interest has been aroused by the receipt of the news that a Mediterranean Fleet, including the super-Dreadnought battleships of the Iron Duke class, is to leave British ports in time to reach Malta by March 15.

The destroyers "Sendan" and "Kanran," which formed part of the Japanese squadron in Malta waters, have been returned to the British Admiralty, having been lent to the Japanese Navy. These ships have now resumed their original names "Minstrel" and Nemesis."

The U.S.A. light cruiser, "Olympia," flying the flag of Admiral Niblac, has reached Malta.

The U.S.A. submarine-chasers, thirty in number, together with the mother ship "Leonidas," have been here for some time. They are leaving for Messina, Palermo, and then proceed to Civita Vecchia, whence the crews will visit Rome, Villa Franche, and Marseilles.

H.M.H.S. "Wandilla" left Malta for Southampton on the 29th ult. Amongst the passengers were some Russian refugees.

February 10.

Malta and Palestine.

Malta is settling down to her normal state, but there are rocks ahead which threaten economic disaster. The lower classes have been in clover during the past four years, and have reaped a rich harvest from the mobilising of labour battalions, and a great increase of labour in the dockyard. Countrymen left their wooden ploughs, their bread and oil, to take up the spade, with regular daily pay and Army rations. This is over now, and, on the authority of His Excellency the Governor, 16,000 men will soon be thrown out of employment. This has revived the "hardy annual" of emigration. It may not be generally known that Malta is one of the most thickly populated portions of the world.

Many countries have been cited as being likely fields of emigration, but the last one concerns the Near East very intimately. Lord Methuen, who has ever the interests of the island at heart, has expatiated on Palestine as a suitable place. These are his own words:—"When I was in Palestine in November last I spoke to the Governor there, regarding the expediency of starting Maltese colonies in that country, and when I returned to Malta I received a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking me to interest myself in the question of emigration, and suggesting the advisability of starting colonies in Palestine and Mesopotamia. I was able to reply that I had already taken steps in regard to sending Maltese to Palestine. By a curious coincidence, Colonel Gabriel, Financial Adviser to the Governor of Palestine, spoke on the same subject; and I had made a previous engagement to see Father Lamb, Carmelite Friar, on precisely the same matter. So that we three came together with our minds in exactly the same lines. Father Lamb pointed out that he was on his way to Haifa, in order to put the Carmelite monastery there into proper repair, as it had been considerably damaged during the war. He pointed out the advantages that would ensue from establishing a colony of Maltese at Haifa. He said that the climatic conditions were the same as in Malta; that the language, being Arabic, would not present the same difficulties as it would elsewhere; that the system of cultivation was practically the same; and that the Maltese would be well received in that town. He thought that he would be able to find them land, and even be able to procure houses for them.

Malta and Lord Jellicoe.

Malta is looking forward to a call from Admiral Lord Jellicoe's fleet on his Empire tour. It is understood that the battle cruiser "New Zealand," which is to bear his flag, will first proceed to Gibraltar, and afterwards call at Malta on her way East. She may be expected to arrive towards the latter part of the month.

Following a very ancient custom, the parish priests of Malta waited on Monday last upon the Governor, at the Palace, Valletta, for the purpose of presenting candles to his Excellency on Candlemas Day. In his address, Lord Methuen intimated that it would be the last time that he would be honoured by the ancient and interesting custom.

A Persian Visitor.

The new Persian Minister at Berne, his Excellency Zohn-ed-Doulih, was with us for several days, and left again on Tuesday, the 4th inst. The Minister, accompanied by his Attaché and Private Secretary, had travelled to Malta on board one of His Majesty's ships from Constantinople, and is proceeding to Berne, to assume his new duties. On arrival here he took up his residence at the Hotel D'Angleterre, where Chevalier J. C. Camilleri, Consul for Persia, paid him a visit, the Persian Minister returning the visit shortly afterwards. During his stay the Persian Minister was also the guest of the Governor and Lady Methuen to tea and dinner at the palace.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Omar Khayyam.

The East has not yet lost its attraction for the theatre-goer, apparently. I learn from a correspondent that London is soon to be visited by a "Maid of the East," who has already made her appearance in the North of England, where she has secured many admirers. With all our men home from Egypt, Macedonia and Mesopotamia, the playwright and the scenic artist will have to mind their p's and q's rather more closely than in the past. I remember seeing Wilson Barrett's company in a play named (I think) "The Daughters of Babylon," in which Babylon was shown backed by fine mountains!

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I am not out to defend Turkey and the Turks, but it does seem to me that, however badly they have behaved, it was a cruel thing to suggest shipping numbers of Bolsheviks to Prinkipo. It would not have mattered if we were dealing only with "Young" Turks, who have shown themselves as big anarchists and robbers as the wildest followers of Lenin. And the Old Turk, whatever his faults may be, is far too good to be contaminated by forced association with the scum of Russia. He has his harem; but his treatment of woman is chivalrous to the last degree by comparison with that of the Bolsheviki. At the time of writing President Wilson's scheme seems likely to fall through—and I am glad of it.

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At a Yugoslav meeting held in New York recently, it was decided that the Peace Conference should be asked to institute a "Monroe doctrine" for the Balkans." As I understand it, the "Monroe doctrine" amounts to saying—"very loud and clear," like the gentleman in "Alice"—"hands off" to all outsiders. You announce, so to say, that you will not tolerate trespassers in your back garden, or in your neighbours'; but you do not ask your neighbours, or the man on the other side of the street, or the gentleman round the corner, to protect your property. Again, unless I am very much mistaken, the chief troubles in the Balkans in the past have come from the Balkans themselves and their squabbles—really, it is the only word to use—with one another: and how could a "Monroe doctrine" help in such case? I am afraid that the Yugoslavs in New York were not thinking very clearly when they reached the decision mentioned above.

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At one time during the siege of Kut the authorities—doubtless with a view to putting heart into the native civilian population—announced that compensation would be paid to the near relations of any Arab or other civilian killed by the enemy's fire. A scale was fixed, and in due time the system began to work. But it is hardly surprising to learn that it did not prove quite so successful as its originators hoped. The lower-class Arab of those parts regards 200 rupees as a very great deal of money, and, on the other hand, he usually sets no very high value on the wife of his bosom. At any rate, 200 rupees would be a "top price." So some of these gentlemen, in whom the business instinct was more developed than the marital affections, took steps to place their luckless wives in dangerous situations. I believe that on one occasion an Arab woman was heard to exclaim to her husband: "But I can't go there; it is dangerous, and I shall be killed!" And her mercenary spouse replied calmly: "Yes; and *I* shall get the compensation." Indeed, ribald soldier men have endeavoured to persuade me that it was quite a common sight to see husbands in considerable numbers driving their wives to "likely" spots, in the hope of "earning" compensation. Needless to say, I accept *those* yarns *cum grano salis*; but there is only too good reason to fear that the others rest on a foundation of fact; and that is why the system had to be abolished.

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This hardly shows the Arab in a very favourable light, especially with regard to his domestic affections. Yet, I am assured, and by trustworthy observers, that the system did bring out, in the queerest possible way, extraordinary devotion to the family interests on the part of some Arabs. Old men, for instance, were known to suggest that, as they were no longer any use, and were merely a burden to the family, their sons should shoot them, and, representing their deaths as due to enemy action, claim the compensation, which, in the case of men was, I believe, 400 rupees. Of course, it is impossible to defend such conduct on the part of these "untutored savages." It is on a level with the worst cases of infant insurance swindling in this country. At least, it would be if the "victim" had not been a volunteer. As it is, I can't help feeling a certain admiration for the old gentlemen.

Corsair.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

A PLEA FOR GREECE AND ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I be permitted the use of the columns of your esteemed paper to plead for the cause of Armenia and Greece.

It seems to me that of all the countries which have fought on the side of the Allies, the services rendered by the above-mentioned countries have been least appreciated. The Allied Press has been loud in its praises of Belgium and Serbia—and rightly so—for the hardships they have borne during the war, yet comparatively nothing has been said of the proportionately greater sacrifices borne by the Armenians and Greeks. It must not be lost sight of that over two million Greeks and Armenians in Turkey have been sacrificed to the Allied cause; for nobody will deny that the Armenian or Greek who was butchered by the Turk was just as much a soldier fighting for the preservation of human liberty as the English Tommy in Flanders. Yet how have these peoples been rewarded for their sacrifices? Whereas Belgians and Serbians have been freed from oppression, the Armenians and Greeks are still suffering untold misery when a slight exertion on the part of the Allies could set them free.

Is it to be believed that with well-nigh a million Allied troops in Turkey, sufficient forces could not be detached to put an end to the butchery that is going on in Armenia and Western Asia Minor? It is said that there are difficulties of transport. Is it easier to maintain troops in the Syrian Desert than it is to send a few thousand soldiers to Smyrna and maintain them? And why is Greece not permitted to send her own soldiers to protect men of her own flesh and blood in Asia Minor? Is it easier to maintain garrisons in the Caucasus than in Adana, Trebizond, and other places where there is so much human misery? Why carry on any longer this hypocrisy, which deceives no one, and not come out frankly and say that the Caucasus contains oil wells, which most of Armenia does not, and that Greece is not wanted in Smyrna.

Why are not the just and honest claims of Armenia to complete independence, of Greece to Thrace and Albania, Smyrna and its hinterland, the Dodecanese, and Cyprus recognised by Allied statesmen without quibbling and hair-splitting refinements? Or has victory blinded us to our war-time professions and pledges with regard to the right of peoples to self-determination?—I am, etc.

BARKIE D. BAIRAM.

London, February 24, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As a constant reader of THE NEAR EAST ever since its appearance, I was truly pained to see in your last issue in the "Notes of the Week" your remarks regarding Cyprus.

Nobody denies, and least of all the Greek population of the island, how beneficent has been the British rule for over forty years, and the gratitude of the islanders has been loud and sincere to this day. Your objection to the island reverting to Greece is that there is not another Venizelos among its local politicians. Strange logic! Was there another Venizelos in the other islands incorporated into the Greek Kingdom after the Balkan war? I mean Mitylene, Chios, Lemnos, Samos, etc. And yet there has not been even a whisper of dissatisfaction since those islands joined the Motherland—Greece.

The local politicians are not likely to interfere with the administration and frustrate the patriotic policy of the great Greek statesman. The Greek State, as all civilized States, cannot depend upon one man, however eminent that man may be, and M. Venizelos would be the first to admit that no man is indispensable. His great policy will be followed by others—let the date be far distant!—who collaborated with him during these last eventful years. England has not suffered much by the passing of such great figures as Canning, Beaconsfield, and Gladstone in the last century; and the same thing must be expected in Greece or any other country as time goes by.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE A. BURLUMI.

74, Great Tower Street, London, February 24.

FOR NEEDY ARMENIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Now that the war is happily a thing of the past there must be many needlework guilds and depots overstocked with clothing for the sick and wounded and prisoners of war which is no longer required. May I put in a public appeal to those in authority to send us anything they can spare—men's, women's, children's garments—for our needy compatriots in Armenia and elsewhere? The distress is great, appalling, and our guild is only a small one; therefore, unless our British sympathisers help us, the garments which we are able to send out from our own guild would be a mere drop in the ocean for the hundreds of thousands of Armenians who are unable to buy any articles of clothing for themselves.

Through the kind appeal of Miss Emily Robinson, the founder of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, we gratefully received recently a large consignment of goods from her Majesty Queen Mary's Needlework Guild. The Australian Red Cross Society have also kindly offered us whatever they can spare from their clothing depot. May I hope that other guilds, societies, and private working associations will follow this fine example of graciousness and kindly sympathy for those in distress? Many Armenian mothers' dearly loved British-born sons have laid down their lives for King and country. I feel sure that it will be a great consolation to the broken-hearted mothers should my appeal on behalf of our sorely tried people meet with a generous response.—I am, etc.,

(Miss) PAULINE AGANOOR, Hon. Sec.,
The Armenian Ladies' Guild of London.

47A, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.10.

ROUMANIAN FOLK POETRY.

Lecturing at King's College (on February 18), Mr. M. Beza said that about the middle of the nineteenth century, when Roumanian literature was living more or less upon imitations and exotics, the poet Alexandri published a collection of folk poems. These came as a revelation alike to intellectuals and to the general public, not only of a new and unsuspected charm in the vernacular, but also of an unusual kind of subject matter: taking the reader out of everyday life to a world fitly opened by one of the ballads—"Away, brother, away, but not too far away." They took one to the plains and hills, where memories of bygone times still lingered, where still remained the old type of *boyar*, who could sing, "I will drink to the elms, the giants of the heights; for they are ready to respond and wave in the air with a cheery rustle of the leaves." What impressed the public most in these ballads was the rare quality of expressing in a few spontaneous words a feeling or thought of great depth and beauty, "You asked for a violet; I gave you my heart."

Proceeding to compare the Roumanian folk poetry with that of other Balkan peoples, Mr. Beza said it was a mistake to consider these peoples separately and apart from one another without regard to their mutual ties. He compared several Roumanian legends and ballads with parallel legends and ballads from other Balkan communities. Among these was the legend of the Argesh Monastery. According to the story, when this beautiful building was being erected the work done in the day crumbled in the night. At length the master builder, Manoli, was warned in a dream that this would continue until a human being was built up in the walls. Manoli told the other masons, and, with them, agreed that the first woman who came to the building should be sacrificed in this manner. As it happened, this was his own wife. He saw her approaching from afar off, and prayed for heavy rain to stop her. The rain fell, but she came on. Then he prayed for wind, but with no better result; she arrived at the monastery and was walled up alive. A similar story, said Mr. Beza, was told among Albanians, Bulgars, Greeks, and Vlachs, varying from people to people, and being told of different churches, bridges, and so forth. All the various forms of the legend had sprung from a common source—the primeval custom of sacrificing a human being at the foundation of an important building. There existed to this day a superstition on the subject. You were warned to be careful lest anyone took your shadow for the purpose, i.e., measured it with a reed or string; for, after this, you died and became the protecting ghost of the building. The Turkish invasion had been responsible for many ballads, notably those centring around the *haiduks*, who were the popular champions against the oppressor. Another cycle of ballads was pastoral in character, and one of these, Mr. Beza thought, was a later form of the old myth of Venus and Adonis. In the purely lyrical songs, one might notice that Turkish influence on life and manners had been less in Roumania than in the countries south of the Danube. There was a great capacity for joy retained by the Roumanian peasant even in his utmost wretchedness, and the freer intercourse between men and women found vent in songs of a more distinctly passionate character. A notable feature of the Roumanian songs was their being usually introduced by a reference to a green leaf, and in the genuine folk poems this leaf was usually one appropriate to the particular emotion sought to be aroused.

Of the folk songs of the Balkans generally, Mr. Beza said they afforded an insight into the life of the Balkan peoples as a whole. The traditions, manners and beliefs of these peoples had so much in common that he was sure that if instead of being pushed against one another as had been the case in the past—they were guided along the pathway of toleration and mutual goodwill, they would find in their own popular wisdom the means to live in harmony.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

February 20.

Condition of Asiatic Turkey.

Viscount BRYCE asked whether the Government could give some information as to the present condition of the Asiatic provinces of the Turkish Empire and the measures taken by the Allied Governments for the protection of the unarmed Christian population. The disbanded Turkish troops had scattered themselves over the country, and the Christian populations were at their mercy. He urged that steps should be taken to send as many Allied troops as could be spared to occupy a few important points. He hoped that they would look with full sympathy to the efforts an ancient race were making to re-establish their national life, and that British influence would always be exerted on behalf of freedom and peace.

Earl CURZON said that for fifty years at least the cruel and tragic sufferings of the Armenian people had never failed to evoke not merely expressions of sympathy but active assistance in this country. The Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire were not an inconsiderable part of the world's surface, but he was more concerned with what was passing in the areas over which the military and political influence of the Allied Powers had not extended or had only imperfectly extended. In Mesopotamia the British had been securely established for over two years. The advance that had been made in that time in the development of the country in respect of irrigation, agriculture, planting, the introduction of agricultural machinery, and the education of the children had been amazing. He could not imagine a more proud experience for any Englishman than to go out to Mesopotamia and see what had been done there. A distinguished American who had recently visited that part of the world said of Mesopotamia: "The work accomplished by the British since their occupation has been excellent in all respects. The population are free and happy, justice is administered, life and property are secure." Somewhat similar conditions applied to Syria and Palestine. With regard to the outlying portions of the Turkish Empire, he repeated what he had already said, that the areas which had been occupied by the Allied forces were not to be returned, but he did not wish to prejudge decisions which might be come to at the Peace Conference with regard to other areas. The Committee of Union and Progress was still in existence, concealing from the people the reality of defeat and acting as if Turkey remained the conquering Power. Simultaneously there was the difficulty of formidable armed bands engaged in many parts in wholesale brigandage. It was not possible for us to move very great bodies of troops, but within the limits of possible action a good deal had been done. Again, the position which we occupied at Constantinople enabled us to exercise a continuous pressure upon the capital. With regard to the Armenians and those unhappy bands who had been driven out of their country, who seemed destined to be the most fugitive races of mankind, there were at this moment in Syria and Palestine over 40,000, and in Silesia several thousands. All these were being cared for as far as possible. In Mesopotamia there were 40,000 refugees being fed at British expense, and in Transcaucasia there were about 45,000. In other words, there was a total of something like 150,000 destitute Armenians who were being kept from starvation by the efforts of this country. Perhaps there was more shadow than light in the picture he had drawn, but we had no reason to be dissatisfied with the part we had played in this work. Officers, soldiers, and civilians were not merely carrying on the necessary duties of military conquest, but were engaged in the additional task of charity and of mercy.

Lord Sinha.

February 25.

Lord Sinha, Under-Secretary for India, took the oath and his seat on his elevation to the peerage. He was introduced by Lord Islington and Lord Carmichael.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Ceylon (Self-Government).

Feb. 19.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any scheme is in preparation for extending more self-government to Ceylon on the lines of the reforms proposed in India?

Colonel AMERY: The question of the constitution of Ceylon is engaging the attention of the Governor, who will submit to the Secretary of State in due course his recommendations in the matter.

Army Officers, Mesopotamia.

Lieutenant-Colonel HERBERT asked the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that junior officers from England have superseded senior officers in Mesopotamia; and can he give any reason for this procedure?

Captain GUEST: I am afraid it is not possible to answer a general question of this nature, but if my hon. and gallant friend will furnish me with particulars of any cases he has in mind, I shall be happy to have inquiries made.

The Egyptian Bar.

Feb. 20.

Mr. HOGGE asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the mixed Court of Appeal of the mixed tribunals of Egypt has forbidden, without a hearing, an English barrister in Egypt to have chambers in two places; and whether he has any statement to make on the subject?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: A complaint to this effect has been received from a barrister practising in Egypt and has been referred to his Majesty's High Commissioner in Cairo for a report.

Passages from India.

Mr. BENNETT asked the Secretary of State for India if his attention has been directed to a telegram from Delhi stating that the Government of India have urged in the most emphatic manner the difficulties in the way of procuring homeward passages and the exorbitancy of the rates of passage; that the local governments and the chambers of commerce have made forcible representations to the Government of India on the subject, and that public indignation prevails; and whether, in view of the urgent nature of the problem, he will endeavour by all means in his power to hasten a solution of it?

Mr. MONTAGU: I fully realise the difficulty and urgency of the question. The rates have been fixed by the Ministry of Shipping, which is also responsible for the provision of accommodation. For more than two months I have been impressing on the Ministry the serious position of Europeans in India who, after years of tropical conditions, have as yet been unable to procure passages home; and in my communications with the Ministry I have done all I could to reinforce the urgent representations made by the Government of India.

Our Troops in the Dobruja.

Captain GUEST, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, answering questions put by Major NEWMAN, said:—The Roumanians have assumed the task of administering the territory over which they exercised sovereign rights under the Treaty of 1912, and which was wrested from them in 1916 by the Bulgarians and Germans. The British troops are kept in the Dobruja at the urgent request of our Allies. They are solely concerned with the maintenance of order, and are not in any way interfering with the political rights or religious beliefs of the inhabitants.

A "Patriot"?

Feb. 24.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian patriot, Lajpat Rai, may yet be permitted to return from America to this country.

Mr. G. TERRELL: Before the right hon. gentleman answers, may I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether it is quite in order to describe a person of doubtful character as an Indian patriot in a question?

Sir H. CRAIK: And may I ask, Sir, whether it is not the case that the person whose name is in the question was deported for seditious and treacherous conduct in India?

The SPEAKER: I don't know anything of this. Everybody calls himself a patriot in these days.

Mr. FISHER, President of the Board of Education, who said he had been asked to answer the question on the paper, replied:—The answer is in the negative. If my hon. friend will repeat his question on the signature of peace, the Secretary of State will be glad to consider the matter further.

Indian Army Pay.

Mr. FISHER, in reply to Colonel YATE, said:—The Government of India have decided to increase the pay of British officers of the Indian Army by extending to them the bonus increases of pay recently granted to officers of the British Regular Army for the period during which armies of occupation will be maintained. In view of this concession, the Government of India do not propose at present to revise the permanent rates of pay.

Indian Arms Act.

Replying to Colonel WEDGWOOD, who asked whether the regulations under the Arms Act have yet been discontinued in India, Mr. FISHER said:—The Government of India are about to issue revised regulations, based on the recommendations of a committee of official and non-official members of the Imperial Legislative Council. The new regulations will abolish all distinctions of a racial character, and will enable persons of recognised status and character to obtain licences.

The Dobruja.

Feb. 25.

Major NEWMAN asked whether it was a fact that in Southern Dobruja all Bulgar school teachers and priests were being turned out by the Roumanian authorities and Bulgar libraries and books being burnt; what form of local autonomy, if any, the population was to be allowed to enjoy by its conquerors: to what nationality and religious faith the mass of the inhabitants of Southern Dobruja belonged; whether the town of Kavarna consisted of 4,000 inhabitants, of whom the Bulgars numbered 2,500, Turks 1,350, Greeks 150, and no Roumanians; and why Southern Dobruja had been handed over to Roumania without the knowledge or consent of the Peace Conference and against the wish of its population?

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: The district referred to by the hon. and gallant member is in the occupation of British troops, and I cannot accept as correct his description of the situation prevailing there. The Peace Conference is now concerned with the settlement of the problems of South-Eastern Europe, and I therefore regret that I am unable to make any further statement on this subject at present.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report.

Demobilisation: Troops in India and the Far East (February 18).

Officer Prisoners in Turkey (February 18).

Ex-prisoners of War, Salonika (February 18).

India: Lord Southborough's Inquiries.—Arms Act (Regulations).—Lajpat Rai (February 18).

India: Officers' Pensions.—Rice (Freight Rate) (Febraury 19).

Provincial Governments.—Police (Pay) (February 19).

Salonika and Egyptian Expeditionary Forces (February 19).

Dobruja (Bulgarian Population) (February 20).

India: North West Frontier Troops.—Military Barracks.—Bishopric (Appointment) (February 20).

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ROMA REDIVIVA.*

A little two-shilling volume of very big account. Our sea writers are only too few; the prophet of them all is the master who wrote—

"Mines reported in the fairway"

and closed the poem thus:—

"Send back Unity, Claribel, Assyrian, Stormcock, and Golden Gain."

Not a very long way after the national service of Rudyard Kipling comes the national service of our present naval enthusiast, Archibald Hurd. Here he has endeavoured to explain to England the naval genius of Italy as evidenced in this war. The average Englishman forgets how military Rome conquered naval Carthage and naval Greece, and how mediæval Venice and Genoa again mastered the Mediterranean and rediscovered America. This little volume is, of course, very imperfect, as our brilliant author would be the first to admit; but we are delighted with its unexpected excellence.

The secret of Rome's power was that she made herself the half-way house. The secret of modern Italy—her resurrection—is that she has learned at long last to embrace within her millenium-old bosom the three great races of the West, the Nordic, the Alpine, and the Mediterranean. In Milan these amalgamate and impose their fusion. The mechanic of modern Italy is second to none of the victors of this war; if you will read the "1915" discoveries of Signor Tittoni, Italian Ambassador in Paris, you will realise why Italy joined the Triple Alliance and why she saved France by flouting that alliance—that is to say, you will rediscover the statesmanship of Macchiavelli and Cicero. If you will read this, our author's little prose-poem, you will appreciate how and why the naval and therefore military power of Austria-Hungary is "napoo." It is a fine tribute to a noble effort.

THE OLDEST ROAD IN THE WORLD.†

Monarchs and cranks have essayed it, the oldest road in the world. Sennacherib, who flung cats over the battlements of Memphis, was quite a modern theorist; it was beloved of Ishmael; Alexander, Cæsar and Napoleon thirsted along it; it is so old and so long that it leads to and from the East and the West, the opium fields of China and the bone-dry prairies of the United States, from fanaticism to science, from Mrs. Eddy to Mohammed from Armageddon to the Freedom of the Seas, and back again, but—we are immensely grateful to our author that it also leads from Ferry Post to Ismailia and from Solloum to the gates of Gaza.

Of the multiplicative library of Egypt we have read our share, and still hope that some day an Alexandrian cotton merchant may quench the thirst of a perspiring world by giving us a book on something besides cotton. Meanwhile we have here the work of an English architect, temporarily transformed into a British Army sanitary officer, picturing for us with pen, pencil and camera the realities and abnormalities of the oldest road in the world, of the long-awaited handshake between East and West—so bright a book on Egypt that only the brightest casualty could have fashioned it. Our author had never seen Egypt before the spring of 1916, but he has made wonderful value out of nearly two years of peregrination and observation. It is the mentality of the Florentine artisan, the inborn eye for detail, the subtle subjectivity of the craftsman, and the guild chain of simplicity, which make this volume so engaging. We suggest, much no doubt to the astonishment of our author, that the hoariest and most satiated of Anglo-Egyptians, or Franko-Egyptians for that matter, will find here corners of Egypt which his way by the Nile never permitted him to see or penetrate. We have searched for a typical quotation: here is one which hardly Mascagni, Forbes-Robertson, or President Wilson could have composed singly, or together—on the Egyptian Labour Corps:—

"They are just like children in all their ways: they squabble and laugh and weep; they dress themselves up in ridiculous clothes; they walk hand in hand like sentimental schoolgirls; they splash each other when they bathe. But whatever they are doing, they sing. They sing as they draw the heavy ferry-boat across the canal by means of a chain; they sing as they dig or carry great weights; they sing as they go to work, and after dark as they prepare for sleep. When at last they leave the Army for their homes, they sing and cheer more loudly than ever as they cross the desert in railway-trucks, waving flags made of any old bits of fabric they can find.

"It is difficult to describe their curious wailing music, usually in a minor key. Rythmical hand-clapping always accompanies the song, which is antiphonal. Some gifted *waled* sings the first line, and the remainder supply the chorus for the second line. Then the first singer improvises a third line, followed again by the chorus, and so on alternately. The improvised portion of the song is topical, and is suggested by the whim of the singer. He may speculate as to the time that their present work will last; as to the food they will get for their next meal, the personality of their commanding officer, the greed of the *raïs* for *backsheesh*; or he may expatiate on the delights of his native village and its damsels. But the chorus is usually one of these two refrains: '*Kàm lil'o kàm yum*' ('How many nights and how many days'), or '*Yà habèbe sàlamàt*' (Oh, sweetheart, my greetings)."

So page after page is splashed with that indefinable pulsing charm, which is admittedly the immemorial legacy of the desert and the Nile; and, what with the background of the war as waged by the triumphant but thirsty E.E.F., the oldest road in the world, and literature and history and architecture, to say nothing of sanitation, we here readily confess that our author's artistic secret is his very own. The Army will welcome this scintillating contribution to the record of its sufferings and its swearings, and the lay reader will find in it a mine of accurate information and gay story-telling, as by a singer of the charms of his new mistress.

* "Italian Sea Power and the Great War." By Archibald Hurd. (Constable and Co. London, 2s. net.)

† "Through Egypt in War Time." By Martin S. Briggs. Illustrated. (T. Fisher Unwin. 21s. net.)

INDIAN INSTITUTIONS.

On Monday, at University College, London, Sir J. D. Rees described the district of Madura, where he for long resided. He said the ordinary natives there were strong, wiry and, though a little fine-drawn in appearance, he did not believe they suffered from want of food. The idea, for which Sir William Hunter was so largely responsible, that the majority of the inhabitants of India never knew what it was to satisfy their hunger, was contrary to the fact. The word "famine" also was far too readily used. A failure of crops did not now result in a large mortality; because, owing to the development of roads, railways, steamships and other means of transport, the surplus of one district was brought in to relieve another. Besides this, the Indian Government had evolved a most satisfactory system of famine relief.

Of caste, Sir John Rees said the institution was monumentally misunderstood in this country. In Madura the Brahman, had not very much influence social or religious, but he (the speaker) had lived in districts where members of certain low castes were not allowed to come within twenty yards of a Brahman, and had to shout as they walked through the fields lest a Brahman should unwittingly come near them. Yet he had not seen that the members of these castes wanted to upset the caste system.

In a discussion that followed Mr. G. K. Devadhar said that he had lived in parts of India where the people could not get more than one meal a day. He had had experience of four or five famine campaigns, and it was correct to say that the Government had elaborate machinery ready to save life at such times; but the low standard of vitality caused the people to fall a ready prey to epidemics such as plague, cholera or the influenza, which had recently carried off three million victims.

Lord Sinha (who presided) said that while, he thought, some were too ready to insist on the poverty of the people of India, others inclined to belittle it. He thought the best course was to seek a remedy for such poverty as did undoubtedly exist. As to caste, he was in agreement with Sir John Rees. There was no greater fallacy than the notion current in England that the higher castes in India oppressed the lower ones. He had himself been largely brought up by a woman of very low caste. When he was fractious and rebellious his mother would send him to this woman, and he would spend the day with her goats, pigs and chickens. A Brahman was not necessarily a priest, any more than in England Mr. Taylor was a maker of clothes. Tens of thousands of them were cooks in the families of people who did not belong to the higher castes.

INDIA AND WAR GRATUITIES.

The Secretary of State for India announces, with reference to the publication of an Army Order on the subject of war gratuities for Regular officers of the British Army, that he is in communication with the Government of India regarding the grant of war gratuities to Regular officers of the Indian Army and Royal Indian Marine and hopes to publish shortly his decision on the matter.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. February 28	1919. February. 15	Friday	1337. Jumada I. 27	5679. Adar I. 28
March 1	16	Saturday.....	28	29
2	17	Sunday	29	30
			Jumada II.	Adar II.
3	18	Monday	1	1
4	19	Tuesday	2	2
5	20	Wednesday	3	3
6	21	Thursday	4	4

Lord Lamington has left London for Lamington, Lanarkshire.

Mrs. Bertram Romilly is leaving for Egypt to join Colonel Romilly.

The funeral of Sir Mark Sykes took place at Sledmere, near Maldon, on Tuesday.

On February 2, at Khartoum, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Job.

The wife of Viscount Broome, only son of the present Earl Kitchener, gave birth to a son and heir on Monday.

Sir Charles Marling and Lady Marling had the honour of being received by the Queen on Tuesday afternoon.

Sir Edward Maclagan was received by the King on Wednesday, upon his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

On February 22, at Pocklington, Yorkshire, a son was born to Brigadier-General G. E. Bayley, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Mrs. Bayley.

Mr. Robert S. Hunter, vice-chairman of the Bristol Merchants' Morocco Association, accompanied by his daughter, is now on a visit to Morocco.

The King has conferred upon M. Jean Gennadius, the honorary Greek Minister to the Court of St. James, the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order.

Brigadier-General Sir Percy Molesworth Sykes, K.C.I.E., Inspector-General South Persia Rifles, is at present on a visit to this country, on leave.

Major R. J. Archibald, D.S.O., pathologist at the Wellcome Research Laboratories, left Khartoum on February 3 for Cairo and England, on leave of absence.

Major-General W. H. Greenly, Chief of the Military Mission to Roumania, had the honour of being received by the King, at Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday.

Lord Inchcape has been confined to his room since Saturday suffering from a rather severe attack of influenza. He hopes to be about again next Monday or Tuesday.

The Maharajah of Bikaner and party and Colonel Sir James Dunlop Smith, who have been in Paris since the commencement of the Peace Conference, arrived in London on Monday night.

On January 15, at Roorkhee, U.P., India, the marriage took place of Major Cyril N. Steel, 141st Bikanir Infantry, and Evelyn Blanche, youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Candle, of Henfield, Sussex, and Assam.

On February 19, at the Church of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells, Captain T. G. Spinney, British Vice-Consul at Mazagan, Morocco, was married to Elizabeth Mary, daughter of the late Commander George Campbell, R.N.

Lady Chelmsford and the Hon. Bridget Thesiger had the honour of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties at Buckingham Palace last Friday. Lady Chelmsford was afterwards invested by the King with the insignia of a Dame Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

On February 19, at St. Luke's Church, West Holloway, the marriage took place of Alexander Robert Turing Gibbon, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gibbon, of Wattegama, Ceylon, and Kathleen Minnie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Boulton Truby, of 73, Upper Tollington Park, Stroud Green.

A marriage has been arranged, and will (D.V.) take place early in March, between Dr. G. Wheldale Stanley, M.C., of the Church Missionary Society, Mosul, Mesopotamia, second son of Mr. George Wilson Stanley, The Beeches, Ashburton Road, Croydon, late of Dalkey, Co. Dublin, and Miss C. Aileen Gardner, elder daughter of Mr. Frank Simpson Gardner, Heddon, Albemarle Road, Beckenham.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain F. H. L. Strange, R.E., eldest son of Mr. W. L. Strange (late Indian P.W.D.) and Mrs. Strange, Laracor, Mill Road, Worthing, and Grace Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. S. Wilson, Friars Hall, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

The marriage of Lieutenant Niels Christian Gude, 21st Indian Cavalry, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Gude, of Trondhjem, Norway, and Miss Eileen Frances Lane, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. T. Lane, of Patiala, India, will take place, leave permitting, at Patiala on Saturday, March 8.

On February 19, at the Cathedral, Glasgow, the marriage took place of Lieut.-Colonel George Ramsay Maitland, D.S.O., 14th Jat Lancers, younger son of Sir John Nisbet Maitland, Bart., and Jean Hamilton, only surviving daughter of Robert Findlay, Cathkin, Rutherglen.

On February 7, at Wadby Road United Free Church, Bombay, the marriage took place of Arthur Allen Waugh, I.C.S., Meerut, United Provinces, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Percival Waugh, 21, Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, and Effie May, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. McEwan, of Eglinton Drive, Glasgow.

Under date of February 19, Reuter's Malta correspondent reports:—It is understood that Lord Methuen, the Governor of Malta, is leaving for England at the beginning of March on a three-months' leave, which expires on May 31, and that he will not return to Malta after this period, the Governorship thus becoming vacant on June 1.

Lord Willingdon was invested by the King with the insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India, and of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire, on February 19. On the same day Lady Willingdon was invested by the King with the insignia of a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Lord and Lady Willingdon had the honour of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties.

Lewa R. S. Wilson Pasha, Governor of Nuba Mountains Province, who is retiring from the Sudan Government Service, left Khartoum on February 3. An official farewell was accorded him, and many high officers and officials were present at the station to bid him good-bye. Wilson Pasha joined the Egyptian Army in 1903, and had been Junior Inspector and Senior Inspector, Kindfar Province, before being appointed Acting-Governor and, later, Governor of Nuba Mountains.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Mr. T. Emerson, C.I.E., has been appointed an additional member of the Imperial Legislative Council, in place of Mr. Monahan, resigned.

The *Pioneer* announces that it is understood that Sir Henry Richards, K.B.E., Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, will retire in April next.

Mr. Reginald Edward Stubbs, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, has been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong, in succession to Sir Francis May.

The following Memoranda are from the *London Gazette* of February 25:—

Lieutenant-General Sir F. J. Aylmer, V.C., K.C.B., retires on an Indian pension. January 8, 1919.

Colonel R. T. J. Ridgway, C.B., Indian Army, to be temporary brigadier-general whilst a brigade commander in India. February 1, 1919.

OBITUARY.

THE AMEER OF AFGHANISTAN.

A statement issued by the Press Bureau on Monday announced that news had been received from Kabul of the death of the Ameer of Afghanistan on February 20. From later reports it appears that the Ameer was in camp in the Laghman Valley, about forty miles from Kabul, and that while he was asleep two men entered his tent, shot him and stabbed him, and then succeeded in making good their escape. The funeral took place in the evening of the same day.

His Highness the Ameer Habib Ullah Khan, G.C.B., C.C.M.G., was the son of the former Ameer, Abdur Rahman, and was born at Samarkand in 1872, his mother being a daughter of the Mir of Badakshan. He succeeded to the throne in 1901, on the death of his father, and his rule was extremely successful upon the whole. At first he manifested a certain desire for independence in his dealings with the Indian Government, and his reception of Sir Louis Dane's mission was not entirely satisfactory. After he visited India, however, in 1907 his views underwent a change, and he became a sincere admirer of our rule and government, and apparently an equally sincere friend of the British. His friendship and his powers as a ruler were both put to a severe test by the war; for it is notorious that Germany had built high hopes on a rising in Afghanistan, and that she and her Turkish ally both worked hard to corrupt the Afghans and to incite them to a

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jehad against the British. They found plenty of favourable soil to work on; but the Ameer stood loyal to us, and, thanks to his tact and firmness, was able to save his country from committing the folly into which our enemies would have thrust her. If only on that ground he would deserve our gratitude as well as that of his own people, and the admiration due to his success in keeping the control of events in his own hands. But as a matter of fact, he showed himself consistently a capable ruler; and those who had a chance of judging declare that he was an honourable and excellently-intentioned man. Certainly he was extremely gifted in many ways: he was progressive, a good linguist, an excellent shot, musical, and a speaker of some parts. To friends he was genial, and socially he was quite a success during his visit to India. He was, of course, a Moslem and was very strict in observing the teachings of the Prophet, especially that regarding the avoidance of alcohol. His loss, it is to be feared, will prove a severe one both for Afghanistan and Great Britain.

Rev. Walter Clayton, Rector of Oborne, Sherborne, died on Friday. He was for many years at Masulipatam, Southern India.

Julie, Princess of Arenberg, widow of Prince Karl of Arenberg, and widow by her first marriage of Prince Michael Obrenovitch of Serbia, has died at Vienna, at the age of eighty-eight.

Lady Molesworth, the wife of Sir Guilford Molesworth, K.C.I.E., died on Saturday at The Manor House, Bexley. She was the daughter of Mr. John Thomas Bridges, of Walmer, and was married to Sir Guilford in 1854.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Wilson Petrie died at his residence, Bois Hall, Addlestone, Surrey, on Saturday. He was given his lieutenant-colonelcy for his work with the Sind Volunteers in India, where he was associated with Messrs. Ralli Brothers.

Colonel William Henry Wilson, who died at Petersfield on the 22nd inst., in his eightieth year, was for five years Commissioner of Police for the Town and Island of Bombay. He served in the Indian Mutiny campaign, taking part in the operations against Dessaies in the North Canara and Bedee Districts.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Macleod, C.I.E., late of Lalserich, Chumparun, India, has died at Oban in his seventy-eighth year. He was formerly engaged as an indigo planter in Tirhoot, and had been major and honorary lieutenant-colonel of the Bihar Light Horse and honorary aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Lotfy Effendi Abdalla Semaika died last week in London. He was the eldest son of Abdalla Bey Semaika, Legal Adviser to the Egyptian State Railways, and a nephew of Marcos Pasha Semaika, of Cairo. He came to this country about two years ago, and joined St. Bartholomew's Hospital as a medical student. The funeral took place at Paddington Cemetery, Kilburn, last Friday afternoon.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Bengal lawn tennis championship has again been won by the Japanese player Z. Shimidzu.

Snow began to fall in Simla on January 18, and twenty-one inches were recorded in twenty-four hours.

During the week ended January 11 the mortality from plague in India was 1,964 seizures and 1,460 deaths.

A deputation of the Indian National Congress will shortly visit England in connection with the reform scheme.

It is officially stated that there is no truth in the statement that the Duke of Connaught is going shortly to Egypt.

The British military authorities have made several arrests in connection with the ill treatment of Kut prisoners of war.

At the funeral of Mr. Alexander Finn, of Richmond, who was for over forty years in the Consular Service, earth from Jerusalem, where Mr. Finn was born, was sprinkled on the coffin.

It is reported that the Galician and Ukrainian prisoners of war in Italy, to the number of 100,000, are being formed into divisions and sent, via Odessa, to join the Ukrainian Army.

The Postmaster-General announces that the despatch of the overland Indian mail this week has been cancelled, as the ship which would have conveyed it has been damaged in collision. The next mail will now leave on March 6.

Sir James Meston will present the financial statement to the Imperial Legislative Council on March 1, and the discussion on it will take place from 7th to the 12th. The Budget will be present to the Council in final form on March 21.

The statement that it has been decided that the appointment of Governor of Malta shall be filled in the near future by a senior officer of the Royal Navy instead of a general officer of the Army as heretofore is officially described as being without foundation.

About forty members of the First Fourth Hampshire Regiment, who were taken prisoners at the fall of Kut and have recently been repatriated, were given a public welcome in Winchester on Thursday last week, the men and their friends being given dinner, tea, and an entertainment.

According to Turkish official returns, the total losses of the Ottoman Army from the beginning of the war to the end of 1918 are as follows:—Killed and died of wounds or diseases, 5,550 officers, 431,424 men; wounded, officers and men, 407,772; prisoners and missing, 3,030 officers, 199,701 men.

Under date of February 3 the Delhi correspondent of *The Times* reports:—A widespread agitation, frequently characterized by violent language and gross misrepresentation, has been set on foot against the Rowlatt Bills. The passive resistance proposal, which was mooted during the war, has been revived in some quarters.

M. Angelesco, Roumanian Minister of Education, and President of the War Damages Commission, has forwarded to M. Bratiano, the Premier, a memorandum, in which he estimates the damage suffered by Roumania at the hands of the Central Powers at twenty-eight and a-half milliards of francs, and at the hands of Russia at four milliards of francs.

The Bhavnagar correspondent of the *Times of India* says that the postal sorters of the division, numbering about 200, recently sent a telegram separately to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs at Simla and the Deputy-General Postmaster, Poona, requesting them to take into consideration the question of the revision of grades and the grain allowance.

The Egyptian Association of Paris has sent to the President of the Peace Conference a letter protesting against the absence of Egyptian delegates from the Conference which will decide the fate of their country "occupied since 1882 by a British Army in violation of all international guarantees, and of the pledges of numerous English statesmen to leave the people of Egypt free to enjoy their legitimate independence."

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent reports (February 18).—According to the newspapers Ismail Hakki Pasha, the head of the Commissariat Department of the Ministry of War during the tenure of office of Enver Pasha, has been sentenced by court-martial to one year's detention in a fortress, confiscation of his property, and dismissal from the Army on account of his shameful speculations at the expense of the Army and the public.

Abdullah Yusuf Ali, lecturing last week at Bedford College on "Indian Education," said that elementary education was quite out of touch with the life of the people, and would require to be built up anew, based on the needs of the agricultural and working classes. The middle classes were better educated than those in some of the advanced countries of the world. As regarded the percentage of University students, India suffered little by comparison with England or Wales, and was greatly ahead of Japan.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1919.

THE DEATH OF THE AMEER.

The assassination of the Ameer of Afghanistan is an unwelcome reminder that the unrest fomented in Central Asia as well as nearer home by the war has not yet subsided, but in the absence of further information we have no means of knowing whether the crime is of purely local significance or whether its origin is traceable outside Afghanistan. It is certain that in the death of Habib Ullah Khan Great Britain has lost a loyal supporter, who proved his friendship during a critical period. Afghanistan was pledged by treaty to observe neutrality; but it required the exercise of all the Ameer's authority to restrain from time to time some of his subjects from kicking over the traces. The Afghans are Moslems and also a fighting race, and if they were persuaded that the faith of Islam was threatened, it would require more than treaty obligations to keep them neutral. The circumstances of the struggle in which Turkey and Great Britain were ranged on opposite sides compelled the Afghans to consider whether it had to be regarded as a religious war. Thanks, probably to the unequivocal attitude of the Ameer, it was resolved at a general meeting of the Ulemas that there was no call upon Afghanistan to embrace the cause of Turkey. The decision was helped by the fact that the Afghans have no high opinion of the religion of Young Turkey, whose leaders are regarded as indifferent followers of the Prophet, if not actually apostates. Nevertheless, the fighting instinct of the Afghan was sorely tried by Turco-German intrigue, and a weaker or less loyal ruler at Kabul might have been tempted to court popularity at home by relaxing the strict hold that he maintained on his subjects. A German mission, it will be remembered, reached Kabul and remained several months in the country. Its object was by bribes and promises to induce the Ameer to prove false to Great Britain and to raise a *jehad*, which must have seriously embarrassed the India Government. The mission met its match in Habib Ullah Khan, for not only did it fail to shake his loyalty, but by his discreet handling of it he seems to have contrived to make the members "lose face" even among those who were inclined to accept their arguments with their largesse. In all probability, however, there would remain a pro-German party in Afghanistan, who would seek to discount the shortcomings of the Young Turks as Moslems by insisting upon the Sultan's position as Khalif.

Only a few weeks ago negotiations were reported to have been opened at Kabul between the Ameer of Afghanistan and representatives of the Emir of Bokhara and various petty Khans of Central Asia. The object in view was supposed to be the establishment of a league of the Mohammedan rulers of this part of the world. From the fact that the Emir of Bokhara was to receive help from Kabul in the reorganisation of his army and territory, it was to be inferred that the Ameer was the leading spirit in the movement, which at first sight would be expected to commend itself to Moslem opinion. On the other hand, if the Central Asian league was meant to be an effective counter to Turkey's Pan-Turanian ambitions, there would be a further reason why the Turco-German party in Afghanistan should regard the Ameer as the main obstacle to the attainment of their ends. Habib Ullah Khan's "advanced" tendencies must always have created mistrust in the minds of the more fanatical of his subjects. His partiality for the conveniences of European civilisation, ranging from motor-cars to doctors, would be interpreted as a falling away from grace, while the introduction of numerous modern industries will have afforded a standing incentive to the forces of reaction. Habib Ullah Khan, however, knew his people, and showed himself capable of providing for his own safety. A policy of repression, however, sooner or later results in counter measures, and the recent Afridi outbreaks on the border may have been a symptom of the movement slowly coming to a head in Afghanistan. Whatever explanation, therefore, may be given for the Ameer's murder, it will be wise to regard the situation as dangerous until such time as it can be shown that the new ruler has established himself firmly on the throne and intends to continue the policy of his predecessor in wholehearted co-operation with the India Government. It is by no means certain that the succession will be effected peacefully. Custom prescribes that the son of the first marriage contracted by the father should be his heir, but Court intrigue is not always eliminated, and in the present instance, in view of the Ameer's sudden death, may wholly determine the question of the next ruler. The late Ameer's eldest son, Inayat Ullah Khan, should by right ascend the throne; but at one time or another his two uncles, one a year younger than himself, and the other, Nasr Ullah Khan, who has occupied a prominent position in Afghanistan, not always on lines of strict accountability to the Ameer Habib Ullah, have been credited with designs on the succession. The latest report, indeed, states that Nasr Ullah Khan has seized the reins of power.

The removal of a ruler of such tried ability as the Habib Ullah Khan can hardly fail to unsettle some of the small Central Asian States that were inclined to look to him for political guidance. Whoever the new Ameer may be, he will lack the prestige that his predecessor had won on the strength of his seventeen years' experience on the throne, and the aspirants to the leadership of the Khanates will not be confined to the Afghan Court. In these circumstances a more watchful policy than ever will be necessary both on the Indian frontier and in the territory bounding Afghanistan on the west and north. It is fortunate that the war in Europe is over, and that the knowledge of the defeat of Germany and Turkey will have reached those regions. More important still, the presence of British troops will help to discourage unrest among the Khanates. In this connection, however, the advance of Bolshevism in the direction of Central Asia cannot be overlooked. Bolshevist forces hold the line of the Lower Oxus, and it is not many days since an engagement took place between them and a small British force aided by Russo-Turcoman Menshevist irregulars at a point fifty miles north-east of Merv. The Bolshevists were defeated, but the peace of Persia and Afghanistan requires their complete elimination from the Transcaspian district. In this part of the world politics and economic factors are closely allied. One effect of the disorders in Russia will have been to shut off Afghanistan from a variety of goods which the people were in the habit of importing from her northern neighbour. The deficiency should be made good as far as possible from India, not only in the interests of Indian trade, but to prevent any shortage of necessary commodities being used in the stirring up of unrest.

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THE ORGANISATION OF INDIAN LABOUR.

By JANUS.

I should like to try to carry a little further the ideas propounded in the leading article in THE NEAR EAST last week on the subject of Indian labour. I am in entire agreement with the view there put forward that careful inquiry is necessary to ascertain the causes of the existing dissatisfaction and to prepare a basis for some constructive policy, but I want to urge that the inquiry should be directed in particular to the whole question of the organisation of the workers. So far as I have been able to observe, most of the real difficulties confronting employers and managers arise from the impossibility of knowing what is in the minds of the heterogeneous crowds with whom they have to deal; they cannot have familiar intercourse with each individual, and there are usually no authorised spokesmen whom they can consult, though there may be busybodies ready, and perhaps willing, to mislead. I should hesitate to make this statement entirely on my own responsibility, but in fact it has no claim to novelty. The Bombay correspondent of *The Times* has recently insisted on the fact that in that great city there is very little contact between the millowners and the employees: the enlightened and progressive firms which manage the big textile factories in Madras have stated publicly that they would cordially meet more than halfway a properly constituted union of their workpeople; and from smaller centres of industry one hears very much the same thing. Organisation, then, would be an immediate convenience, but even if that were not the case, it is well to recognise that in some form or other trades unions must come; for it is impossible to believe that in this matter India will strike out a line of her own and continue to dispense with what other countries have found to be essential.

What should be the attitude of the Government towards this impending change? Unions of workers may be allowed, as happened in England, to grow up outside of, and perhaps in conflict with, the law of the land, or their advent may be welcomed and fostered as meeting a national need. The whole industrial history of England during the last half-century demonstrates the folly of the former course. Manual labour has thereby been largely cut off from the main current of the national life, and now tends to regard that current as destined exclusively to the satisfaction of its own wants. We have worried through so far, and I believe that with statesmanlike leading we shall worry through to the end, and eventually establish a more reasonable economic regime, but the waste of the process has been, and probably will be, enormous, and it is still quite possible that the nation will go to pieces and the leadership of the world fall into less worthy hands. Let us imagine for a moment how different the position would now be if a century or so ago some good fairy had taken charge of the movement, when it was just beginning to make itself seriously inconvenient, and had guided masters and men (and also Parliament) on a steady course, harmonising the apparently divergent interests and gradually fashioning the productive forces into a supple and well-trained team, all pulling together and each member sure of an adequate reward. The contrast between that picture and the actual position may safely be left to speak for itself, but my present point is that it is the bounden duty of the Indian Government to play the good fairy in matters of the kind. If India on the path of progress is to take all the wrong turnings, and stick in all the thickets, and fall into all the holes, what is the use of having an experienced guide? We in England have made almost every possible mistake; we have walked on the edge of every precipice within reach, we have wandered into deep morasses and extricated ourselves with pain and toil, and now it is at once our duty and our privilege to let India benefit by the experience we have gained. The inconveniences of a labour movement are beginning to be seriously felt in India; and now is the time to bring our experience into play.

These considerations appear to me to be conclusive as against a policy of wait-and-see. Things in India are not yet very bad, but they are certain to get worse, and if the people are left without guidance, we must expect to witness a rapid growth of class-antagonism which will cripple industrial expansion and perhaps leave the country even poorer than it is. I urge then that the Indian Government should act, but I am not going to lay down any precise line of action. Industry is still plastic in India, and it can be moulded gradually by wisdom based on accurate knowledge; but while the Government is (I hope) sufficiently wise, it is certainly not equipped with the knowledge on which action can be based, and inquiries such as were proposed in the article I have quoted are obviously necessary as a preliminary measure. Their difficulty lies in the fact that they require a special agency, and that India contains very few men and women with the requisite qualifications. There are, however, a few, and the individuals who have helped to settle recent strikes would obviously form a nucleus for the investigating body. This nucleus needs to be enlarged, and I would like to suggest the inclusion of two or three English trades-unionists, not of the theoretical type which has done so much to discredit the movement, but the solid men who have been through the mill and have realised the weak points of the system they control. Send out two or three of such men, with a few experienced social workers, mainly women, let them join hands with the few workers now in the country and with representatives of the employers, give them plenty of time, and ask them to formulate a policy which shall conduce to the gradual development out of the existing material of a body of workmen of increasing efficiency, better paid and better treated, and worth more to the country as a whole and to their employers in particular. India wants a labour policy of this kind, and if, as is almost certain, it cannot be framed without providing for trades unions, then let the Government welcome the unions at once, and recognise that they must form an important element in the national life. Everyone now admits that capital, labour, and management must work together as a team if there is to be any prospect of industrial peace: the business of the moment is to settle how the team can be broken in and trained.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Greek and Briton.

The *Contemporary Review* contains a paper entitled "The Unity of the Greek Race," by Professor Ronald Burrows. The greater part of this is devoted to setting forth the claims of Greece upon the Allies, and a plea that those claims shall be met in the most generous spirit, and especially that they shall be supported by Great Britain. Perhaps the part that will appeal most to the reader is that in which Professor Burrows sums up those "points in common between Greece and Great Britain which exist between us and few of the people with whom we are allied":—

> We are both a "Nation of shopkeepers," and yet we have not been found wanting in the day of battle. We are both—and here there is no "and yet"—a nation of sailors. At our best we turn out something of the same type of man. English archæologists who know their own country have often been startled by the resemblance between the Greek peasant and the best type of English artisan. If Venizelos strikes us as just the man we should like our own statesmen to be, it is not a little, I think, because we find in him no discordant note to our own ideals. Is it because we ourselves have been brought up upon the thoughts and the lives of the ancient Greeks, and that descendants by adoption and descendants by blood cannot be alien to each other? Certain it is that if we genuinely understand and admire the modern Greek at his best, he in his turn has a natural friendliness to us which hardly a nation in Europe has. The vote of sympathy to England passed in the Greek Parliament at the most unpopular moment of the Boer War finds an echo in the hospitality, and, indeed, the affection, that is shown in Greece to the individual Englishman. At the present moment rich Greeks have left the sum of £30,000 for the establishment of what they call a Greek Eton on one of the small islands off the Attic Coast, and a committee of representatives of both countries is now at work to organise both this public school on the English model, and two big day schools, one for boys and one for girls, in Athens itself, in which the education is to be of the English type, and

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to begin with, at any rate, conducted by English teachers. Even those who may raise eyebrows at such an imitation of institutions which we ourselves often criticise, must at least confess that it is not everywhere that we find appreciation of what is so typically English. I was reading the other day the account of a lecture given in a town in Peloponnesus this last spring by a local notable on his return from serving on the Salonika Front. The title of the lecture is "Why the English are what they are." There is a long description of the influence of our sanitary arrangements, our baths, and our shaving on the Greek private. "One night in April," says the Greek officer, "the men of my company had succeeded in a very dangerous attack, and occupied the enemy's trenches. All night the whole force stood to their arms, some guarding their new position, and others digging themselves in. The very first report made by the N.C.O.s next morning was that their men wanted to shave." "Yet," adds the officer, "they had all shaved the day before the attack!" Similarly, there is much talk of the influence of the English breakfast with its tea, marmalade, and bacon. The Tommy's habit of bathing anywhere and everywhere, "even if the water was cold as snow," proved for some time a stumbling-block to perfect imitation, but the Greeks finally compromised on hot baths, and tubbed by companies twice a week. Above all, Mr. Papantonion was eloquent on the merits of the young English officers, "not one of them older than twenty-six," who gave them so freely and pleasantly of their three years' lore of war. "One would have thought one was not listening to an English aristocrat, but to some hoary-headed shepherd of the mountains of Arcadia."

The Tilak-Chirol Action.

The verdict in the action for libel brought by Mr. Tilak against Sir Valentine Chirol and Messrs. Macmillan must have been welcomed by all right-minded people who had followed the case at all closely. Referring to the public spirit shown by Sir Valentine Chirol, *The Times*, in a leading article (February 22), remarks:—

The action was instituted in 1915, and ever since, with very little intermission, Sir Valentine Chirol has been compelled in the public interest to devote himself to the preparation of his defence. The immediate issue may have seemed simple enough, but it was necessary for him to conduct elaborate researches in order to substantiate the statements of which complaint was made. He was compelled to pay long special visits to India for the purpose of collecting further evidence; and he had to undertake this task at a time when His Majesty's Government desired to avail themselves of his long and unique knowledge of the international affairs of Europe. Four years is a very large slice to take out of the life of a distinguished man who had already retired from the active practice of his profession. Sir Valentine Chirol might have avoided a long period of strain and anxiety, and a vast amount of expense, if he had been willing to make even the formal apology which was invited. He refused to do so because he believed that his charges were well founded, as an impartial British jury has now testified. But a larger consideration influenced Sir Valentine and those associated with him in this issue. He and they felt, in the words of Sir Edward Carson, "that any apology or withdrawal would prove disastrous to the interests of good government of India." Now that the case is over, it will be recognised that Sir Valentine was actuated throughout by the loftiest public spirit, and that he rendered valuable service to the cause of British rule by flatly refusing to make any admission which would have left Mr. Tilak free to pursue with an enhanced reputation the courses so severely condemned.

The plaintiff's character, as disclosed in the course of the action, is then examined, and the results of his activities are indicated. The article concludes with a tribute to Sir Valentine Chirol which will be endorsed by all who admire faithful service to one's country and determination to stand by the right at all costs rather than to worship that modern fetish of politicians—"compromise."

The case was serious, because if Mr. Tilak had succeeded in his action the inevitable, though erroneous, assumption of the public in India would have been that his past offences had been whitewashed. It was still more serious because a verdict adverse to Sir Valentine Chirol might have had the deplorable result of preventing in future the free and candid exposure of movements in India (and elsewhere) hostile to the State. Revolutionary conspiracies in India have not disappeared. The Rowlatt Report, and the two Sedition Bills now before the Imperial Legislative Council, show that the need for vigilance and for precautionary measures remains as great as ever. The accusation against Mr. Tilak was in effect that by pen and speech he created an atmosphere in which the germs of revolution flourished, and led to the commission of criminal outrages. The best remedy for all such tendencies is, of course, publicity. Sir Valentine Chirol applied the remedy with unerring discernment, and shed a flood of light upon the earlier phases of Indian unrest. His zealous devotion to the public weal has most undeservedly given him four years of worry and suspense, but we believe that in England and in India alike there will be nothing but praise for the stedfast manner in which he refused to abate one jot or tittle of the words he had penned after the most careful and impartial consideration. Even Mr. Tilak did not dare to suggest that he had written down aught in malice.

The Central Asia Problem.

The assassination of the Ameer of Afghanistan lends additional interest to Iktal Ali Shah's article on "The Khanates of the Middle East" which appears in the *Contemporary Review*. The writer begins by pointing out that the collapse of Russia may provide the world with a kind of "Balkan Question" on a vast scale. He questions whether Russian administration showed any signs of permanency.

From very early times the Russian system of government in the mid-East has been lacking in that moral impulse which is the best guarantee of peace and submission. On the Steppes, Turcomania, Russian Turkestan, and over the Khanates, no real exertions were made for the amelioration of the people. After the Russian victories protocols were signed, which contained most liberal terms for the vanquished; but in practice only concessions were granted, though points of importance to the people of Turkestan were almost always regarded by the Russians as involving Imperial prestige. Their non-fulfilment of peace terms, as also the heartless treatment of the subdued people by the Russians, has even made their rule in the Middle East politically unstable. Very few people will be found to question this view to-day. The article continues:—

In the beginning of the war the attitude of the Khanates was anxiously discussed. It was pretty generally admitted by students of mid-Asiatic questions that if ever the Khanates participated in the conflict it would be the result of external pressure, and of whispers to the Khan that his opportunity had at last arrived to revive the glory of his ancestors. For a time Turkestan and Bokhara meditated, but it was not long before Russian prestige had been shaken to its foundations. Bolsheviks won the armed assistance of the people of Central Asia, and the war, as predicted before, was declared against the "infidels."

For successive centuries the Khans had been autocratic rulers, and it was not until the Russian penetration that their liberties were curtailed. At the outbreak of this war civilisation first entered the gates of Khiva, where a form of representative government was installed. Bokhara followed suit, and the Kirghiz and the Turcomans, overthrowing the Russian yoke, once again breathed the air of freedom. The whole mid-Eastern question was altered, and politics were moving rapidly in the land which had for long remained a tortoise of the East. Abdullahed, the Khan of Bokhara, received representatives from the Russian Tartar communities round the Ural Sea and Kazan, seeking his assistance and sympathy for the Pan-Turanian movement. To all these overtures the Uzbeks gave their hearty approval; for the promoters of the scheme had founded it on sound principles. It was pointed out that a marked affinity existed amongst all the members of the Tartar race: in language, religion, and traditions they were alike. A claim was put forward to demand from Russia and other Powers the policy of "non-interference and self-determination."

The Russian advance in Asia, steady and stealthy, is sketched with a nice touch of irony, which pays fitting tribute to "the humanitarian work" and "the intense hospitality" of Russia of the old days. And finally we find ourselves brought up to the "menace to India." The article concludes:—

To us Afghans also the danger was of great magnitude. The cause of all the Anglo-Afghan wars can be traced to Russian intrigues, and the cost of these campaigns amounts to about £71,000,000. First of all, Amir Dost Mohamed was incited to clash with the British, and there is evidence to show that secret treaties existed between Russia and Afghanistan which led to the second Afghan War. In recent times the late Amir was also approached regarding a Russian alliance, but he proved deaf to all such solicitations. The Afghans deplore such a great proximity of the Russian frontier to their own: nor have the Khanates forgotten the Kaufmann march.

Why should Russia fetter the Khanates any longer? And why should these regions not have the right of self-determination? Apart from sentiment, political expediency warrants the liberation of Bokhara, Khiva, and Khokand. The great dread of a "Russian march to India" will for ever be removed, and the peacefulness of that great British dependency will be secured. Further, this step will enable Afghanistan and India to come closer together, which in itself cannot fail to produce a beneficial effect on Mid-Asiatic politics. . . . An inauguration of the former liberty of the Khanates has now become a pressing need against all possible attacks on India; and when this point is viewed in relation to the new condition of things in Mesopotamia and Persia the question at once assumes an aspect of Imperial necessity.

THE KING AND INDIAN RELIEF.

The King and Queen have received numerous offers of donations from ruling Princes and others in India in commemoration of their Silver Wedding, and the sum of £35,000 has already been received.

His Majesty has approved a proposal that these donations should be constituted into a special fund, to be called "The King Emperor's Patriotic Fund." The money will be invested and its income administered at the discretion of the Viceroy for relief of Indian sufferers with claims based on the war which are not covered by any other funds at present in existence, such as the Imperial Indian Relief Fund, or which may only come to light when such funds have been finally closed.

The King Emperor's Patriotic Fund is wholly distinct from the Indian Silver Wedding Fund, which has been raised by gifts and by public subscription in India, and which, in accordance with their Majesties' wishes, is to be devoted to the higher education of the children of Indian soldiers who have fallen in the war.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The removal of the embargo on shipments to Turkey and the Black Sea ports has speedily been followed by arrangements by a number of steamship lines for the early despatch of vessels to the Levant. The preliminary list of ships with their closing dates for cargo will be found elsewhere in this issue. In view of the short time available the list must be regarded as very satisfactory, and the number of lines concerned offers the best guarantee that British trade with the Near East will not be handicapped for lack of shipping facilities. The Cunard line, it may be noted, are going to pay special attention to the trade with South Russia, and it is proposed as soon as normal navigation is restored to establish direct through services with the ports of the Black Sea. The Eastern Company of Warehouses Insurance and Transport of Goods with Advances, Ltd., of Petrograd, which operates the Caucasus and Mercury Steamship Company and other lines, are to act as the general agents of the company, and they are shortly despatching a representative to Odessa in connection with the development of Anglo-Russian trade.

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In some commercial circles I find that considerable exception is being taken to the fact that restrictions are still being maintained on exports. The view taken is that in regard to trade with Turkey, Bulgaria, and South Russia the restrictions will have a hampering effect, and that little progress can be expected in restoring trade to its normal level until the exporter enjoys perfect liberty. No doubt there is much to be said for this view, and there can be no question that there ought to be no delay in removing all restrictions on trade as soon as this can safely be done. At the same time, there are obvious difficulties in the way, and in justice to the authorities it must be pointed out that in many quarters it is felt that the restrictions are going as rapidly as possible.

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Even if all restrictions on exports were removed trade would still be subject to a number of handicaps. To say nothing of the labour position—a world-wide trouble apparently, and one which naturally leads manufacturers to adopt a hesitating attitude—there is the question of cable delays, for instance, which is referred to in the extracts from letters from Saloniki which are given on page 190. The writer points out the difficulties created as regards trade with the Near East by the delay in cablegrams, and his remarks unfortunately have a world-wide incidence. A cable could reach Colombo from London in about two hours before the war, and now it takes about 96 hours. As regards messages from India, the position is the same, and cables often take a number of days to come. The postal authorities are not optimistic as regards the prospect of an early improvement, but it is satisfactory to learn that they are doing their best to help the business community, and that with this end in view Government use of the cables, particularly to the Near East, has been considerably diminished.

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A further important step in the promotion of British trade overseas has been taken by the amalgamation of the British Manufacturers' Corporation with the Federation of British Industries. The object of the development, it is pointed out, is to proceed with the appointment of unofficial representatives of British industries abroad. Suitable representatives with business experience and a knowledge of the foreign country in which they are to serve will be selected by the Federation to represent the interests of British manufacturers in the markets of the world. It is in short, an attempt to represent British industry by men chosen by the industrialists themselves. The advantages of this course, especially in markets like those of the Near East which require to be catered for with special care, are very evident, and this new intelligence service ought to be a priceless boon to the business community.

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At first sight it might be imagined that the appointment of these representatives would entail overlapping with the official services, but it is maintained that there is no risk of this, as there are many directions in which it is impossible for officials to render the services desired. It is intended that the representatives of the Federation shall work in the closest touch with the Government's representatives abroad. Certain preliminary steps, it is interesting to learn, have already been taken by the Federation in regard to the establishment of this intelligence service, notably in Greece, where, since the visit of the Greek Mission, the Federation has had a temporary representative, who has performed valuable work in the interests of British industry. The appointment has now been made permanent, and in the course of the next few weeks a Federation office will be opened in Athens.

A further illustration of the efforts that are being made to develop the resources of the Indian States is provided by Hyderabad, where not long ago a special department of industries was created with a view to the promotion of the industrial progress of the State. Among the industries that are being investigated is the production of alcohol and of alcohol motor spirit, for which Hyderabad is favourably situated owing to its large supplies of the mahua flower in the jungles. Soap-making is regarded as another promising industry, as the raw materials are produced locally; and there are also possibilities in regard to paper-making, for which there are abundant raw materials in the shape of grasses and cotton stalks, etc., and also for tanning, an industry already established, but which, it is thought, is capable of considerable development.

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Very shortly we are to see the establishment of another new bank for the financing of foreign trade. The bank, which will be named the British Overseas Bank, is being formed by a group of banking institutions, including Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., the Union Bank of Scotland, and Williams Deacon's Bank. Its capital is expected to be £2,000,000, divided into ordinary and preference shares, the former being taken up by the banks concerned, while the latter will be open to public subscription. Besides a dividend of 6 per cent., it is understood that the preference shares will participate in surplus profits. The object of the bank is to give further facilities to the British import and export trade. Branches of the new institution will be established abroad, thus saving the banks concerned from each having to open a branch when entering new territory.

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Discussing the Empire's oil resources and the control and the future outlook for the industry, Mr. Montagu Summers, in the course of an interesting paper before the Royal Society of Arts this week, said that the paramount importance of a proper control of all the resources for oil production in the hands of the British Empire was going to become a very prominent and urgent question. He had reason to believe that the Government was fully alive to the urgency and importance of the matter, and that action was already being taken towards the desirable end of placing the oil industry on a national basis. Mr. Summers explained that what must give stress to the need for an all-British organisation effectively controlling the present and prospective oil resources of the Empire was the coming failure of American oil supplies. Some American experts, he remarked, went so far as to say that the supply of crude oil in the United States would cease soon after 1930, and while this was no doubt the worst view, it emphasised the importance of careful control and management of new oilfields. Finally, in regard to the question of future supplies, consideration must be given, he pointed out, to the large amount of oil and oil properties destroyed in Russia, Roumania, and Galicia.

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I hear that the Egyptian State Railways have contracted for about 150,000 tons of South Wales coal.

COMMENTATOR.

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EGYPT'S TRADE IN 1918.

Great Rise in Imports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 9.

The Egyptian Customs Administration has this week published its returns for the month of December, and it is therefore possible to review the trade figures of the country during the year 1918. The year has, in fact, been another record, for the figures for both imports and exports far exceed anything ever attained in the past. During 1918 imports totalled £E51,155,306 and exports £E45,370,020, as against £E33,175,139 and £E41,050,612 respectively in 1917. The following table will perhaps best show how the trade of the country has progressed since 1913:—

	1913. £E	1915. £E	1916. £E
Imports..	27,865,195	19,328,993	30,854,141
Exports..	31,662,035	27,045,872	37,462,453
		1917. £E	1918 £E
Imports		31,175,139	51,155,306
Exports		41,060,612	45,370,020

From this it can be seen that imports have risen by 50 per cent. compared with the previous year and that they are almost double the figure at which they stood in 1913, the last normal pre-war year, whilst exports have increased by about 10 per cent. on 1917, and by about 40 per cent. on 1913. On the other hand the balance of trade has swung over completely against Egypt. Throughout the above period it has been in favour of the country, the amount having been in the neighbourhood of seven millions in each of the preceding three years. In 1918 the balance, even allowing for re-exports, which amounted to £E1,378,732, was over four millions against the country. The reason for the change is undoubtedly on the one hand the great rise in freights and cost of production of all the articles of import, the price of most of which has not been controlled in the country of production, and on the other hand the control exercised over the main exports of Egypt—viz., cotton and cotton seed, in addition to the fact that export of most of the country's products is still prohibited, or at best restricted owing to the local demand for foodstuffs of every description. There is indeed every reason to anticipate that a continuance of this adverse trade balance will manifest itself for some time to come, though this is offset by the very substantial sums lying to the credit of Egypt in Europe as the result of previous favourable trade balances, investments since the war, etc.

Imports.

The principal imports during the year have been preserved meat £E1,900,609, skins and tanned goods £E501,454, wheat and other flour £E614,632, fresh and dried fruits £E392,189, raw sugar £E760,186, coffee £E597,674, tea £E373,600, wines £E279,076, spirits £E355,322, olive and vegetable oils £E784,206, petroleum £E818,959, benzine £E1,802,896, mineral oils £E475,820, stationery £E1,658,673, coal £E5,154,125, manufactured dyestuffs and paints £E265,325, matches £E471,605, medicinal preparations £E620,731, soap £E305,370, cotton yarn and thread £E1,147,551, cotton piece goods £E13,686,079, woollen textiles £E889,074, raw silk and silk thread, £E478,993, silks and ribbons £E761,118, sacks £E1,368,771, textiles of mixed yarns £E560,458, ready-made underclothing and hosiery £E1,494,827, ready-made clothing £E398,971, manufactured iron and steel £E2,125,553, machinery £E446,550, smallware £E658,924, and tobacco £E3,100,929.

The chief increases compared with 1917 were borne by preserved meat, £E497,445; sugar, £E430,607; vegetable oils, £E429,054; benzine, £E723,882; mineral oils, £E228,069; stationery, £E1,109,925 (of which £E402,194 was in writing and printing paper and £E273,125 in cardboard); coal, £E1,844,294; matches, £E250,238; medicinal preparations, £E270,549; cotton yarn and thread, £E426,313; cotton piece goods, £E6,696,231; silks and ribbons, £E492,842; sacks, £E282,689; ready-made underclothing and hosiery, £E1,000,699; ready-made clothing, £E298,364; manufactured iron and steel, £E1,042,289; and smallware, £E436,871. The only important decrease was in manures, which fell from £E752,806 to £E87,274.

Exports.

Under exports the principal items were:—Eggs, £E296,197; untanned hides and skins, £E432,478; rice, £E294,854; cotton seed, £E2,657,084; sugar, £E734,645; gum, £E472,933; cotton, £E38,034,467; and cigarettes, £E732,155. The most important increases were in cotton seed, £E838,827; cotton, £E4,539,274; and cigarettes, £E326,390. Decreases were recorded in eggs by £E157,707; cotton cake from £E587,691 to practically nil; onions by £E130,232 from £E289,052; sugar by £E183,467; and maize by £E133,603 to barely £E20,000.

As indicating the manner in which the inflation of prices has affected the returns, it is interesting to note the details of the following imports, the first figure representing the increase in quantity and the second the increase in value:—Sugar, 75 per cent. and 130 per cent.; tea, 7 per cent. and 26 per cent.; coal, 8 per cent. and 55 per cent.; cotton yarn, 23 per cent. and 40 per cent.; cotton piece goods, weight, 10 per cent. and 78 per cent.; woollen textiles, 15 per cent. and 26 per cent.; sacks, 21 per cent. and 26 per cent.; flour, 33 per cent. and 13 per cent.; and soap, 60 per cent. and 100 per cent. As regards exports the position may be indicated by the following percentages:—Cottonseed, 70 per cent. and 46 per cent.; rice, 41 per cent. and 52 per cent.; sugar, 34 per cent. and 20 per cent.; gum, 5 per cent. and 30 per cent.; cotton, 23 per cent. and 13 per cent.; cigarettes, 40 per cent. and 80 per cent.: and eggs, 60 per cent. and 33 per cent.

Trade with United Kingdom.

Coming now to the share taken by each of the foreign trading countries we find that Great Britain increased her sales by nearly 100 per cent. to £E27,077,635, or about 53 per cent. of the total import trade, and that taken altogether the Empire accounted for just under £135,000,000, or nearly three-quarters of the total. Between them the various parts of the Empire provided practically all the soap, cotton yarn, cotton thread, cotton piece goods, woollen textiles, iron and steel wares, coal, sacks, rice, and meat. The United States showed a falling off of 50 per cent., Chili one of 90 per cent., but France doubled her sales, Japan quadrupled hers, and Italy showed a small increase.

Under exports the United Kingdom took two-thirds of the total, the balance going as to 10 per cent. to the United States, 5 per cent. each to France and Italy. All these countries showed a falling-off compared with their share the previous year. The United Kingdom took practically all the eggs, cotton seed, onions and dates, 25 per cent. of the gum and 70 per cent. of the cotton. Greece took 60 per cent. of the hides and skins, France 20 per cent. of the gum and 4 per cent. of the cotton, the United States 25 per cent. of the gum and 10 per cent. of the cotton, Italy 10 per cent. of the gum and 5 per cent. of the cotton. Most of the sugar went to French Mediterranean possessions and India. Cigarettes, of which 404 tons (an increase of 40 per cent.) were exported, went as to 130 tons to France, 90 tons to the United Kingdom, 64 tons to the Far East, 20 tons to India, 20 tons to other British possessions in the Far East, and 11 tons to Switzerland.

It has been mentioned above that the United Kingdom provided practically all the cotton piece goods. The exact proportion was £E12,591,053 out of a total of £E13,686,079. From the special table drawn up at the end of the statistics it is possible to see not only whence the balance came but also in what line of this article it figures. In grey, bleached and printed cotton piece goods the United Kingdom stands supreme, but in Italy she has a keen competitor in dyed in the yarn articles of which that country supplied nearly one-quarter of the imports.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan underwent considerable expansion. Imports into Egypt rose from £E2,116,974 to £E2,718,891, and exports to the Sudan from £E1,491,784 to £E2,492,208. It is interesting to note that in 1916 the figures were respectively £E923,175 and £E1,157,891. The principal imports from the Sudan were livestock £E1,119,315 (229,318 head), hides and skins £E185,861, maize £E233,885, sesame £E166,064, gum £E349,383. The chief increases were in livestock, where the number of head rose from 159,149 to 229,318, and gum where the quantity about doubled; but a decrease was shown in cotton, which fell from 2,500 tons to 391 tons, and in maize and sesame, which both dropped by half. The most important exports from Egypt were sugar £E563,253, cotton piece goods £E693,086, and tobacco £E182,416. A sign of the rise in prices is afforded by the fact that whereas the quantity of sugar exported increased by about 17 per cent. the value rose by 54 per cent.

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THE FUTURE OF FLYING.

Communications with the East.

In view of the remarkable achievements of Handley-Page aeroplanes in the closing months of the war and since the Armistice, it is not surprising that the general public should be looking to the famous firm at Cricklewood to lead the way in the development of the peace-time rôle of the flying machine as a medium for passenger and goods traffic. It is, at any rate, certain that no other type of machine has such a variety of performances to its credit, ranging from bombing expeditions to record long-distance flights. Some of the more notable feats have had the Near East or the way to India for their setting, and *en passant* a few particulars of these may be given.

Recent Flights.

There was in the first place the flight to Constantinople in July, 1917, the announcement of which provided one of the war sensations of that year. When it was decided to bomb Constantinople and the Goeben it appeared that none of the air bases in the East offered facilities for the erection of such a large machine as the Handley-Page if it had been despatched in parts. Therefore, it was decided to fly the machine the whole way, and, piloted by Major Savory, the aeroplane covered the journey from London —a distance of 1,955 miles—in 31 hours, 24 minutes actual flying time. Including five persons, the weight carried by the machine to Mudros, the base from which the capital was attacked, was 6½ tons.

Another remarkable performance was the flight from Egypt to Calcutta of several weeks ago with General Salmon and Major McLaren on board. The route was via Alexandria, Cairo, Baghdad, Karachi and Delhi.

A final illustration of the potentialities of the Handley-Page machine is to be found in the successful flight from Ipswich to India, which began on December 13 last. Unfavourable weather and climatic conditions, fog and heavy rains were encountered on this occasion, when the route included a sea journey of over 700 miles over the Mediterranean.

These great flights point the moral that future aerial development should be speedy, and that it should not be long before the time comes for the establishment of regular services between England and Egypt and India, and also with regions of the Near East like Mesopotamia, which are so situated that communications with them are a matter of more than ordinary difficulty. An official of Handley-Page, Ltd., discussing this question with a representative of THE NEAR EAST, explained that this firm were ready to provide every facility required, but that nothing could be done at the moment until it was known what the Government's plans were. "The vital point," he said, "is, in short, the extent to which private enterprise is going to be allowed to pursue aerial development. When we know that we shall know what to do. But it would be as well for the public not to expect immediate marvels, for they will only be disappointed. Rome was not built in a day, and the creation of aerial services requires a vast amount of preliminary organisation."

"At present," he went on, "there is nothing settled as regards routes. Probable lines of flight to India and other places are now in process of being explored by the authorities. The present flights are merely the journeys of explorers. It must be remembered that flight, to be of the greatest use, must be direct, and that entails crossing deserts, etc., and there must be repair depôts at convenient distances, and aerodromes with spare machines."

The Aerial Post.

The advantages of an aerial service over other methods of communication were discussed in detail by the official. "As regards passenger traffic, it is the business man," he said, "who is going to benefit. To India, for example, the cost of a ticket will be something like double that by steamer, and members of the I.C.S. and other services coming home on long leave are not likely to incur the expense merely to do the journey in four or five days. They get their holiday partly on the steamer, and they will continue to do so. Now, the business man here who has interests in India or elsewhere in the East, or in a region like Mesopotamia, which is not easily accessible, has not hitherto been able to go out to visit his agents, for he is usually unable to spare the time needed for the journey. Now he will be able to go out almost as readily as he would set out to visit Manchester or Glasgow. He will benefit also by the letter-post. In many businesses it is necessary to be in frequent communication with agents, and this is done at the present time by cables. The disadvantages of the abbreviated messages usually sent are obvious. They may so readily be misinterpreted or misunderstood. This difficulty will be removed by the introduction of the aerial post, for by paying 1s. to 5s. the head of the firm will be able to send a letter daily to his agents in the knowledge that it will reach them in a few days, and that while it will be slower than the cable, it will leave no room for misunderstanding. "The aerial mail, in fact, will be something between the ordinary mail and the cable. Normal correspondence will still be sent in the usual way, while the cable will remain the medium for urgent messages."

"One of the most valuable uses of the aeroplane," he concluded, "will be as a medium for the conveyance of samples. In the immediate future it is probably in this direction that the aeroplane is going to confer the greatest boon on the commercial community. The matter of getting samples on the market first is of supreme importance. Especially is this the case as regards samples of seasonable crops, and I imagine that to begin with much of the cargo of the commercial aeroplane will consist of this class of goods."

THE ORIENT EXPRESS.

Return of the Sleeping Car.

The re-establishment of the Orient Express between Paris and Bucharest is a foretaste of the facilities for reaching all parts of the Near East that will be provided in due course by the International Sleeping Car Company.

Mr. H. M. Snow, agent-general for the company, discussing this latest development, stated that at present the trains are running twice weekly, and that in connection with the service direct connections with Warsaw and Prague have been opened. "The route," he pointed out, "is from Paris to Basle, Zurich, Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest. A section is detached at Linz for Prague, and another section at Vienna for Warsaw.

"The time taken for the journey from Paris to Vienna is now thirty-eight hours, as against thirty-five when we used to run through a corner of Germany. Of course, the speed is necessarily very limited, as the railways have suffered severely as the result of over four years of war. No doubt when normal conditions obtain this new route will be at least as quick as the old one, and it will have the additional advantage of avoiding German territory. From Vienna to Bucharest takes another eleven hours, making the time for the whole journey forty-nine hours.

"With regard to passenger facilities, the service at present exists primarily for officials, and no one can travel by the train without special permission from the French Ministry of War.

"After peace is signed," Mr. Snow went on, "the Orient Express may be running all right to Constantinople, but at present the only method of reaching Constantinople is by way of Constantza. At present we can only get as far as Fetesti, and from there the river must be crossed by boats. When the Orient Express is resumed to Constantinople it will be established on the old route—viâ Belgrade and Sofia. As regards connections with Greece, a section will be detached at Nish, and will run viâ Uskub to Salonika, Larissa, and Athens. Then there are numerous connections in Bulgaria and elsewhere that will presently be restored."

This covers the immediate developments contemplated by the company as regards the Near East, but Mr. Snow pointed out that only time and settled conditions were required for much wider schemes. "The time is certainly not far distant," he said, "when Constantinople will no longer be the terminus of the Orient Express. Steamers will be used to take the trains across the Bosphorus, and a service will be run to Aleppo, and from there to Baghdad. At Aleppo a section will be detached for the Syria and Palestine service, and eventually the trains on this route will be able to go as far as Egypt. But that, of course, is a matter of time."

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OUTLOOK IN THE LEVANT.

British Traders' Opportunities.

We are able to publish a number of extracts from recent letters from Salonika, giving interesting details regarding the position there and at Constantinople, where the writer recently spent a week or two. Amongst other things, he points out that the great prestige attaching to this country in the Near East is largely due to the splendid conduct of the British troops:

"A Messagerie Maritime steamer, with an inspector on board, passed here weeks ago to open up the company's lines. I went to Constantinople on January 8 on board one of the Italian Steam Navigation Company's steamers, on board of which there was also an inspector, who was investigating the opening up of various lines, and had quite big schemes in view. The Roumanian Company was expecting to start immediately, and have had their offices gorgeously fitted up. The Ottoman Steam Navigation Company still continue running their steamers, trading to and fro under the Turkish flag, as usual.

Italian Traders Active.

"Italian merchants and commercial travellers from Italy were already to be seen in Constantinople booking orders. British firms at home must change their system. Many splendid opportunities for buying raw material and produce are missed owing to the difficulties of communication, both postal and telegraphic, with the United Kingdom, letters taking as long as from eighteen to twenty days in transmission, and telegrams ten, twelve, and fifteen days. Business in such circumstances is impossible.

"There is always a large business to be done in tobacco, but again the old story has to be repeated. One cannot trade with the growers and buy tobacco without full authority from the principals at home, especially owing to the difficulties of communication. *Bona fide* buyers in London should encourage the industry, and, where necessary, even make advances on expected harvests. Many districts in Macedonia which never grew this article before are now growing it in large quantities.

British Prestige.

"In these parts both the British Army and Navy have done more for British prestige in every sense of the word than our Consuls and Commercial Departments would have done in 50 years. Our soldiers and sailors have raised British prestige to the highest possible point. Britain was an unknown quantity before the Army and Navy came to these parts. To-day we stand higher than any nation. The Army and Navy have done wonders. I do not refer to their fighting qualities. I refer to their behaviour both to rich and to poor; to their politeness, their straightforwardness, and everything one can imagine and think of. Our commercial friends in Greater Britain have a lot to thank the Army and Navy for, not only for winning the war, but at the same time bringing forward the real qualities of the true Briton. Talking about the 'Silent Navy,' Jack has not had a chance of showing off his qualities ashore. Tommy has not, however, fallen short of Jack, as ashore he has lifted the flag to the highest point. He has beaten all records. The Army and Navy have done more than their duty, and the war is over. It is now for the fighters to rest and let the commercial element of Great Britain take their place in carrying forward commercially the good work done by those brave men now lying in their graves.

The Re-building of Salonika.

"Rebuilding plans will mature twenty years hence. Meanwhile this place lies in ruins. It would have been preferable in the circumstances to have started building Salonika on present-day requirements and let the future work out its own salvation. There is a great deal to be done both in and around Salonika and Constantinople, for which there is still a great future. We cannot go back to the old days.

Life in Constantinople.

"The poorer class of people have suffered terribly during the war, but I was surprised at life in general. Those who could afford it have lived well. From what I saw, things were comparatively better and cheaper in Constantinople than in Salonika. The reason for this was, no doubt, that the English pound note was worth 330-340 piastres; so that when one paid 200 piastres for a good luncheon or dinner one was really paying about 12s. Restaurants had a limited quantity of beautiful white bread. The bread supplied to the poor was *very bad*."

TAXATION IN MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, February 1.

Speaking at the sixty-ninth annual general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, the President, Colonel J. L. Francian said:—"From the national and commercial point of view this past year has been an eventful one for us here in Malta. I refer especially to the incidence of fresh taxation, whereby the revenue may be raised to meet increased expenditure. This fresh taxation has consisted of additions to the *ad valorem* and other duties, increases in port dues, tax on entertainments, increases in stamp duties, succession and legacy duties. Emphatic dissent has been universally expressed to some of the above new taxes, and the Chamber, realising that these pressed very hardly on the population in general, took part in the expressions of dissent."

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Gas and Water Pipes and Tubes.

Sufficient notice has not been taken by British manufacturers of the fact that in recent years the trade in gas and water pipes, boring pipes and steel tubes has undergone a remarkable change in the Near East and the neighbouring regions. Owing to the increased activity of the oil companies, the carrying out of extensive schemes for waterworks and gasworks and the discarding of the old-fashioned earthenware tubes in buildings and water supplies, etc., the demand has greatly increased; a fact of which German manufacturers availed themselves with remarkable success. As an example we may mention that Roumania alone bought from Germany in 1913, the last normal year, iron or steel tubes, pipes, and fittings to the value of £464,100; and from the United Kingdom, similar goods, to the value of only £2,400. Greece's purchases amounted to £10,600 from Germany and £4,300 from the United Kingdom; Serbia's to £14,100 from Germany and £200 from the United Kingdom; Bulgaria's to £21,600 from Germany and £400 from the United Kingdom; Turkey's to £45,800 from Germany and £18,300 from the United Kingdom; while Egypt bought pipes, tubes, and fittings to the value of £40,200 from Germany and £123,800 from the United Kingdom. With regard to Egypt cast-iron pipes which command good prices are imported chiefly from France and England. Drain pipes are an English speciality, whilst pipes for water and gas supply are imported mainly from France. The demand in Egypt is likely to increase as, according to official reports, numerous new undertakings are projected. The same may be said for Roumania. Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Turkey. In Roumania, of course, for the restoration and further development of her petroleum industry; in Greece for carrying out various schemes for the water supply of towns, in Old and New Greece, the most important of which is the water-supply of Athens from Lake Stymphalia, a distance of about eighty miles; whilst Serbia will probably need great quantities of all kinds of pipes and fittings for her devastated towns. British manufacturers should give special attention to this line of trade since, according to official reports, Germany in 1912 exported tubes and pipes and fittings to Western and Southern Europe to the value of £2,500,000, against the United Kingdom's £330,000 in the same markets.

Agricultural Machinery Market.

Adana is one of the most important agricultural districts in Asia Minor, and probably the least known to British engineer manufacturers as a desirable market for agricultural machinery and implements. The Adana-Mersina Railway is connected with the Baghdad Railway, which will link Mersina with Constantinople and the Persian Gulf as opposite termini. While a large part of the Cilician plain is under cultivation, vast tracts of swampland can be reclaimed, and a system of irrigation would greatly improve the cotton culture. Plans for this are prepared, and will be carried out in the very near future. An extensive system of irrigation was put into operation, three or four years ago, on the plain of Konia, and the productivity of over 2,000 square miles of valuable farm land was greatly increased. The works were constructed by a German company. The farmers of the Adana plain have been more enterprising than those of other parts of Turkey in regard to the use of modern agricultural implements and machinery, and there the wooden plough has largely been superseded by steel ploughs. Hitherto ploughs of German manufacture have been used. A large number of steam ploughs and threshing machines have also been used, mainly of British origin. American reapers commanded a practical monopoly both in Adana and Konia. Apart from private initiative, it must be admitted that the Government Agricultural Bank and schools of agriculture have done much to extend the use of all such modern implements. The market is worth the special and immediate attention of British agricultural machinery makers.

Electric Power in Farming.

The great benefits that can be derived for the modern development of the agricultural resources in the Balkan States, especially in Serbia, by the utilisation of the water power of the rivers Vardar, Morava, Drin and Ibar, for the production of electricity, have often been pointed out in these columns. According to recent reports from Austria, President Seitz, dealing with the chaotic state of affairs in that country and the immediate need for the reorganisation of Austria's industries, said that the greatest development of all, perhaps, was to be expected in the matter of water power, in which German Austria was very rich. Only in this way, he said, could that country find compensation for the lack of coal, the supplies of which were now in Czecho-Slovak hands. Lecturing at the Royal Society of Arts last week on the use of electricity in agriculture in Germany, Dr. J. F. Cowley said that much good had been done in that country by means of farmers' combinations and co-operation in the use of intensive machinery. Most of the power used on German farms was generated at large central stations on grounds of economy. Electric lamps were used in cowsheds, barns, and dairies, as well as in the bedrooms and living rooms of the farmers. It was proved that lighting by metallic filament lamps cost less than half that of lighting by petroleum lamps. Power was carried to outlying farms by long-distance high-tension lines, and was then passed through transformers into lines of lower tension. Power was transmitted in many parts of the country by portable transformers. All these facilities can be attained at lower cost in Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, and Eastern Macedonia by the utilisation of the rivers of those districts.

The Steam Meter.

Now that the price of coal is high and is expected to be higher any method or instrument that can successfully facilitate control in the use of coal, or any other steam-producing fuel, and can also record the flow of steam over a given period of time, is more than ever a matter of great interest to engineers and steam-power users. To steam-furnace users in the East, where a coal famine prevails, such an instrument would be a boon. Several devices for that purpose have from time to time been brought out, but for some reason or other most of them have not been satisfactory. Some of German or American origin that have been introduced in the East have met, it is said, in certain cases, with fair success, but it is a remarkable fact that the new steam meters which are now obtainable in the British market are unknown in those regions. For they are superior in efficiency, simpler in design, and suitable for the requirements of factories in the East. By the use of the steam meter the amount of steam produced can be seen at once, also the amount that is used for other purposes than engine-driving, and the amount that is wasted through carelessness or imperfect covering of the steam pipes. With the aid of the steam meter steam can be sold to an adjoining factory without risk of dispute for it measures the steam with the same certainty as coal gas is measured by the gas-meter. The meter is especially valuable when charges have to be adjusted between several departments of a factory using steam from the same boiler-house. The steam meter records the flow of steam along any pipe by means of a pencil line on a chart giving the volume that has passed within a fixed period. Only one opening has to be made in a steam pipe to connect the meter, and this opening admits a plug through which pass two small tubes bent at right angles at the end, one facing the steam current and the other pointing in the opposite direction. The connection is so easy to make and break that the meter may be moved from one department to another in a very short time.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 20:—

Widespread rain in North-Western India: general at Chota Nagpur, and parts United Provinces; local in Bengal, Assam, Bombay, Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa; more required in Bengal, Assam, and parts Punjab.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good broach, April-May, quoted at 574 rupees. Piecegoods market tending downwards. Calcutta rice and jute markets as during last week.

All-India cotton acreage, 20,497,000 (end of February, 1917-18, 24,781,000); estimated outturn, 3,671,000 (end of February, 1917-18, 4,036,000) bales. Ground nuts, 1,312,000 (end of February, 1917-18, 1,894,000) acres; outturn, 490,000 tons (end of February, 1917-18, 1,042,000 tons).

£588,000 reversed deferred T.T.'s were applied for and allotted on the 13th inst.; £110,000 at Calcutta and the rest of Bombay.

The Indian gold output for January at 37,280 oz. shows a decrease of 2,870 oz. compared with the total for the previous month.

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WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China, and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

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PURE MALT POT STILL

"SPECIAL" SCOTCH WHISKY "LIQUEUR"

YEARS 10 OLD. YEARS 12 OLD.

MADE FROM SCOTCH BARLEY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

AGENTS FOR EGYPT: ISHERWOOD BROS., CAIRO.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Steamship Movements.

In consideration of the announcement by the Board of Trade that trade with Turkey and Black Sea ports may now be taken up again, the Liverpool steamship lines give notice of the reopening of their services with sailings as may be required.

Moss Line.—The initial departure will be taken by the Moss Liner Glenrazan, closing for cargo on March 8, loading cargo for Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, Odessa and Batoum.

Cunard Line.—The s.s. Brescia, for Smyrna, Constantinople and Odessa, will close for cargo in Manchester and Liverpool on March 15. The s.s. Verentia, for the same ports, will close for cargo in London on March 8.

Ellerman-Wilson Line.—The s.s. City of Delhi, the first steamer to take private cargo from this country to Constantinople, commenced loading at Hull early this week.

Ellerman Lines.—The s.s. Austrian, for Smyrna and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Manchester on March 25. The s.s. Worsley Hall, for Malta and Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on March 6.

Johnston Line (Furness Withy and Co., Ltd.).—The s.s. Maplemore, for Piræus and Salonika, also Constantza, Galatz and Braila (if sufficient inducement offers), will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 8.

BLACK SEA COMMERCE.

Financial Facilities.

The Treasury makes the following announcement:—A general license under regulation 41 D D of the Defence of the Realm Regulations is hereby granted by the Treasury to all persons engaged in the banking, bill-discounting, or any transaction in foreign moneys or exchange, or any business of a similar nature, to do, or to allow to be done, through him or through any account kept by him, any transaction whether or not involving the sending of money credit or securities out of the United Kingdom necessary for the purpose of financing the movement of merchandise to or from any Russian Black Sea port.

Trade Openings.

The Department of Overseas Trade announces that a list of certain goods which are urgently wanted in the Russian territories bordering the Black Sea, and a list of commodities now available for export from that district, have been compiled from a number of sources which are believed to be reliable. Applications for these lists from firms interested should be made to the Department of Overseas Trade (Russian Section), Sunderland House, Curzon Street, Mayfair, W. 1.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended January 31 amounted to £E13,325 making the total for the year £E308,647. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £10,394 and £E234,594.

Mr. Nigel F. Paton has been elected chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for the current year.

BRIAR HB PIPES
FOR ALL MARKETS.
ILLUSTRATED PRICE LISTS and Indents through European Houses.
HARWOOD BROTHERS, Briar Pipe Man'f'rs,
20 24, Richmond Street, LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Products.

The C.E.B. report for December states:—9,349 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market against 9,448 kantars in the same month last year. The average price was £E1,180 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 4,968 kantars as against 3,152 last year. At Um Ruaba 4,300 kantars of gum were sold against 1,418 kantars in the same month last year. The average price was £E1,200 per kantar. At Rahad 4,458 kantars of gum were sold as against 6,591 last year.

From April 14, to the middle of October 7,088 kantars of hashab and 1,114 kantars of talh gum were exported from Mafaza, Karsala Province.

3,569 kantars of gum and 528 kantars of talh gum were exported from the northern district of Upper Nile Province during 1918.

Of Sennar Province it is stated that the great scarcity of water inland this year is proving a serious hindrance to the collection of what would otherwise be a very good gum crop. The result, however, of this and of the division with which the gum areas have now been marked off and allotted, is that the people to whom an area has been allotted are keen on improving the hafirs with a view to better water supplies next season.

Cotton.

In the Red Sea Province there were fair rains at Tokar between December 18 and 28, from which the cotton benefited considerably; but a strong east wind during the last three days of the month did much to counteract the good done by the rain. However, given normal weather there seems every hope that the crop will be considerably larger than that of last season, and it should reach a figure of some 31,000 kantars of 315 rottles. Picking is not likely to begin till the early days of February.

In the Mahas District of Halfa Province, owing to the high price of cloths, in many sagias, 20 to 30 hods have been sown with cotton.

In Berta Province at Gendetu, the southern area (sown in July), which has the least suitable soil for cotton, has already given 2½ kantars, and yields up to 7 kantars are expected on some holdings.

Dates.

A report from the Halfa Province states that the more important merchants have left the Sukkot and Mahas districts after completing their purchases. In Mahas district all the dates for the market have been sold, but in the villages north of Abri, such as Forket, Sarkametto and Mograka, there remains a fair quantity unsold. The price at Abri of Barakawi dates at times was as high as P.T.300, while many sold their Gondeila dates at P.T.320 the sack of 300 rottles (135 kilos). The prices now have fallen to P.T.240 and P.T.300 respectively. In Halfa market Barakawi dates are being sold at £E3.700 the sack, the Cairo price being £E32—33 the ton.

The Mamur Amadi reports that the amount of beeswax brought in by the natives this year in Mongalla Province is far less than last year.

Tombac in Roseires is reported to be a poor crop.

Indian Indigo Crop.

The final Memorandum issued by the Department of Statistics, relating to the crop which is now being marketed, gives the total estimated area under crop at 300,700 acres, which is 58 per cent. below the finally revised acreage (710,600 acres) of last year. The total yield of dye is estimated at 44,100 cwt. (65,900 factory maunds), as against 88,300 cwt. (131,900 factory maunds), the finally revised estimate of last year, or a decrease of 50 per cent. The production of the artificial dye in the United Kingdom, it is stated, has not been without its effect on the Indian industry. The season, on the whole, has not been favourable for the indigo crop, owing mainly to deficient rainfall.

Rosin and Turpentine in the Punjab.

The Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Punjab for the year ending June 30, 1918, states that the Jallo factory produced 16,426 maunds of rosin and 46,709 maunds of turpentine. The Lieutenant-Governor has recently sanctioned a proposal that the sale price of Jallo rosin and turpentine should be fixed at approximately one-sixth less than the price of the corresponding imported article, while during the period of the war Government Departments are being supplied at a still lower rate. The rates will be revised every six months. Hitherto the prices of Indian distillery products have usually been considerably below the market rates for imported products. The quality of the products of the Jallo factory, it is stated, has undergone great improvement during the last three years, and now compares favourably with that of foreign products. The rates at which imported products have been placed on the Indian market have hitherto determined the prices of the much smaller output of Indian products, and though Indian manufacture is at present having a steady effect on the volume of imports, a considerable amount of expansion is still necessary before the Indian market can be wholly secured. The future prospects of the industry in the Punjab are considered exceedingly bright. During the year only 14,521 acres of forest were tapped, but it is estimated that with the early removal of the chief obstacles to progress, tapping operations could be extended at once to about five times this area in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, and that the yield of rosin and turpentine could be increased in similar proportion. This estimate excludes tappable areas in Jammu, Kashmir, Chamba, and other Native States. The main obstacles to rapid progress, since the new factory at Jallo was built in 1914, have been the scarcity of labour, the lack of staff, and difficulties connected with transport from forest to rail head.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Manchester, Wednesday.

The market during the past week has presented a firm appearance, but the recent partial resumption of activity has not been fully maintained. The future course of events is still very uncertain. In addition to the question of shorter working hours in the spinning mills and weaving sheds, which is at present receiving the attention of the various associations concerned, there is the coal menace to be dealt with. It is not possible to report very much change in the position of affairs relating to Egyptian cotton, either with reference to prices or the supplies for next season. Egyptian yarns have only been purchased sparingly, and rates have shown a rather easier tendency. Buying in cloth for Egypt has been very restricted. Grey staples for India have again been almost entirely neglected, and recent advices from our Dependency are not so encouraging as those previously received. Shippers to China seem to have satisfied their requirements for the time being. Inquiry for Java and Singapore has been on rather broader lines during the last few days, and occasional sales have been arranged. Home trade buyers have had to make some provision for immediate wants. Users of American yarns have purchased to a moderate extent at late rates, but the turnover is far from satisfactory.

OAKEY'S
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d.
WELLINGTON
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
KNIFE
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
POLISH.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers.
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD LONDON, S.E.1.

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BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

This year's British Industries Fair, organised by the Board of Trade, which was opened on February 24 in the Pennington Street premises of the London Docks, makes a further great advance on its predecessors. Each year the fair has given greater proof of the capacity of British manufacturers in lines which before the war were largely in the hands of Germany and Austria, and this year many warehouses are devoted to the display of a bewildering variety of the products of British enterprise.

The Armistice came too late for any alteration in the conditions governing the exhibits; otherwise it may be presumed that the fair would have been thrown open to all British trades As it is, the exhibits are once again confined to paper, printing, and stationery, in which section there are 130 entries; glass and pottery, with 114 entries; fancy goods, with 128 entries; and toys, with 198 entries.

Both in their range and appearance the exhibits reflect the greatest credit on the skill and ingenuity of British manufacturers. The stalls given over to pottery, for instance, in many respects among the most attractive in the exhibition, include innumerable examples of delicate workmanship, fit to hold their own in any foreign markets. And the exhibits of glassware merit equal praise. There are cut-glass vases and bowls and table ware equal to anything that has been produced.

Another interesting glimpse of the possibilities of British industry is afforded by the exhibits of the leather trade. Pocket cases, purses, wallets, and similar articles serve to show the great advance that has been made in the last few years in this branch of industry. A word must be said, too, in praise of the exhibits of small metal goods and other fancy ware, and also for the admirable prints to which a number of stalls are devoted. It is worthy of note that toys, hitherto an enemy specialty, predominate at the exhibition; and it is evident that this branch of industry has taken firm root in this country, and in future years should make an important contribution to our lists of exports.

As regards the class of goods in the exhibition most suited for the Near East markets, it is rather difficult to discriminate, since these markets are very comprehensive in character. A few indications may, however, be given of articles likely to prove particularly acceptable there. In Turkey, for instance, the best china was imported from this country, and both for this article and for toilet ware exhibitors of china ware should find a good market in that country. Cut glass also sells well in the Levant and neighbouring markets. Then, before the war there was a considerable business done in Constantinople in oleographs, and firms producing them would do well to investigate the requirements there. Ash-trays and similar goods and wooden frames for picturesque articles are very suitable for the Near East, also long trays for pens, which are in use in Turkey. Finally, leather goods of all kinds, and, indeed, fancy goods in general, are very suitable for Eastern bazaars. But, as a matter of fact, most of the exhibits would find a market in the Near East: and these comments are intended merely to show the wide range of objects for which there is a demand in that region.

THE KHEDIVIAL MAIL.
Meeting to Consider Realisation of Assets.

An extraordinary meeting of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company will be held on March 10 next at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., at noon, to consider the following resolution, with or without modification: "That the directors should take all necessary steps to realise the assets of the company, either by sale of the business as a going concern or by sale of the assets separately, with the view of the ultimate liquidation of the company."

Holders of share warrants to bearer, in order to be entitled to vote, should deposit their share warrants with Messrs. Glyn Mills Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C., on or before March 4. Mr. Hugh Reeves, of 42 Old Broad Street, E.C.2, on behalf of shareholders who support the resolution and himself, asks for proxies.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

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

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
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Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

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25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
38, Rue St. Ferreol.

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Seida. Tripoli.

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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THE OUTLOOK FOR SILVER.

In an analysis of the silver position, the *Metal World* states that the principal causes for the stringency that has been a marked feature for a lengthy period are:—(1) The India Government or their advisers some time back interfered with the regular trade in the metal, and prohibited imports on private account. This action was largely responsible for a high premium being placed on the value of silver, as it opened the eyes of the natives of India to the importance of hoarding the metal still further, and they refused to part with it even at advanced rates. The result of this prohibition had quite a contrary effect to what was intended, as it raised the price of the metal all over the world instead of lowering it. . . . .

(2) China, who during the past two or three years has not possessed a superabundance of silver, now requires the metal more than any other country in the world. In fact, it is reported that very high prices have been offered to America by Chinese operators, and it is said that a shipment of Mexican coin was recently made from San Francisco to China, and that further shipments of silver are anticipated. After the sudden rise from 27d. to 37d. in 1916, China unloaded about £10,000,000 to India, on the hope of being able to replace it at lower prices later on. She found this impossible, and is thus compelled to replenish her stocks at much enhanced prices direct from San Francisco. It is more than probable that she will have to pay still higher prices for future requirements if she can get them.

(3) The high prices of commodities now general all over the world obviously require that more currency must be employed in trade, and had it not been for the high credit of England, France, and America, and their mutual help to each other, silver at 60d., or even 70d., would to-day be cheap. Besides the demand for India and China, the Eastern markets, such as Africa, Mesopotamia, Persia, Palestine, etc., would have been expanded owing to the war, all will probably as soon as peace is made require even more silver currency in the shape of rupees and other coins.

(4) The surplus left over to the sellers of practically all commodities now sold at enormously inflated prices compared with those ruling before the war has to be invested or hoarded in the article which is the least susceptible to heavy fluctuations. Gold and silver are generally used for this purpose. Commodities may come down in value in the near future, but even this is very doubtful; but whatever happens labour is bound to command high wages; and if this be so more currency will certainly be required.

(5) For many years the parity of silver to gold was in the neighbourhood of 14 to 15½ to one of gold, or, say, about 60d. per oz., and it was only after Germany demonetised silver in 1872—which action was followed by other countries—that the value of silver began to fall away. It is likely that the metal will rehabilitate itself to something approaching its former value unless the output can be greatly increased, which is unlikely, although the outlook in Mexico is much better.

(6) As regards production, this is now under 200,000,000 oz. per annum, against 226,000,000 oz. a few years back, and, considering the enormous expansion of trade all the world over, coupled with the very large increase in the production of gold since 1850, silver has not increased in anything like the same proportion. Furthermore, there is no sign of new silver mines being found, and it is therefore quite likely that there will be a shortage of silver for many years to come. At the present time there is undoubtedly a shortage in all countries of the world, whether it be China, India, Russia, France, Italy, Holland, and Belgium, to say nothing of the enemy countries. These shortages will have to be made good before there will be a surplus large enough to affect the market.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

North Anantapur Gold.

The directors of the North Anantapur Gold Mines have declared a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, less income-tax at 6s. in £, on the preference shares, for the half-year ended December 31 last, payable on March 22 to holders registered 20th instant.

East Indian Coal.

The report of the East Indian Coal Company for the half-year ended October 31, 1918, states that, after making allowance for the depreciation of buildings, plant, and machinery, and writing £7,500 off development account, there was a profit of £10,759, which with £740 brought forward makes £11,498 for disposal. A dividend of 9 per cent. for the half-year was paid on January 7, which leaves £698 to be carried forward. The output was 313,359 tons, as against 313,065 tons in the corresponding half-year of 1917. The output was affected by the influenza epidemic. The Government requisition of the best coal still continues in force, but the company has been able to recommence oversea sales.

BRITISH TRADE WITH PALESTINE.

The Department of Overseas Trade has prepared a "Report on Openings for British Trade in Palestine," which can be consulted by firms on the Special Register (says the *Board of Trade Journal*). This report has been drawn up with the object of bringing to the attention of British manufacturers the openings resulting from the elimination of German and Austro-Hungarian competition in Palestine.

The information available in occupied territory, supplemented by that derived from credible—principally British and Allied—former residents, all of which has been submitted to very careful sifting and corroboration by qualified officials, affords an indication of the situation as regards foreign import trade in the whole area.

Where direct information regarding the conditions of Palestine was not available, its close proximity to Egypt and the similarity of trading conditions have often given a clue to the nature of the trade and the competition to be expected.

Thus any fresh foreign trade competition noticeable in Egypt will spread to Palestine as soon as normal trading conditions and means of communication are once more available. Where, for the present, any particular line of trade is inactive in occupied territory, conditions existing in Egypt have been quoted as a guide to British manufacturers of what competition in Palestine they may reasonably expect.

SUEZ CANAL RECE'PTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—February 13, 440,000 francs, against 410,000 francs; February 14, 15, 16, 17, 1,300,000 francs, against 630,000 francs.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a fair amount of business doing this week, but prices have been rather irregular.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have continued in request, but business has been restricted by the continued absence of sellers.

In Bank shares, National's, after changing hands up to 22⅞, are closing 1-16 easier at 22 3-16, whilst Agricultural Banks have also receded 1-16 to 6¾. On the other hand, Agricultural Prefs. have improved ⅛ to 7¾. In Anglo-Egyptian Banks there has been a smart drop of ½ to 16¼.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ⅛ better at 8 7-16.

Amongst Land shares Aboukirs have been dealt in pretty largely, and after rising to 30s. 6d. they close 1s. 6d. up at 29s. 6d. Gharbieh Lands have improved 1-32 to 2¾. There has been a fairly large business doing in New Egyptians, which, after temporarily receding to 25s., close fractionally better at 25s. 7½d. Sudan Plantations have been easier, and close ⅛ lower at 4¼. United Egyptian Lands are 3d. down at 2s. 9d.

In Miscellaneous shares some transactions have taken place in Alexandria Waters around the current level, and several hundred Markets have also been done at 28s. 3d. Khedivial Mails are closing 2s. 6d. down at 5½, but, on the other hand, the prefs. are ⅛ better at 4½, with some business transacted at 4⅝.

In Greek stocks the 1881, 1884, and 1890 loans are all 1 point down at 71. On the other hand, the 1902 loan and Currant bonds have improved 1 to 64 and 97 respectively, and the 1914 loan has jumped up 3½ points to 82½.

Oil Shares.

The Oil market has continued dull. Burmahs are unchanged at 8⅝, as are British Burmahs at 20s. Anglo-Persian Prefs. are firm at 25s. 7d. Anglo-Egyptians B are slightly stronger at 3 15-16.

Roumanians are lower. Roumanian Consols are 4½d. down at 17s. 3d., and Anglo-Roumanians have fallen 1s. 1½d. to 12s. 3d. Traians, however, are 3d. up at 14s.

Ural Caspians are 1 11-16. Bakus at 4s. 9d. are again 1½d. lower. Russian Generals close at 1 1-16 and Russian Petroleums at 1s. 9d.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares are lower at 5,175 francs. Other prices are:—Egyptian Unifieds, 96; Serbian 1895's, 60.90; Turkish Unifieds, 72.25; Banque d'Athenes, 95; Crédit Foncier Egyptiens, 779; Land Banks, 185; and Ottoman Banks, 550.

CYPRUS OIL TRUST.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Cyprus Oil Trust, Limited, will be held at 52, New Broad Street, E.C.2, on March 3, at 12.30 p.m. when the following resolution will be submitted:—"That the company hereby authorise the board to enter into negotiations and to execute on behalf of the company any agreement or agreements as they, the said board, may consider necessary or expedient for the acquisition by the company by purchase or otherwise of a new oil property."

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Feb. 18	Feb 25.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	93	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	91	91
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72	71
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72	71
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58	58
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55½	55½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72	71
Do. 5 % Funding Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	79	82½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	97
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83¾	83½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agrl. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6½	6¾
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16¼	16¼
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	10¾	11½
Chartered Bank of India	65	71	71
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9 1/16	9¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6¼	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	173	173¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22½	22 1/16
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt, Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8 3/16	8 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 7/16	28/-	29/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	13⅜	13⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/6	16/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/-	16/0
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2 5/16	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/6	25/7½
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 409.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The chief feature in connection with the Paris Conference during the past week has been the friction between the Italians and Yugoslavs. This development is the more regrettable, as at one time there seemed reason for supposing that the two nations had found a method of composing their differences. It was a grave mistake, as was continually pointed out in these columns at the time, to allow the controversy between two of the Allies to drag on until the war came to an end. There was ample justification for imposing a settlement "from above" when the two peoples showed that they were unable to agree among themselves; but neither the British nor the French Government seemed able to appreciate the seriousness of the quarrel or was willing to exercise the necessary pressure to bring about an understanding. The result is that the proceedings of the Allied Conference in Paris are punctuated with reports of unfriendly actions and reprisals on the part of the disputants, which in the circumstances reflect considerable discredit on both parties.

There can be no desire to attempt to apportion blame. It is enough that the responsible heads of the two nations prefer to allow the quarrel to find expression in local incidents than to thresh out an agreement between themselves. The Yugoslavs proposed that the controversy should be submitted to the arbitration of President Wilson. This suggestion was rejected by the Italian Government, and accordingly the territorial issues will be dealt with directly by the Council of Ten. One reason for the Yugoslav proposal was that, if the matter were left to the Council, the Italians would enjoy an unfair advantage by being represented on the tribunal trying the case. It is hardly to be supposed, however, that the Italian Government would avail itself of this advantage, or that the Executive would tolerate the injustice. The Council of Ten for this purpose would have to become a Council of Eight. Most onlookers will hold that the Italians and Yugoslavs would have been well advised to patch up their differences without outside interference. A settlement has to be reached, and one based on mutual concessions would seem to have been more desirable than an enforced settlement, which will probably leave both parties dissatisfied.

The more recent reports of the Conference proceedings indicate that there has been a reversion to the old rule that in every controversy the rival parties should submit the most extreme claims. Apparently there is not a single statesman, apart from Signor Bissolati, among the nations concerned who has the courage, or sufficient confidence in his own position, to give a lead to his countrymen instead of being led by them on points that call for specialist knowledge. This attitude increases the difficulties of the Allied Conference, and it is hardly a matter of surprise to learn that a special committee has now had to be set up in order to ensure that the work of other committees which deal with territorial questions may be envisaged as a whole and presented from a broad world point of view to the Council of Ten before submission to the Plenary Conference. One instance of the kind of problem that calls for a solution is the destiny of Fiume. For the last four years Yugoslav propaganda has insisted that there can be no question as to the Yugoslav character of the town and district. In spite of this contention, Signor Bissolati, who sacrificed his Ministerial position in the cause of moderating Italy's demands, made a point of his country's right to Fiume, and now Signor Orlando has declared that Fiume must and will be Italian.

In the meantime, despite the uncertainty regarding its boundaries, some progress is being made in the establishment of the new kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. On March 1 the Provisional Chamber of Deputies was opened at Belgrade. One of its tasks will be to draw up a scheme for the election of a Constituent Assembly and to devise measures necessary for the temporary administration of the State pending the decisions of that Assembly. It will be well for Yugoslavia when its foreign relations are satisfactorily adjusted, and it can devote the whole of its attention to social and economic reform and to the material progress of the country. The latter is, indeed, being further handicapped by the interruption of railway communication as an episode of the Italo-Yugoslav dispute. When the privations of the peoples of the Near East are remembered and their paramount anxiety for measures that will enable the respective countries to become self-supporting at the earliest possible opportunity, an impression of unreality is caused by the action of politicians who are apparently prepared to see their nation starve, while they hold up the peace settlement, provided that they can point to their own intransigent attitude on a subject which clearly calls for compromise.

Serbia, we are reminded by Lord Crewe, stands in need not only of bodily sustenance, but also of mental food. The troops or officials of the Dual Monarchy and of Bulgaria were at special pains to remove all means of

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education and culture in the country, and they destroyed her libraries after taking from them all that they themselves wanted. For this reason an appeal is made for books, old or new, of practically every kind, and in any language, to be sent to the Honorary Organising Secretary for the Reconstruction of Serbian Libraries, Royal Society of Literature. The very wide nature of the appeal is, perhaps, in danger of defeating its purpose, for the well-disposed will hesitate to send books that in view of the difficulty of transport may be indefinitely detained in this country. It would be well if the Royal Society of Literature formulated more in detail the scheme that it has in view. Presumably it is pressing at the same time for a systematic search in enemy countries for the stolen contents of the Serbian libraries; but when this has been done the need for literature in Serbia will still be great, and it is to be hoped that the request for financial aid will meet with a generous response.

A Reuter's message from Paris states that the Commission appointed by the Allied and Associated Powers under the presidency of General Franchet d'Esperey to inquire on the spot as to the events that have occurred in Montenegro since last November has now reported. Its findings, as recorded in this message, are of such an amazing character that it would appear as if a practical joke had been played upon the correspondent. The first paragraph declares that the troops resident in Montenegro consist of Yugoslav volunteers and of soldiers who have come from Serbia, the total number not exceeding 500 men throughout the country. As it was the advance of the Serbian troops which was largely responsible for the withdrawal of the Austrian army, we have to infer that this result was attained by 500 Serbians. Again, these troops have exercised no influence on the elections, "and 500 Yugoslav soldiers could not impose their will on 50,000 armed Montenegrins." It would have been of interest if the Commission had reported where the 50,000 Montenegrins secured their arms after disarmament and two years of Austrian occupation. Another paragraph reads: "The whole Montenegrin incident has been raised through the instrumentality of the ex-King, supported by Italian agents"—a sentence which is calculated to rouse the curiosity of the reader in regard to the composition of a Commission that could perpetrate such a solecism in a judicial report. If the document were *bona fide*, it would supply the explanation of the despatch to Montenegro of an independent American mission of inquiry.

Further news from Afghanistan indicates that the usurpation of Nasr Ullah Khan has not been allowed to pass unchallenged. While he was being proclaimed Ameer at Jellalabad, Aman Ullah Khan, the second son of Habib Ullah, assumed the reins of government in Kabul, and the latest information is to the effect that Nasr Ullah has made his submission to Aman Ullah. The situation, however, remains obscure for the present. The effacement of the eldest son, Inayat Ullah Khan, may be the outcome of Court intrigue. His mother was reckoned as the fourth wife of Habib Ullah, whereas the mother of Aman Ullah, who was born in 1890, was the chief wife at the time of the Ameer's death. From the statement that Inayat Ullah had waived his claims to the throne in his uncle's favour it may be inferred that Nasr Ullah had taken the precaution of securing his person as well as his acquiescence when usurping the throne. Such an arrangement is not likely to have commended itself to the mother of Aman Ullah, whose domineering character always made itself felt at the late Ameer's Court.

No official statement has yet been made on the question we asked some time ago: how India stands with regard to the new international labour organisation, the machinery of which is being rapidly put together in Paris. We can scarcely believe that the India Office does not realise the need for a definite announcement of policy: it is, of course, possible that the new machinery will work slowly at first, but it is certain that changes in the efficiency of Indian labour will come more slowly still, and until the position is cleared up no prudent employer is likely to undertake any new venture. As things now stand, we know only that a prominent member of the Cabinet aspires to promote the current ideals of Western Labour by eliminating "the international competition of low-wage countries." Is that aspiration shared by the Cabinet as a whole? Does Mr. Montagu accept the policy as applied to India? And, if so, how is he going to put it into practice?

Let us put the concrete case of the Tata Iron and Steel Works, a concern which is rapidly occupying a large and valuable Asiatic market hitherto supplied from European countries. It represents, perhaps, the high-water mark of industrial India; its inception and growth have been fostered by the India Government, and only two months ago Lord Chelmsford visited the principal works to pay a tribute to the memory of the founder, Mr. Jamshedji Tata, and announced that in his honour the new steel-city would in future be known as Jamshedpur—a city with a population of nearly 50,000, settled on land which ten years ago was jungle. The concern employs many thousands of labourers, who are paid low wages when judged by European, though not by Indian, standards: is this low-wage competition to be "eliminated"? The idea is grotesque to anyone who cares for the future of India, but the formula enunciated by Mr. Barnes fits it precisely, and India is entitled to know whether that formula is going to be applied.

Take again the situation in regard to imports as described in a message published recently in *The Times*. We are told that the high level of prices for English goods has already checked business in India, that any further rise will finally and permanently close the market, and that importers are looking eagerly for cheaper sources of supply. Mr. Barnes proposes to eliminate these cheaper sources in so far as their cheapness depends on low wages, and if that policy is carried out, it is not to be expected that in the present conditions India will work harder in order to pay higher prices for what she wants. It is much more likely that she will remember how many things she used to do without, that the small rise in the standard of living will presently be lost, and that along with it will go the hope of increased efficiency of labour, on which the whole economic future of the country depends.

The death of Sir Andrew Fraser recalls the bad times in Bengal during the period of his administration. Their history has not yet been adequately written, but it is possible now to see them in their true perspective, as the first genuine clash between the contending ideals of nationalist sentiment and administrative efficiency. From the latter standpoint the division of Bengal into two provinces, which it fell to Sir Andrew to carry out, was infinitely better than the arrangement which it superseded, and also than the arrangement now in force, but it occurred at a time when Bengal was just becoming conscious of its separate individuality, and undoubtedly it did much to consolidate the new "nation." The bearing of this development on the wider aspiration for a united India is still uncertain; some observers are disposed to anticipate a bitter conflict between the nationalisms of the parts and the nationalism of the whole, but, however that may be, the unity of Bengal is not likely to be seriously threatened in the future.

Probably Sir Andrew's best work was done as President of the Police Commission, the labours of which laid the foundation of the great advance observable in the last decade. The Indian Police force is by no means perfect, but it is much more efficient than it was, and we have no doubt that it would be still better if more money had been spent. Even now we believe that some of the reforms recommended by the Commission in 1903 are still awaiting the allotment of sufficient funds, and so long as under-payment and under-equipment continue, the organisation cannot give entirely satisfactory results. That, however, is not the fault of the men by whom it was designed, and India owes a heavy debt of gratitude to the Commission.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 18.

The High Commissioner.

The sudden departure of the High Commissioner has given rise to all manner of rumours, a fact which will perhaps not be altogether surprising to anyone who knows Egypt. Sir Reginald Wingate, who has been accompanied by his Liaison Officer and the Second Secretary to the Residency, has been summoned home in connection with the many important Oriental questions at present before the British and Allied Governments. It must not be forgotten that the High Commissioner, from his long residence in this part of the world and his wide experience, possesses a good deal more than a nodding acquaintance with most of the Near Eastern and North-East African problems at present before the Powers, and that, since he has been directly dealing with some of these questions, the British Government would quite naturally desire to have the benefit of his first-hand advice.

It is, of course, to be expected that during his visit to London the Egyptian question will come up for discussion, but the Egyptians are very much mistaken if they think that that matter bulks largely on the order of the day at the present moment. There are other far more important international, even Imperial, questions to be settled before that of the internal political organisation of this country can be taken in hand. Those Egyptians who look for certain political concessions must, therefore, wait for the propitious moment with patience and self-restraint, and must not jump to the conclusion that, because a matter in which, quite naturally, they are vitally interested is not dealt with forthwith, their interests are being overlooked. They may rest assured that, when the time comes, they will receive every consideration at the hands of a nation which has ever shaped its colonial policy in the direction of the moral and material advancement of the peoples subjected to its authority rather than for the furtherance of its own individual interests.

The Mixed Bar Protest.

I gather that the general opinion is not favourable to the attitude which the Mixed Bar is adopting towards the new scheme for judicial reform. It is admitted that the subject must by its very nature always give rise to criticism, which at the same time, like competition in commerce, can be productive of results most beneficial to the community at large. The impression is, however, that the Mixed Bar is more concerned with the effect of these changes on its own material situation than with the question of whether or not they meet the requirements of the country in which it lives and for which it pretends to speak. Indeed, viewed in the light of all the facts, the nature of the criticism which it now brings forward would tend to confirm that impression. The hope is generally expressed by competent critics, who are deeply interested in the matter of providing Egypt with a judicial regime complying with its peculiar needs, that an end will now be put to what bade fair to become an unfortunate and unproductive polemic, and that the Mixed Bar will collaborate with the other elements of the local communities in assisting the authorities by reasoned, healthy, and disinterested criticism; so that the judicial and administrative reforms, when they are finally elaborated and promulgated, may respond as closely as it is possible to make them to the requirements of the situation as it will be in Egypt on the abolition of the Capitulations.

The Draft Penal Code.

As mentioned last week, two conferences have been given by Mr. Percival on the Draft Penal Code, which has been prepared by the Capitulations Commission. The Société d'Economie Politique, which has in the most public-spirited manner placed its hall at the disposal of those interested in the matter, is now collecting the memoirs and criticisms on the subject, with a view to fixing the date when a debate can be held and the critics and Mr. Percival can have an opportunity of discussing the various points in question.

In this connection it should be mentioned that at the last conference a speech was made by Saad Zaghlul Pasha in which he protested against the proposal to make radical changes in the existing legislation and the intention of introducing these changes without submitting them to the Legislative Assembly, which, he said, is the only legislative body existing in the country. He also disputed the political status of the country referred to in the second part of the Code in the following terms: "Our country still possesses the autonomy which the London Convention of 1840 and international treaties conferred on it. In vain can one invoke the change in political status made since the war. International law agrees on the point that a protectorate is an agreement between two countries, one of which asks the other to take it under its wing, and the second accepts the mandate. Nothing of the kind has happened nor could ever happen in Egypt. The unilateral Act of 1914 was merely a war measure. It is, therefore, non-existent, for it could not last even for one hour once the war is ended."

There are two important points to be noted about this speech. In the first place, it should be mentioned that Zaghlul Pasha had announced his intention of giving a tea-party at his house and of delivering to his guests a speech on the political situation. Judging by what he had said on another, similar occasion, it was considered advisable to tell him that he must not hold these political meetings. He submitted to the letter of the order, but, as can be seen, took the earliest opportunity of evading its spirit and of delivering the speech, or, from his point of view, the most important part of it, according to a pre-arranged plan, the existence of which was evident from the composition of the audience, certain members of which were fully aware of the substance of his expected oration.

Secondly, in speaking as he did, he committed a breach of etiquette, for it had been clearly laid down that no speeches were to be made at the end of these conferences, but that any who had any remarks to offer should present them to the Société, when a date would be fixed for a debate. The reasons for this were, first, that the time available at the end of a conference is always too short for any useful discussion; and, secondly, that the subject was so important and of such general interest that it was considered advisable to have a special debate. This was fully known to Zaghlul Pasha, who, as a member of the Society, had received the usual advice of the conference, on which a notice to this effect was printed. His action, which was certainly a breach of etiquette, was aggravated by the fact that he transgressed the rules of the Society, which forbid political speeches or speeches which have any political references, such as had the one in question.

This incident is instructive merely for the fact that it shows what little respect for law and order and for the rules of etiquette is felt by the clique headed by Zaghlul, which wants to have the reins of Government in its own hands. It is certainly not calculated to increase sympathy for its cause, or to encourage the making of the experiment for which it asks. In fact, it is by such acts that these self-appointed patriots do more harm than good to their fellow-countrymen. For, if we were to take them at their word, and accept their statement that they are representative of the Egyptian nation, we would be justified in coming to the conclusion that that nation is as yet unfitted to have the responsibilities of government entrusted to it.

The Question of Sugar.

The Supplies Control Board has prohibited, until the end of December next, the importation of sugar into Egypt, unless such importation is effected under licence granted by it. This measure has been necessitated, first, by the existence of previous agreements with the Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte, which has assured sugar supplies to Egypt, the Sudan, the Army, and the Navy, under the supervision of the

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Egyptian Government during the past four years; and secondly, by the great extension which sugar cane cultivation and refining have undergone in Egypt since the war and by the urgency of affording the industry some, even temporary, protection.

In this connection it is interesting to recall that, prior to the war, Austrian beet sugar was dumped into Egypt at prices which completely undercut those at which the local refining industry could deliver on the Egyptian market sugar produced from Egyptian cane. In view of the extension of cane production in Egypt and of the refining industry, it is to be hoped that, if eventually trade relations between Egypt and enemy countries are resumed, the recommendations of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt will be adopted, viz., that such trade relations shall be so restricted as to render any attempt at dumping or a return to pre-war trade conditions impossible; and that special taxes shall be put on goods which may benefit by enemy export bounty, whether directly on the goods themselves or on the ships which carry them. The Egyptian sugar industry has, indeed, become such an important one that it merits all the protection which it is possible to give it, provided, of course, that the agricultural community and the State each derive their proper benefit from the protection afforded to the industry.

NEWS FROM PALESTINE.

We are indebted to the London Bureau of the Zionist Organisation for the following notes:—

A conference of Palestinian Jews took place at Tel Aviv, near Jaffa, on December 18 to 22. The members of the conference were representative of the whole of Palestinian Jewry. The chief resolutions passed by the conference were those asking that the Jewish representatives should urge the Peace Conference to make of Palestine a Jewish Commonwealth, in which the Jews of the world should have predominance in government and administration; further, that the Powers should nominate Great Britain as their trustee, and confer on it the government of Palestine, with a view to aiding the Jewish people in building its Commonwealth. They also urged that the Executive Council of the new State should be nominated by Great Britain in agreement with the world Zionist Organisation, representing the Jewish people.

Arrangements are being made for the calling of a Constituent Assembly, which will probably be summoned at the beginning of April. The election campaign is already in full progress and is being carried on especially vigorously by the Orthodox and the Labour section, the Hapoel Hazair, which is advocating an advanced social programme. It is not in favour of class-attacks, and is especially anxious to promote a policy of Jewish manual labour in Jewish colonies and the elimination of all commercial and exploiting ideals, which would hinder the building up of a sound colonisation in Palestine based on agriculture and aiming at a self-contained, self-supporting community.

The call to the Constituent Assembly of Palestine Jewry was issued by the Zionist Commission in Palestine, which was sent out with the approval of the British Government on April 19, 1918. It is noteworthy that the democratic spirit prevailing in the new Palestine has manifested itself in two proposals embodied in its organic constitution. All Jews of both sexes who have reached their twentieth year are entitled to vote, and all who have reached their twenty-fourth year are eligible for election. One of the other qualifications necessary for candidates is that they will be able to read, write, and speak Hebrew.

Of special interest to music lovers in England will be the news that Anton Tschaikoff, who joined the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (the Jewish Battalion), has taken over the musical directorship of the Shulamith music school, in Jaffa. Numerous concerts are being arranged by the English military authorities in various parts of Jaffa and Jerusalem, and these are very popular, whilst they are in turn invited to the British musical entertainments provided by the Jewish colonists. The Hebrew Dramatic Company is proving very popular.



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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Question of the Dobruja.

As the result of a curious omission from the Armistice terms imposed upon the Bulgarians concerning the withdrawal of their troops from all the Allied territory, the Dobruja remained for a time under Bulgarian occupation. Later on British troops were sent to maintain order instead of the Roumanians being allowed to reoccupy their lost territory. Unfortunately, this has given rise to great discontent in Roumania, and enemy agents have tried to create the impression that the Allies intend to give the Dobruja to the Bulgarians. The Allies have now decided to withdraw the British troops—who were unjustly bearing all the odium of the regrettable misunderstanding—and to entrust the Roumanians with the maintenance of order. The Dobruja is the natural outlet to the Black Sea of the rich Roumanian land. If the Roumanians should be deprived of that province, they would be forced to create traffic facilities with Central Europe, and it is to be hoped that the Allies will not drive Roumania again into the political and economic sphere of pre-war days. Bulgaria already possesses a considerable stretch of coast along the Black Sea, as well as on the Ægean Sea. The ports in the south of Bessarabia are too far away to satisfy the requirements of the whole of Wallachia and Moldavia, and now even of a great part of Transylvania. Moreover, the Dobruja is of no use for Bulgaria, because it is too far north from the Bulgarian centres of production. Roumania could be greatly aided in getting rid of German economic domination if her exports could follow their normal way to the West through the Black Sea. From the historical point of view, the Roumanians argue, they have a better right to the Dobruja than any other nation; for this strip of land was originally a Roman province called Scythia Minor, and its native inhabitants were Daco-Thracians civilised by the Roman legionaries and some Greek colonists. Before it became the battleground between Turk and Russian, it had witnessed the passage of Kuman and Tatar hordes, as well as that of the Bulgars. Even from the fourteenth century the Wallachian princes extended their rule over the Dobruja. Ethnologically, the country, before its incorporation into Roumania (1881), was a veritable museum of races. After the annexation of the province the Roumanian population increased rapidly, partly being sent there as colonists and partly because of the great development of the ports and of agriculture. From the geographic and economic point of view the Dobruja is an integral part of the whole system of the Roumanian State. The roads and waterways, the railways, and the pipe-lines for oil all converge upon the Dobruja, and particularly upon Constantza.

The Financial Situation.

The question of credit being not yet settled, the financial situation of Roumania is becoming disastrous. Buying in the Allied countries is impossible owing to the depreciation of the Roumanian money. Before the war the *leu* was equal in value to the franc; last week a rich Roumanian paid 120,000 *lei* for 50,000 francs. The depreciation of the Roumanian money is due to the cessation of the export of the country, as well as to the banknotes which the Germans scattered broadcast over the country during their occupation. If prompt and urgent measures are not taken ruin awaits the economic life of Roumania.

The Pro-German Politicians.

In the public life of Roumania there were few people who could be regarded as pro-Germans by conviction. Perhaps the only pro-Germans were those who belonged to the old literary society, "Junimea." They were inspired by German, or, rather, by the Prussian, ideas of the middle of the last century. The only living prominent member of "Junimea" is M. P. Carp, who is also the only Roumanian statesman who could be styled pro-German, and he during the German occupation maintained a most dignified attitude and took no part in political life. The so-called "pro-Germans" of the Allied Press are just a few opportunists whose influence is absolutely nil. It is true that German finance helped very much to create an apparent movement, but the persons prominent in this movement were not men of any moral authority. It is necessary to refer to these subjects because some people are inclined to believe that there is a pro-German political party in Roumania, which is not true.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

OMAR KHAYYAM.

There is a certain old West Country song—quoted by our greatest living novelist, in "The Woodlanders"—in which a young woman laments:

"A maid again I never shall be
Till apples grow on an orange tree!"

In the days when this ditty was composed, we may safely conclude, the expression was used as a synonym for "The Greek Kalends"; and, indeed, few of us would care to-day to bet on the happening of such an arboreal miracle. Yet it seems quite possible that in a moment of freakishness Dame Nature may some day produce such a marvel in an English orchard—I do not mean with the assistance of the modern Scientific Gardener, but by her own simple, unaided efforts. For I observe that the *Journal of Heredity* reports "a case of a lemon tree which proceeded to produce oranges"; and if a lemon tree can do it, why not an apple tree? Why the lemon tree should have broken out in this way I do not pretend to say. It may have been that it thought mankind had had enough Lemon Marmalade, and determined to do something to meet the demand for the more popular orange variety; or it may have been endeavouring to show resentment at being transplanted. For I forgot to mention that the tree—one "of the ordinary Italian lemon variety"—had been transplanted to Egypt. There it produced lemons that were "more spherical than lemons usually are, and bore an orange-coloured stripe," and at least "one branch bore a large fruit which was unmistakably an orange."

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The mention of oranges reminds me that recently a friend, an Englishman, formerly resident for many years in Constantinople, remarked that since his arrival in England he had missed most terribly the fruit that one gets in such abundance out in Turkey. It is a trifling matter, no doubt, but it is the kind of trifle that makes itself felt; and with fruit at such prices as it has fetched of late in this country, one feels it pretty acutely. For the fruit you get in Constantinople is not the kind that you forget readily. I was surprised to learn that it is quite possible to tell what part of the country an orange comes from. The Jaffa orange is (my friend said) the largest and the freest from pips, it has also a shape of its own; next, both in size and in freedom from pips, comes the orange from the Tripoli (Tarablus) district; and third, the one from the Alexandretta region. Personally, I am inclined to doubt whether the best of these can beat the Baghdad orange, which is large, juicy, and of very fine flavour.

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It is not only the fruit that one misses when one leaves Turkey or the East. The spicy meat dishes—the *dolma* and the *kebab*, the cream and honey, or date-sugar, and the rich pastry and sweetmeats, all have their attractions; though when you are in the land of their origin you do not always appreciate them at their true value. I remember an American telling me of some youthful friends of his who, after living several years in Constantinople with their parents, were sent to the States to complete their education. In a short time their letters began to contain such sentences as: "The food here is very insipid," and "Can you *please* send us some Turkish sweetmeats?"

***

"Any port in a storm," runs an old saying; and I was reminded of it when an army chaplain home from Salonika told me recently of one of his experiences. He was going out at night, accompanied by a sergeant, to bring in a dead soldier and give him decent burial, and they were leading with them a mule. Just after leaving camp they discovered that they had forgotten something, and the padre sent the sergeant back to fetch it. A few minutes later the Bulgars suddenly started spreading shrapnel round that part rather more lavishly than the padre cared for. He glanced round quickly for shelter of some sort, but could see nothing of the kind. Then he observed that the old mule was standing like a rock—meditative, unmoved. In half a second the chaplain was squatting between the mule's legs, trusting to such protection as the animal's body afforded. "And," said he, "the old beast stood like an image, just cocking first one ear, then the other, until the shelling was over; when the sergeant rejoined us and we went on our way." For my part, I am not sure that I should have had courage to try such a "shelter."

CORSAIR.

THE DODECANESOS IN THE PRE-CHRISTIAN ERA.

(By Dr. Skevos Zervos.)

By the term Dodecanesos is understood that chain of twelve islands which, lying spread out along the coast of Asia Minor, between Samos and Crete, counts as its links Patmos, Astypalea, Leros, Calymnos, Cos, Nisyros, Halki, Tilos, Symi, Rhodes, Carpathos, and Cassos. Viewed from the geological standpoint, these islands are fragments torn at some remote epoch from the Asiatic mainland by volcanic action. In Calymnos, Leros, Patmos, and elsewhere are to be found the fossilised remains of marine shells and fishes, proving that these places were once beneath the sea, whilst at Rhodes and Cos have been discovered the teeth of elephants and other primeval monsters which inhabited the islands before their severance from the neighbouring continent.

Investigated in the light of history, the Dodecanesos is revealed as the seat of important activities dating back into pre-Homeric times. Homer is well acquainted with the position of the various islands, their kings, and the vessels with which they participated in Agamemnon's expedition against Troy. He tells how Rhodes venerates as her patron deity Helios, the Sun-god, who dries her marshes, sucks up the excessive moisture of her low-lying territory, and safeguards her people from disease. Leros worships Artemis, Calymnos prefers Apollo, and the remaining islands others among the gods enthroned on Olympus. Cos having sheltered Podaleirios, the shipwrecked son of Asclepios, rears its famous Asclepieion, and founds mankind's first medical school, the worth and services of which, thanks to Hippocrates and his disciples, stand pre-eminent.

Dodecanesian medicine was the first to investigate disease scientifically, to describe various disorders accurately, and in many cases to diagnose their causes. By the comparative study of animals it threw light on the human organism and revealed many of the natural laws controlling it, alternately employing the anatomist's scalpel and the lamp of philosophy. But Hippocratic medicine interrogated Nature in the widest spirit, and, following her as the wisest guide and teacher, has continued for 2,500 years to be the healer of mankind, until within the present generation the work of the Dodecanesos was, in certain branches only, supplemented and perfected by Pasteur and his followers. Thus, in the person of Hippocrates, the father of healing, it was the Dodecanese that on the anvil of medicine hammered out the first eternal natural laws, the first scientific axioms. By giving birth to Herodotus she bestowed upon humanity the father of history.

The school of Alexandria, also, is spiritually the child of the Dodecanesos, for its founder and greatest teacher, Praxagoras, was a kinsman of Hippocrates, and after learning the holy mysteries of science in his native land carried them to the kingdom of the Pharaohs and Ptolemies, where he applied and developed them successfully.

Whilst Cos was doing great things the largest of the twelve islands, Rhodes, with its classical myths and brilliant history, was contributing to the development of poetry in the Mediterranean, furnishing rich material to literature, and giving a mighty impetus to the fine arts, exact sciences, mechanics, and history.

Of Rhodian medicine we know little but its high reputation. The excavator's shovel has yet to lay bare its Asclepieion. We are told that in the streets of Rhodes there were images endowed with lifelike movements and a hundred statues to Helios, marvellously fashioned, amongst which was the famous Colossus. Laocoon struggling with the serpents has been happily preserved, and supplies a tangible proof of the island's artistic genius. At the same time Rhodes was fashioning a codex of maritime law, which has continued until the present day to form the basis of universal legislation on nautical matters.

Finally, Patmos welcomed to its peaceful shores the well-beloved disciple, St. John the Divine, maternally sheltering him in her miraculous grotto, where he composed his Gospel and bequeathed to mankind the inspired Book of Revelations.

What land can point to greater services rendered to science, art, civilisation, and humanity? May it not with confidence look forward to the restoration of its liberty?

POST TO TURKEY.

It is announced by the Postmaster-General that postal packets of all kinds, except parcels, may now be sent, subject to censorship, to any part of Turkey-in-Europe or Turkey-in-Asia. Parcels cannot be sent, except to Mesopotamia and Palestine.

Registration is restricted to correspondence for Mesopotamia, Palestine, occupied territory in Syria, and to correspondence addressed "Posto Restante, British Army Post Office, Constantinople," where it must be called for by the addressees.

Remittances may be made by money order to Mesopotamia, Palestine, Beyrout, and Damascus, but not to other parts. British postal orders can, however, be cashed at the British Army Post Office, Galata, Constantinople, at Indian Post Offices in Mesopotamia, and at British Post Offices in Palestine.

A delayed Reuter's message from Delhi announces that Mr. Surendranath Banerjee will preside over a delegation of Moderates who have been selected to proceed to England in order to promote the cause of Indian reforms.

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AN EARLY EGYPTIAN NAVAL BASE.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

During the past ten years accounts have been published from time to time in the *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellenique* of important discoveries of antiquities by French explorers in the island of Delos. The results achieved by the uncovering of temples, statues and inscriptions, as well as smaller relics of all descriptions, have exceeded the most sanguine expectations. One series of monuments brought to light was unexpected—that is, remains of shrines dedicated to Egyptian divinities, with epigraphical texts concerning their erection and the worship carried on in them.

These cults of the gods whose home was by the Nile were undoubtedly introduced into the island of Delos in the third century B.C., when the Ptolemies, in order to strengthen themselves against any invasion by the successors of Alexander's generals, who had become princes in Asia Minor, had to adopt an active policy. The ability to hold Egypt was becoming partly a question of sea power; and to secure any genuine maritime supremacy in the Eastern Mediterranean it was necessary for Egypt to have control of some of the islands of the Greek archipelago. This position the Ptolemies succeeded in securing, with the exception of some intervals during which the Syrian Selucidae were superior in power, until the advent of the Roman fleets. Greek colonists from the Hellenic inhabitants of Egypt were judiciously placed in some of the islands as part of Egyptian policy, and it is of their existence in these sporadic possessions of the Lagid Pharaohs that these discoveries disclose the story.

Just before the war one of the French *savants* who had taken part in the Delos explorations, M. Pierre Roussel, prepared a work upon the subject, entitled "Les Cultes Égyptiennes à Delos du III. au Ier. Siecle Avant J.C.," and it has now been published. The contents of the book chiefly concern the results of excavation among edifices, the remains of which are at the foot of Mount Cynthus, especially a shrine of Serapis entitled a Serapieion. The inscriptions from this and other temples of Egyptian deities, such as Isis, are numerous and important, providing much information as to cults of the gods revered at this late period, including accounts of the cost of worship offered, and the general organisation of this type of religion.

M. Roussel treats of this part of the subject in his introduction; whilst in the body of his work he describes and discusses the buildings, especially the Serapieion, which was a large edifice approached by a dromos or avenue bordered by Sphinxes and altars, an architectural arrangement almost certainly copied from the causeway leading to some celebrated Egyptian sanctuary. Further researches may indicate definitely which temple was imitated, but M. Roussel thinks that it was the Memphis Serapeum. The epigraphical results of the excavations are of exceptional interest, many of the inscriptions being lengthy and in good preservation, and relating to matters of much importance. Many refer to the dedication of votive objects, or give lists of priests; decrees of various associations or clubs; inventories of temple possessions and furnishings. All these throw a vivid light upon the connections of Egypt with Delos and its administration there.

In the last part of his work M. Roussel takes up the rôle of historian of the three centuries illustrated by the discoveries, and of the religion introduced into the island from Egypt. The new matter concerning the cult of these deities at Delos is dealt with and its value indicated. The importation of Egyptian deities by the colonists or officials from that country became of sufficient importance to deserve the building of special shrines for them. These Greeks and Macedonians from the Nile Valley appear to have so valued some types of the Egyptian religion and its ceremonies that they decided to continue them in their new island home. This shows how little faith they must have had in the members of their own Pantheon. It should be remembered that Delos was a sacred seat of certain Hellenic gods. Yet the priests of these deities, we now see, permitted the Egyptian gods to have their special shrines in the island. Doubtless, however, the Greek clerics alleged that the Egyptian gods were in reality merely some of the Hellenic ones under strange foreign names.

This archæological evidence tends to show how the Ptolemies and their statesmen endeavoured to retain their realm of Egypt by occupying certain islands to the north and east as bases for their fleet, the vessels of which were mainly manned by Phœnician sailors. That their policy was prescient is proved by the fact that when the fleet of Cleopatra and Antony, which represented Egypt's sea power, was defeated and as a fighting force destroyed, Egypt became an appanage of Rome. Her fate subsequently was to be exhausted by taxation and the greed of her governors until, her population diminished and discouraged, she fell an easy prey to the Arabs, and even to some extent welcomed the followers of Islam.

General Sir Edmund ALLENBY writes:

General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force,
January, 1919.

My dear Bishop MacInnes,

I have been looking into various problems in connection with the relief of distress in the areas which are now under my administration in Palestine and Syria, and I wish to support very heartily your appeal to the generosity of the British public, through the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, for funds to carry on this work.

The next few months, until the new harvest is reaped, **will be a critical period.** War and sickness have taken heavy toll of the manhood of these countries; stocks of food and clothing are almost entirely depleted, and it must be long before we can repair the damages done by four years of war following centuries of misrule.

You will, I think, be well advised largely to concentrate your efforts on raising and also on spending during the coming six months as much money as possible for **the need now is urgent,** while I trust that a little later on it will not be so acute.

The work already accomplished by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund in Jerusalem and Southern Palestine **has been admirable.** I am particularly impressed by the endeavours of your staff of workers personally to investigate the cases of all those who apply for relief, and thus to minimise the danger of pauperising the people.

I regard it as important that you should not just yet relax your efforts in Jerusalem, but at the same time the work now covers a much wider area than ever. **All possible help is required.** The Syria and Palestine Relief Fund already has the necessary organisation and experience. Its agents mostly know the country well and are working in close touch with my administrators in each place. I hope that the efforts to obtain continued support for the work will be highly successful.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) EDMUND H. H. ALLENBY.

SYRIA & PALESTINE RELIEF FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

IN THE NORTH. Clothing situation desperate. Thousands of children orphaned and uncared for. Destitution everywhere. New Relief Unit being dispatched at once, at General Allenby's request. **Money most urgently needed.**

Cheques payable to the Secretary, 110, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Late Ameer.

February 27.

Lord LAMINGTON asked for information regarding the assassination of the Ameer of Afghanistan.

Earl CURZON, Lord President of the Council, in replying, said that domestic policy in Eastern Courts was a very obscure factor, and whether the assassination was due to religious reasons or reasons of politics, or to domestic intrigue, the Government did not know. The late Ameer was a consistent and loyal friend of this country during his long reign. He pursued, as far as possible, his father's policy of loyalty to this country. On the outbreak of war the eyes of the enemy were at once turned to find a weak spot in our armour, and German and Turkish missions visited Kabul. The Ameer received them, listened to what they had to say, and in due time dismissed them. It was a great misfortune that he had ceased to live, but it was perhaps a less misfortune than if he had died during the war. He hoped that the policy initiated and carried on with so much vigour by the late Ameer and his father might continue in the hands of his successor.

Events in S. Persia.

The Marquess of CREWE asked when the Government would be in a position to issue any further dispatches regarding the operations of Imperial Forces in Southern Persia for the maintenance of order and the protection of life and property. Our interests in the Persian Gulf had been recognised as paramount for a great number of years, and it was essential for us to intervene on strictly limited lines to maintain the trade routes. Very little was known about our forces in Southern Persia. But when all the facts were known he was sure it would be found that they had performed operations as arduous as those performed in other parts of Asia, Africa, or Europe itself.

Earl CURZON said that although perhaps in some respects Persia had been withdrawn from the public view, it had been one of the most interesting minor theatres of military activity. It had been full of interest, drama, and even events which he hoped at some time to be allowed to say something about. The question, however, was limited to operations in Shiraz, with regard to which he believed a dispatch from Sir Percy Sykes was issued, printed, and circulated at an earlier date. The operations were only just over, if indeed they were over now.

The Marquess of CREWE: My impression was that some dispatches had arrived but had been withheld for some object I do not understand.

Earl CURZON: My noble friend at the India Office (Lord Sinha) is not aware of that, and I am not aware of it either. These operations had been in a theatre quite apart, and he saw no reason why dispatches should not be laid. He hoped as soon as they were received that he might satisfy the very legitimate curiosity of the noble marquess. In answer to Lord Lamington, Earl Curzon added that our troops, which penetrated about 100 miles from the coast, relieved Shiraz. That was the object we had in view.

Indian Questions.

March 4.

Lord SYDENHAM asked when the opinions of the Provincial Governments in India on the report of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State would be made available for the information of Parliament and the public. He also asked for the publication of the evidence taken before Lord Southborough's Committee.

Lord ISLINGTON thought that the question put by Lord Sydenham was an important one. In this matter a liberal and definite policy was necessary. He also appealed for more details of the Industrial Commission, which was of vital importance.

Lord SINHA, Under-Secretary for India, said his task was comparatively easy, because he had only to draw their lordships' attention to what was promised in November last by Lord Islington himself, and last month by Mr. Montagu. Both Mr. Montagu and Lord Islington promised that when the considered opinions of the Provincial Governments on the scheme had been received they would be placed before Parliament in so far as they did not contain confidential matter, and would be published without unnecessary delay. He could only repeat that assurance. The Government of India's dispatch giving their view on the opinions of the local Governments had not yet been received, but was expected before long, not later than the end of this month. The other set of papers which the noble lord asked for referred to the report of the two committees over which Lord Southborough presided in India and the evidence recorded by those Committees. The Secretary of State had pledged himself to produce the reports as soon as they were received. Lord Southborough and the members of his committee were on their way back from India, and until their return it was not possible to give any information or publish the evidence. As to the report of the Indian Industrial Commission, it was formally laid before their lordships on February 19, and would be available for circulation on Thursday.

Riots at Katarpur.

Lord SYDENHAM asked whether the Under-Secretary could give any information as to the riots at Katarpur last year, when, it was stated, a mob of 3,000 Hindus murdered a number of Mohammedans, burying some of them alive and destroying their village.

Lord SINHA said it was the case that serious rioting had taken place at Katarpur on September 18 last, when thirty Mohammedans were killed and sixteen injured, and a large part of the village was burned. About 100 persons were now on trial for taking part in the rioting. He did not for a moment minimise the significance of this riot, but it had nothing whatever of a political character. Unfortunately these outbursts of religious fanaticism were still common in India. They were confined to the lower and poorer classes, and the real remedy was the progressive enlightenment and education of these classes as well as the closer co-operation of the wealthier and better educated classes. It was somewhat far-fetched to connect these riots, which had occurred for many years, with the concessions which it was alleged were going to be made.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

India: Defence Force.

Feb. 26.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India what steps have been taken by the Government of India for the permanent establishment of the Indian Defence Force?

Mr. FISHER: The Government of India propose to constitute a force which will replace the Indian Defence Force under modifications suitable to post-war conditions. Pending the settlement of various questions in connection with the constitution, organisation and training of this force they propose to continue temporarily the Indian Defence Force in its present form.

Officers' Pay in Mesopotamia.

Viscount WOLMER asked the Secretary of State for India: (1) Whether a British Service officer appointed on the staff of an Indian formation of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force receives only British rates of pay, whilst an Indian Army officer appointed to a British formation also only gets British rates of pay; and why such expedients are adopted to reduce the pay of officers serving in more arduous, unhealthy, and dangerous fields than that which falls to the lot of the Army in India; and (2) why British officers serving in India have their pay reduced on proceeding to the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force?

Captain GUEST: I have been asked to answer these questions. A British Service officer who was not in India on August 4, 1914, and therefore was not promised that he should retain his Indian pay, draws the British rate of Staff pay if appointed to an Indian formation. An Indian Army officer appointed to a British Staff draws the British rate, or may retain the Indian rate of his substantive appointment if more advantageous. In neither case is there any reduction of an officers' existing emoluments. These decisions have been arrived at after the fullest consideration of the difficulties arising from the clashing of the British and Indian pay codes in mixed forces in the various theatres of war. As regards the second question, the rate of pay of British regimental officers is at identical Indian rates whether serving in India or Mesopotamia.

Lajpat Rai.

March 3.

Colonel YATE asked whether the Secretary of State for India was aware that Lajpat Rai, who was stated to be now in America, was the leader of a widespread sedition movement in the Punjab in 1907 which the Lieutenant-Governor described as extremely dangerous; that he was deported in that year from India to Burma, and subsequently became the intimate friend of Krishna Varma, the founder of India House in London, and of other revolutionaries; and would he consider the inadvisability of permitting a man with such a record to return either to India or England.

Mr. FISHER, who replied, said the Secretary of State for India had refused passports up to the present.

Our Caucasus Force.

In the course of the speech in which he introduced the Army Estimates, Mr. CHURCHILL referred to our force in the Caucasus. There, he said, we have an army of a certain size, a moderate size. These troops were sent there when the Turkish resistance collapsed, and they were sent there for the purpose of making sure that the German and Turkish forces were turned out of the country. They remain there for the purpose of maintaining order in those wild regions, and amongst those turbulent people pending the decision of the Peace Conference as to their future. In consequence, we are now holding in some force the railway line from Batum to Baku, with our headquarters at Tiflis, and the Admiralty have a fleet of armed vessels on the Caspian, which gives us the command of that extensive inland sea. In this theatre we have no special British interests of any sort to serve, nor are we under any special obligations to the inhabitants. We are simply discharging a duty to the League of Nations, or to the League of Allied Nations, and endeavouring to prevent new areas of the world from degenerating into the welter of Bolshevist anarchy. These troops are, of course, not engaged in fighting with any enemy. They are not in contact with any enemy, but they are a certain source of strength and support to the army of General Denikin, which is fighting the Bolshevists about 100 miles to the north of them. This army, which is the best of all the Russian armies now fighting against the Bolshevists, is being to some extent supplied by us with arms, munitions, and equipment. We have a military mission at General Denikin's headquarters, and he has in the last month, in spite of some reverses, gained an important victory, in which, among other things, over 30,000 Bolshevist prisoners were taken.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the official report.

India: Persian Gulf Operations, 1908-1914.—Reform Bill—British Officers' (Pay).—Arms Act.—Paper (Government Use).—

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Rowlatt Committee. (February 24). Dardanelles Commission (Cost). (February 24). Baku (Postal Communication). (February 24).
Peace Conference: Abyssinia. (February 25).
Military Service: India and Eastern Stations. (February 25).
Ceylon (Constitutional Reform). (February 25).
Indian Passage Charges. (February 25).
Demobilisation: Indian Army Reserve of Officers.—Officers' Wives. (India). (February 26).
India: Imperial Police Service.—Memorial in London.—Burma (Reforms).—Hindu University, Benares. (February 26).
Demobilisation: Egyptian Expeditionary Force. (Feb. 26).
India: Public Lands, Punjab.—Land Revenue (Assignments). (February 27).
Island of Rhodes (Knights Hospitallers). (March 3).
Demobilisation: Troops from the East. (March 3).
Indian Services (Retired Officers' Pensions). (March 3).

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

RHODES AND THE DODECANESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is contended that, in accordance with the now recognised right of self-determination, the group of islands off the S.W. coast of Asia Minor, known as the Dodecanese, should be ceded under the mandate of the Peace Conference to Greece. M. Venizelos put forward the claim, and Signor Orlando is said to have received it as urbanely as might be expected. From a point of view which suggests—and, indeed, has long suggested itself to me—the Dodecanese should not be thus "lumped" as a whole. It should be "Rhodes and the Dodecanese," and whatever the fate of the latter, I ask your permission to state why Italy should not part with Rhodes.

I will not attempt to encroach upon your space with any detail of the magnificent defence of Rhodes by the Hospitallers from 1310 to 1523. The Manes of Fulco de Villaret, who took Rhodes in 1310; of Dieudonné de Gozon, who slew the famous dragon (see Schiller's poem); and of D'Aubusson and de l'Isle Adam, who were Grand-Masters during the two sieges by the Turks, protest on behalf of the Hospitallers against its cession. If the Sovereign Order of Malta, which now has its *chef-lieu* in Rome, has a spark of the old Hospitaller spirit in it—and we may perhaps venture to hope that a kindred spark might animate St. John's Gate and even the Johanniter Orden—that Sovereign Order will not lose this unique opportunity of retaining Rhodes. If the League of Nations achieves its purpose, it should reunite in one these three scions of perhaps the oldest known League of Nations still claiming existence.

No sooner had Rhodes (in 1911) passed into the keeping of Italy than M. Bompard (the then French Ambassador at Constantinople) at once set to work to secure for France the old "Auberge de France." He restored it and gave it to his country. Bear in mind that it was the defection of France from the Hospitallers under the French Revolution that, to all intents and purposes, ruined the Knights of Malta. You will then appreciate the return of France to-day to its fraternal loyalty to the Order, of which for centuries it had been the backbone.

What M. Bompard began, the Italians have followed up. General Elia, the Italian Governor of Rhodes, has restored the Auberge d'Italie and one or two other Auberges, and certain tentative inquiries have been made regarding the Auberge d'Angleterre. Rhodes is united through its Hospitaller ties and traditions with all Europe, and should not go back either to Turk or Greek; for it was from the Greek that the Grand Master Fulco de Villaret took it. Europe to-day seems to forget the historic hold which Rhodes established upon her eternal gratitude at a time when the Greek Empire was politically and ecclesiastically hostile to the Latin world, and decadent and lethargic in face of the growing Moslem power.

On the old palace of the Grand Masters the Italian flag now floats, and that Italian flag was at once the flag of the House of Savoy and of the very ancient Order of St. John of Jerusalem. That flag should not come down, charm the honeyed tongue of M. Venizelos never so wisely. Under any circumstances the just claims of the Hospitaller Order over the historic "Street of the Knights" and other relics of that Order should be respected.

I hope the French and Italian Press will also take this matter up.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE.

Beckbury Hall, Shifnal, Feb. 24, 1919.

ALBANIANS OR EPIROTES?—A REPLY TO MR. CHR. KESSARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

I beg you, Sir, to allow me to say a few words in reply to Mr. Chr. Kessary's letter with regard to the nationality of the so-called Epirotes, who are nothing else but Christian Albanians of the South.

Mr. Kessary argues, with Renan, that the true test of nationality is the community of ideals and feelings. We cheerfully agree with him on this point, inasmuch as the great majority of the Albanian leaders and distinguished patriots belong to that enlightened and progressive Christian element of that Southern Albania which Mr. Kessary claims as Greek. The undersigned is likewise a native of Koritsa and belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church.

As to Mr. Kessary's statement that the Pan-Albanian Federation of America, Vatra, whose representative in London was Mehmed Bey Konitsa, has only 1,600 members, we earnestly advise him to apply to the authorities of Massachusetts State, under the laws of which the Vatra is incorporated, and he will learn that more than that number of members are to be found in the State of Massachusetts alone. The fact, on the other hand, that Mr. Konitsa has been recently appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs by the National Assembly of Durazzo is an eloquent proof of how great an influence this federation of ours is wielding in shaping the destinies of the Albanian nation.

As to the charge that Vatra was "pro-German and pro-Turkish in its policy before America entered the war, or in favour of the notorious Prince William of Wied," it suffices to refer to the fact that in 1916 the Vatra offered to the British Government an Albanian regiment recruited from among the Albanians of America, the overwhelming majority of whom are, moreover, natives of the Epirus of Mr. Kessary. Furthermore, the Albanian Republic of Koritsa (or Korcha), which constitutes half of Northern Epirus, was loyally fighting on the side of the Entente Allies at the time when the Greeks of King Constantine were undermining the Allied successes by their treacherous attitude.

I decline to speak of the rest of the letter of Mr. Kessary. His curious assertion that Epirus is too Hellenic to need to be Hellenized is a regular "omnibus" argument of Greek ingenuity.

CONSTANTINE A. CHEKREZI
(Delegate of the Vatra in the United States).

BOOKS FOR SERBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May we appeal through your columns for books for Serbia? The Austro-Hungarians and the Bulgarians were at special pains to remove all means of education and culture in Serbia, and they destroyed her libraries after taking from them all that they themselves wanted. They also destroyed every printing press in the country. It is impossible to state in a phrase all that such losses must mean to a nation. But those of us who have imagination will hardly refuse a gift from our well-filled bookshelves. Books, old or new, of practically every kind, and in any language, are needed, and should be sent to Miss Waring, Hon. Organising Secretary for the Reconstruction of Serbian Libraries, Royal Society of Literature, 2, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1. The name and address of sender should be given on the outside of the parcel.

Those who wish to help and who cannot give books are asked to send donations towards expenses, and for the providing of books that may be missing from among the gifts. Cheques should be crossed Messrs. Coutts and Co., A/c War Fund of the Entente Committee.—I am, etc.,

CREWE,
Hon. Director of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Society of Literature.

JERUSALEM "LAND-GIRLS."

Mrs. Norman Bentwich, who has just joined her husband, the Acting Chief Legal Adviser to the Palestine Administration, has started an organisation to provide healthful and remunerative occupation for young girls under proper control, says the *Jewish Chronicle*. Using her experience as Welfare Officer of the Women's Land Army in England, she is now engaged in organising the Jewish unemployed girls into a "Jerusalem Girls' Land Army" to cultivate the waste ground in and about the city. The land has been placed at her disposal, as well as seed, plants, and a few of the necessary tools, and she is now asking for a moderate capital to enable wages to be paid until the produce can be marketed. An amount of £1,000 would enable the work to be carried on until the marketing of crops renders it self-supporting, and there is every reason to expect that before long a large organisation of land girls will be developed.

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society to be held on Monday, March 24, at 8 p.m., in the Theatre of the Society, Burlington Gardens, Captain Alan Ogilvie will read a paper on "Macedonia."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE NEW EAST.*

The war, says Mr. Butler, has created a new Balkans, using the world Balkans not as a geographical unit, but as the symbol of political and racial instability. The New East, in his view, lies along the borders of what were once the three Empires of Germany, Russia, and Austria; it is composed of the smaller States and peoples who were once governed by those Empires, but who now, through the collapse of the Great Powers, have the chance of asserting their independence and governing themselves. The question, which is of very considerable importance for the future of Europe, is not so much, will they do it? but, how will they do it?

Mr. Butler enumerates Finland, Balticum (that is Courland, Livonia, and Esthonia), Poland, and the Ukraine as the new States; he might have added Bohemia. Of these Poland is by all odds the greatest; the Poles have been a distinct entity in European politics, they have their own culture, music, literature, and art; they are a creative nation of the major type. Probably their politics is the weakest joint in their armour, and it was their fatal divisions which led to their downfall. It remains to be seen whether they have learnt the lesson; a recent study of Polish politics, with its formidable array of parties, groups, and interests, does not suggest that they have. Moreover, we think Mr. Butler is sound when he declares that the larger Poland is not necessarily the Greater Poland. The country must be freed from the German yoke entirely, and Posen and Danzig must be brought under Polish rule as completely as Warsaw and Lemberg; but the chauvinism which colours the whole Ukraine as semi-Polish territory on the Polish propagandist maps is not helpful. The Poles have many brilliant gifts, but the faculty of ruling other races successfully is not among them.

They will assuredly play a great part in the future of Europe, for they are, as it were, the gate between east and west, an outpost of civilisation almost on its frontiers; but what of the others? Finland is not very popular at the moment, owing to the orientation of her policy towards Berlin a year ago, and the somewhat gross flatteries of the Kaiser which were indulged in then read a little curiously this spring; but Mr. Butler sums up the case correctly when he says that the future of Finland is as a semi-Scandinavian state. The country will be a small independent State, and it will derive its thought from its greater neighbours as at present. It will be safe in the obscurity of a remote corner of Europe—and it will be safe until the Great Powers again revive their rivalries. If ever the German and Russian Empires are restored—and Mr. Butler is perhaps a little too sanguine about their restoration—Finland will have to look out for trouble.

The future of Lithuania, and what Mr. Butler calls Balticum also, seems to depend largely on the strength and constitution of the greater States around them. They will be too weak to stand entirely alone, and yet they will not amalgamate with others and sink their nascent individuality altogether as provinces of a new confederation on the Austrian model, a type which is now definitely out of fashion. A good deal depends on the way in which they face their own rather difficult internal problems, and whether they develop a culture of their own. The making of a nationality is a complex problem, but the chief factor is the genius of the people composing it; and it would be idle to pretend that the world knows much of the capacity of the Letts and Lithuanians.

The Ukraine is a larger and more important territory, and a discussion of its future, which is bound to react considerably on Balkan politics, can hardly be attempted in a review. Suffice it to say that Mr. Butler believes that the Ukraine will retain its independence, and develop on different lines from the rest of Russia.

The whole question of the future of these new States of the second and third magnitude is important, and students of foreign affairs in this country will watch the careers of the countries born in the Great War with interest and sympathy. But the keys of the position are Poland and Bohemia—and again we regret that the author did not include a study of the Czechs and their leader, one of the most brilliant politicians of the new Europe, in his informing and generally impartial survey.

VÆ VICTIS!†

"They depopulate a country and call it Peace," wrote Tacitus; but the Central Powers have far exceeded the licence claimed by Roman conquerors. At a time when the rôles are reversed, and races which aimed at world-dominion are suing for mercy, it is well that the public should learn the treatment which they meted out to Roumania and Serbia under the sacred name of Peace. M. Iancovici has rendered conspicuous service to civilisation by publishing the text of the Treaty of Bucharest (May 7, 1918), and an analysis showing the effect of its monstrous provisions. Under that treaty six provinces were torn from Roumania, a war indemnity was exacted amounting to £124,000,000, or seven times the little country's revenue in 1914. Austro-Germans were authorised to lay hands on the sources of her economic life, and hold her peasant population in abject slavery. It will be remembered that the Treaty of Bucharest synchronized with a period when the German armies seemed to be in the ascendant in France and Belgium; hence the significance of a German officer's reply to a timid remonstrance made by one of M. Bratiano's suite: "Yes," said the vindictive Hun, "the conditions are certainly hard; but just wait and see how we're going to treat France and England!" The Reichstag, elated by successes on the Western front, hastened to ratify this atrocious pact, at the bidding of Ebert, Scheidemann, Erzberger and von Kuhlmann, who now represent Germany in negotiations with the Entente.

If Roumania fared ill at the hands of her conquerors, the plight of Serbia was infinitely worse. It is impossible to read the details of the Austro-Bulgarian occupation given by M. Novakovicht without indignation and horror.

A highly gifted race, thrilling with patriotism, and the heirs of a splendid literature, was systematically destroyed. Many thousands were deported to the swamps of Hungary and Asia Minor, their places being taken by Bulgarian colonists. Males between 19 and 40 were forcibly enrolled in the conquering armies and sent to fight against their brother-Slavs. The harvest of Serbian fertile fields was exported to Germany; her copper mines were worked for the sole benefit of her oppressors. Pillage was carried out with greater thoroughness than in France or Belgium, and German reservists were the greatest offenders. More infamous than the material destruction wrought by the invaders was their attempt to kill Serbia's soul by imposing the Bulgarian language on her schools and forbidding every manifestation of her national spirit. M. Novakovich places beyond all doubt the fact that the Central Powers violated every clause of the Hague Convention; and has some pertinent remarks to make regarding the responsibility of neutrals who,

as parties to the final act of the Convention executed by each of them on October 18, 1907, had recognised the solidarity of civilised nations. And yet throughout the war these neutrals ignored their duty as guardian of international law. Their indifference and negligence undoubtedly encouraged the enemy to persist in setting its principles at nought; and their failure to raise any protest against Germany's manifold crimes has nullified the prospective value of such conventions.

One is inclined to ask whether the League of Nations will be more stable than its predecessor, which was inaugurated with a flourish of trumpets in 1907.

F. H. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Countries and Tribes of the Persian Gulf." 2 vols. By Colonel S. B. Miles. (London: Harrison and Sons, 31s. 6d. net.)

"Souvenirs." By Take Jonescu. (Paris: Payot et Cie., 4.50frs.)

"The Russian Revolution." By Alexander Petrunkevitch, Samuel N. Harper, and Frank A. Golder. "The Jugo-Slav Movement." By Robert J. Kerner. (Harvard University Press. London: Humphrey Milford, 4s. 6d. net.)

* "The New Eastern Europe." By Ralph Butler. (Longmans, Green and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

† "La Paix de Bucarest," par D. Iancovici. (Paris: Payot et Cie. Prix 4.50 fcs.)

† "L'Occupation Austro-Bulgare en Serbie," par M. Novakovich. (Paris et Nancy: Berger-Levrault et Cie. 1918. Prix 3 fcs.)

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

F. W. T. ATTREE, Colonel (late R.E.), Secretary.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. March	1919. February.		1337. Jumada II.	5679. Adar II.
7	22	Friday	5	5
8	23	Saturday.....	6	6
9	24	Sunday	7	7
10	25	Monday	8	8
11	26	Tuesday	9	9
12	27	Wednesday	10	10
13	28	Thursday	11	11

Lord Inchcape is recovering slowly from his attack of influenza, but is still confined to his bed.

The Greek Minister, M. Demetrius Caclamanos, has now recovered from his illness and resumed his duties.

The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and Lady Evelyn Herbert left Cairo on February 18 for Luxor.

The Queen of Roumania has left Bucharest for Paris and London.

Prince Alexander of Serbia left Paris on Saturday, proceeding to Belgrade, by way of Toulon, Patras, and Athens.

The Queen of Montenegro has conferred upon Lady Walleran the gold medal and ribbon of the Montenegro Red Cross for her Red Cross work with the Allies.

Mr. Athelstan Riley has received the Royal consent to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of Saint Sava, conferred on him by the King of Serbia.

Brigadier-General Sir George Macauley, General Manager Egyptian State Railways, accompanied General Sir Edmund Allenby on his recent visit to Constantinople.

Major-General the Maharaja of Bikanir had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen last Saturday.

Major-General G. F. MacMunn, Inspector-General of Communications, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, had the honour of being received by the King on Saturday.

Madame Yovanovitch, the wife of the Serbian Minister, and Captain Yovanovitch, Assistant Military Attaché, have left London for Paris.

Lieut.-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on Saturday from his visit to the Western Front.

The Church Missionary Society has received a cable from Baghdad reporting that the Rev. E. E. Lavy is suffering from typhus.

At Bombay, on February 3, the marriage took place of Captain Peter Vievra, I.M.S., to Miss Phyllis Hague, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Hague, of 46, Marlborough Mansions, Hampstead.

Mr. Abel Chapman, author of "On Safari: Big Game Hunting in British East Africa," and other works of travel and natural history, is now on a visit to the Sudan, with his brother, Mr. J. C. Chapman.

The Executive Committee of the Central Hull Conservative Association has unanimously decided to invite Lady Sykes to contest the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, Sir Mark Sykes, Bart.

Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson, K.B.E., C.B., Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John for Malta, Egypt, and the Near East, arrived in Cairo in the middle of February.

Lord and Lady Jellicoe arrived at Gibraltar on February 24. They were welcomed by the Governor, General Sir H. Smith-Dorrien, and Admiral Grant, who went on board the "New Zealand," and afterwards proceeded to Government House.

An engagement is announced between Mr. E. Labouchere Thornton, I.C.S. (retired), of Beachborough, Adyar, Madras, and Miss Eileen Balfour, grand-daughter of the late Mrs. Laura Sisson, of 36, Overstrand Mansions, S.W.

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society to be held on Monday, March 10, at 8 p.m., in the Theatre of the Society, Burlington Gardens, Major J. B. Noel, M.G.C., will read a paper on "The Eastern Approaches to Mount Everest."

On February 23, at Alexandria, Brevet Major (Temp. Lieut.-Colonel) William H. Jelf Thornton, M.C., R.A., and Staff, was married to Bianca Dora Anna Marie Capozzi, youngest daughter of M. R. Capozzi, and the late Mrs. Capozzi, Mustapha Pasha, Alexandria.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Seymour Mowbray, son of the late Mowbray Gray and Mrs. Gray, Wongalee, Surbiton, and Dorothea Isabel Emily, only daughter of Mr. W. E. Tempest Bennett, C.S.I., late Public Works Department, India.

The engagement is announced between Major E. C. Pennefather, O.E.T.A., son of the Rev. Prebendary Pennefather, D.D., late vicar of Kensington, and Sylvia Ruth, daughter of the late S. H. Carver, of Alexandria, Egypt, and Mrs. Carver, The Moot, Downton, Salisbury.

Major-General H. D. Watson, C.B., C.M.S., C.I.E., M.V.O., General Officer Commanding Cairo and the Delta, has been appointed a Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy by the Italian Government in recognition of his distinguished service during the war.

The engagement is announced of Major James Oliver Thurburn, M.C., Royal Field Artillery, only son of Colonel James White Thurburn, C.S.I., late Royal Engineers, and Mrs. Thurburn, of 6, Grimston Gardens, Folkestone, and Kathleen Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Tootal, of 25, Upper Phillimore Gardens, W.

Our Malta correspondent writes:—Universal pleasure has been expressed on receiving the news that a distinguished Maltese, Colonel E. E. Bernard Pasha, C.M.G., Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, eldest son of the late Colonel Count Dr. P. Bernard and of Countess Bernard, has received the honour of knighthood.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place in April, between Captain H. N. Harrington, the Cheshire Regiment, only son of Dr. H. N. Harrington and Mrs. Harrington, of Birkenhead, and Mary, elder daughter of Colonel L. C. Kerrich (late) Indian Army, and Mrs. Kerrich, of Grasmere, Fleet, Hants.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Captain J. L. Muscat, K.O. Malta Regiment, attached K.R.R.C., elder son of the late Major J. Muscat and Mrs. Muscat, of Valletta, Malta, and Alice, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Tyler, of Nico Perez, Uruguay, South America.

The wedding will take place very quietly, at All Saints' Church, Crowborough, on Saturday, March 8, of George Gilbert Mackwood, youngest son of Mr. Frank Mitchell Mackwood, of Colombo, Ceylon, and Joyce, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lushington Bolton, of The Gables, Crowborough Beacon, and The Sanctuary, Westminster.

Sir Valentine Chirol, who returned on Saturday to the Paris Peace Conference, regrets that he is quite unable to answer the large number of letters and messages of congratulation he has received on the result of the Tilak libel action, and hopes that his friends will accept through this channel the expression of his grateful acknowledgments.

An engagement is announced between Captain Patrick Swinglehurst Hamilton, Border Regiment, attached Headquarter Staff, 1st (Peshawar) Division, barrister-at-law, son of Mr. J. C. Hamilton, of Barrows Green, near Kendal, High Sheriff of Westmorland, and Millicent Joscelyne (Joy), second daughter of Sir Dudley Stewart-Smith, K.C., Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster, and Lady Stewart-Smith, of 42, Albert Court, Kensington.

On February 27, at St. Peter's Church, Stonegate, Sussex, the marriage took place of Captain Basil Drewe, M.C., R.G.A., second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Drewe, Wadhurst Hall, Sussex, and Drewsteignton, Devon, to Ruth, only daughter of the late Frank Haselden and Mrs. Haselden, East Lymden, Ticehurst, Sussex, and Alexandria, Egypt. The Rev. L. C. Stevenson, Vicar of Wadhurst, officiated, assisted by the Rev. G. H. Gray, Vicar of Ticehurst.

On Friday, March 14, at 3.30 p.m., at Steinway Hall, Wigmore Street, Miss M. E. Durham will lecture on "Albania and Her People." Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., will preside, and the lecture will be illustrated by original lantern slides. The proceeds will be devoted to the aid of Albania's war victims. Tickets, 5s. and 2s. 6d. (tax included) can be obtained from Miss Astley, 28, Bruton Street, W.1, or Miss Durham, 71, Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3, or at the Steinway Hall.

The marriage took place on Monday, at Bromuton Parish Church, of Mr. Frank Colin Craig, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Craig, of Perth, Western Australia, to Constance Jane, elder daughter of General Sir William and Lady Birdwood. A

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guard of honour was furnished by the Australian Provost Corps, and a large number of men in uniform lined the approaches to the church. Prebendary A. W. Gough performed the rite, assisted by Bishop Long, of Bathurst, N.S.W., and General Birdwood gave away his daughter. Captain Eric Onslow was best man, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buckley lent their house, 4, Hans Crescent, for the reception afterwards.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

It is understood that Mr. Justice Teunon, of the Calcutta High Court, goes on leave in the spring.

The retirement from the Indian Army of General Sir E. G. Barrow and Major-General G. A. Cookson is gazetted.

Lieut.-Colonel W. B. Mereweather, C.I.E., on return from military duty, has been appointed Political Agent for Cutch and Morvi.

Miralai A. G. Cummines Bey, M.C., M.B., Egyptian Medical Corps, has been granted the 3rd Class of the Order of the Nile on the occasion of his retirement from the service of the Egyptian Army on January 21.

Sir Roper Parkington has received intimation that the appointments made by the King of Montenegro of Mr. Henry A. Cole as Montenegrin Consul at Liverpool, and Mr. Robert Wilson as Consul at Edinburgh and Leith, have been approved by the Foreign Office.

OBITUARY.

Mr. F. R. S. Baxendale, Commissioner of Larnaka, has died in Cyprus at the age of fifty-eight. He was educated at Charterhouse, and entered the public service in 1884.

Mrs. Georgina A. T. Paget has died at Park Homer, Wimborne, at the age of 97. She was with her husband, the late Colonel Leopold Grimston Paget, throughout the Indian Mutiny.

Mr. Loftus Richard Tottenham, late of the Indian Civil Service, has died at Cheltenham in his eighty-third year. He joined the Service from Haileybury in 1856, and after twenty-three years' service was appointed a Judge of the High Court, Calcutta. He retired in 1893.

Sir Edward Jenkinson, K.C.B., died on March 1, aged eighty-two. He was educated at Harrow and the E.I.C. school at Haileybury, and first went to India in 1856. As a member of the I.C.S. he served through the Mutiny, for which he received the medal. He was joint magistrate and deputy collector at Benares, and, later, at Farakabad; and rose to be divisional commissioner of Jhansi, and, later, Oudh. In 1880 he retired, but thereafter held one or two posts in connection with the government of Ireland.

SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I.

Sir Andrew Henderson Leith Fraser, K.C.S.I., formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, died on February 26, in Edinburgh, in his seventy-first year. A son of the Rev. A. G. Fraser, D.D., he was born in Bombay, and was educated partly there and partly in Edinburgh. In 1874 he was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1871, and after holding minor appointments became Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces in 1899. In 1902 he was appointed President of the Police Commission, and, in 1903, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, a post which he retained until he retired from India in 1908. It was during his tenure of office that Bengal was partitioned. He was for some time Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in India, and throughout his life was keenly interested in missionary work. He received the C.S.I. in 1897 for services as Land Revenue Officer, and was promoted K.C.S.I. in 1903.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The raising of the blockade of Kavalla, the Bulgarian coast, the Dardanelles, Syria, and Karamania (South-Eastern Asia Minor) is announced.

Greek troops operating in Russia, according to a report from Salonika, have occupied Kherson, on the Dnieper, Black Sea, the operations developing favourably.

Various Greek communities established north-east of Kirk Kilisse, Turkey, which are not comprised in M. Venizelos's territorial claims, have addressed a telegram to him asking him to incorporate them in Greater Greece.

A memorandum has been submitted to the Peace Conference by the National Delegation of the Unredeemed Greeks of the Euxine Pontus. The Memorandum claims that the Euxine Pontus should be constituted an independent republic.

MM. Rhallis and Dragoumis, the former Greek Ministers, who are being tried in Athens for offences under the Constantine *régime*, have been granted bail. The applications of M. Skouloudis and General Yannakitsas for bail have been refused.

The world's record for sword swinging of fifty hours, held by Gunner Burher, R.F.A., was beaten at Bareilly recently by Sergeant John Batterby, Yorkshire Regiment, who swung swords for fifty-two hours with 393,080 revolutions.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Tuesday reserved judgment on the appeal brought by Mrs. Annie Besant against a judgment of the High Court of Madras refusing to set aside an order of the Government of Madras forfeiting to the King the security of 2,000 rupees deposited by her under the provisions of the Indian Press Act.

In the appropriation accounts of the Civil Service and Revenue Departments there appears in the unclassified votes the grant to Lady Maude of the sum of £25,000 "in recognition of the eminent services rendered by the late Lieutenant-General Sir F. Stanley Maude while commanding his Majesty's Forces during the campaign in Mesopotamia."

Arrangements have now been made to forward, subject to censorship, unregistered postal packets of all kinds, except parcels, addressed to any Russian port on the Black Sea, to any port on the Sea of Azov, or to any place in Caucasia. Correspondence for some of these places may be subject to great delay or may even not be delivered at all. The sender must take the risk. Under similar conditions postal packets of all kinds (except parcels) addressed to Bulgaria will be forwarded.

The *Morning Post's* Special Correspondent in Constantinople reports (February 21):—The American relief expedition, under Mr. Peet, has arrived in Constantinople and commenced its work. This Commission will co-operate with the International Food Commission of Mr. Hoover, whose representative here is Mr. Howard Heintz, head of the well-known firm of that name in Chicago. Two ships laden with food, clothes, boots, and agricultural instruments have already arrived in Turkey. The American Relief Commissions will number 200 members to begin with, and they will work in the Caucasus, Syria, and Anatolia.

The first qualifying examination for the Indian Civil Service, and Colonial Service (Eastern Cadetships), under the reconstruction scheme, will begin on Tuesday, April 15, 1919. The first qualifying examination for junior or intermediate appointments will begin on Wednesday, May 7, 1919. Other qualifying examinations for these situations will take place at intervals. Candidates required to attend these examinations will be duly informed. Further particulars may be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, 6, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1, in an envelope marked "Reconstruction" in the top left-hand corner.

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THE EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS.

The course of the war has inevitably brought the so-called Nationalist movement in Egypt, as in India, very much to the forefront. Troublesome as it may prove in detail to the authorities concerned, the British nation as a whole will do well to regard it philosophically, and to realise that it constitutes a splendid, if unconscious, tribute to the efficacy and disinterestedness of British tutelage. It is only necessary to recall the circumstances which led Great Britain to make herself responsible for the government of the two countries in order to appreciate the gulf that is now fixed between the corruption, misgovernment, and chaos of the pre-Occupation days and the conditions under which a section of the people roll glibly off their tongues appeals to constitutional rights in phraseology that they could only have learned under British political guidance. The phenomenon is worthy of notice. Precocity is not uncommon, and many youths of nineteen or twenty years will be more "grown-up" than men of twenty-two and upwards. But it has not been considered necessary for this reason to alter the legal age-limit for minors, and no number of Nationalist movements should tempt Great Britain to abandon the position that she has taken up for the good of peoples who for centuries were the victims of foreign despots or of oligarchies from among their own countrymen. In spite of the assurance with which British principles are quoted to serve Nationalists' ends, it requires only a cursory examination of their case to detect its weaknesses. The very fact that the war should have brought, as it were, to a head the movements both in India and in Egypt points to an arbitrary attempt on the part of the leaders to turn an extraneous set of circumstances to their own advantage, and does not imply that the two movements have reached an identical stage of maturity. The spokesmen of both, indeed, admit as much. In support of their claims they appeal to the declarations of the Allied statesmen in regard to the aims which these kept in view when prosecuting the war against the Central Alliance to a victorious issue. When mere ethnical groups, which were yesterday but ordinary provinces under Turkish domination, are being made into independent States, is it possible, it is asked, that Egypt should be satisfied with a smaller measure of autonomy?

But the intention of the Allies has been throughout to improve the world as a result of the war, not to allow it to retrogress, if it can be helped, in any single instance. In the case of the nations that are now promised self-government it is indisputable, such was the misgovernment to which they were subjected before, that autonomy is not only necessary, but also offers the best chance of better government. Between the subject races of Austria-Hungary and Turkey, on the one hand, and India and Egypt, on the other, there is no analogy. The two latter countries are as much part and parcel of the British Empire as the Italian community of New York or the negroes of Virginia are of the United States. It is conceivable that, if the American Government were lax enough, a certain number of Italians, Red Indians, or negroes might be found ready to claim the privileges of a separate independent State; but it is certain that no appeal to this effect would ever reach officially the Paris Conference. No doubt, to the limited vision of the Indian or the Egyptian Nationalist, his position appears to be entirely differentiated, because the British Empire is based on sea lines of communication, whereas the United States have a compact land empire. The distinction is immaterial. There is no need to labour the point here; but briefly it may be said that it would be as intolerable for the British to have Egypt cut herself adrift in the manner proposed by the Nationalists as it would be for the Americans to have the negroes set up an independent kingdom in the United States. We may expect this aspect of the case to be ignored in Egypt, but its force is not invalidated by that circumstance. The Egyptian Nationalist experiences no difficulty in doing violence to his intelligence. He has been shrewd enough in the presentation of his case against Great Britain to avoid the suggestion that Egypt under Nationalist rule will be better governed than at present; but he counts upon a wide ignorance prevailing at the Paris Conference in regard to actual conditions in his country. Only on this assumption can a number of sentences in the various "appeals" that have been scattered broadcast by active "delegations" be explained. During the war, we are told in one document, "the people of Egypt decided, for the sake of the larger interests of civilisation and for the success of the cause of the Entente, which they had near at heart, to lay aside their just claims and to concentrate for the moment their efforts on securing the victory of right over might. . . . Now the victory is secure, Egyptians feel the hour is come when it is their duty to their Fatherland, to press on the attention of the world their grievances and their claims. . . . Thus in answer to the persistent demand of the entire population, the members of the Legislative Assembly, which has been suspended ever since the war began, met informally and delegated from their members men capable of adequately expressing the thoughts and sentiments of the whole people." The record of the particular Legislative Assembly referred to is sufficient to indicate the extent to which its members were representative of "the whole people" or gave a thought to the country's real interests.

There is no reason to suppose that the Paris Conference will feel called upon to record any decision regarding the future of Egypt, apart, perhaps, from the application of the mandatory system, which has been taken over from British practice in the case of peoples who are "not yet able to stand by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world." As already pointed out, the Conference is concerned with the better government of the nations, and it will have little evidence to lead it to the belief that Egypt under Saad Zaghlul Pasha will be better governed than under the present regime. On the other hand, the Nationalist movement cannot simply be ignored. To do this is to invite the Egyptians to take its leaders at their own valuation. Despite the cleverness of the individual members, the movement is the product of ill-digested education, and for this reason an effort must be made to correct its ill effects as well as to improve upon the education that produced it. In the present instance the Nationalists have derived some encouragement from the action of Rushdi Pasha in resigning the Premiership. There is some reason to suppose that the Ministerial crisis could have been avoided by a closer understanding between the British and Egyptian authorities in Egypt. The fact that the understanding was lacking implies failure to some extent on the part of the British Administration, although under the conditions of the last four years it is not difficult to make excuses on its behalf. The lessons of the war or the possibility of their having to be applied to Egypt may not have been appreciated. Great Britain has a strong moral position in Egypt, even as judged by the canons of the Draft Covenant of the League of Nations, and care should be taken that this position is not weakened by avoidable mistakes, not of heart but of thought.

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THE FUTURE OF AFGHANISTAN.

By J. CLIVE ROOME.

It was in November of the first year of the war that I met in Calcutta an Afghan friend of mine who had recently arrived from Kandahar. He was much concerned then about the future of his country, as he thought that the war was exercising a dangerous influence over the turbulent section of the Afghans. A Sirdar himself among the tribesmen of the premier clan in Kandahar, he had no little difficulty in restraining the martial exuberance of his clansmen. According to him, it was the youthful element among the tribesmen that showed signs of breaking loose from tribal discipline. What puzzled him most was the fact that there was apparently an abundance of money among tribesmen who were inclined to support a policy of political aggression.

Shortly afterwards, the source from which the militant Afghans had obtained money was revealed. Agents of Germany found their way into the country from India and from Persia, and distributed money lavishly among the tribesmen, to win them over to the German cause. Many Afghans, so I was told, left their country and entered the Turkish army.

The unrest among the tribesmen was, however, not due, primarily, at least, to any ill-feeling towards Great Britain; although the lure of loot in India still exercises its magical fascination over the imagination of the Afghan. It was, on the contrary, symptomatic of a widespread desire for a change in the mode of government and life in the country itself. The people were gradually beginning to realise that the policy of splendid isolation had its drawbacks, in so far as it has left them at a standstill. Hemmed in on all sides by powerful neighbours, they have maintained their political independence; but they have, on the other hand, not gained any material advantages from the unique position they occupy between India, Persia, and Russia. Their suspicion of their neighbours has prevented them from entertaining any schemes of railway construction, and even from improving the means of communication between their own country and India, Russia, or Persia; not that they have not been able to appreciate the advantages of railways, but because the iron rails have become for them the symbol of political aggression. On the northern frontier they have jealously watched the Russian railway creeping up inch by inch towards their country, carrying with it the terrible message of loss of independence. On their southern frontier, the delimitation of boundaries between their own country and India has not always been to their advantage territorially. They have, however, begun to realise that from an economic point of view their future is sealed, unless they improve their means of communciation and develop their mineral and agricultural resources. Their dilemma is how to do this without imperilling their independence. They expect their ruler and the Sirdars to find the solution. Now that the military career is practically barred to them, a way out of the difficulty in which they find themselves must be found, if they are to become a law-abiding people.

The late Ameer did all he could to advance their cause by building and keeping in repair a few good roads and employing motor transport. These improvements, however, served to heighten the discontent of those who did not derive any advantage from them, and the Ameer could not undertake an elaborate programme of road construction for the whole country owing to lack of funds. The tribesmen asked their Sirdars for good roads and means of taking their produce to the markets of India, Persia and Russia, and the Sirdars promised to press their claims before the Ameer. They were unable to obtain what the tribesmen wanted, and the Ameer gradually became unpopular. The Ameer's adoption of Western ways was the final blow to his prestige, and the criminal activities of German agents completely undermined the people's confidence in their ruler.

Now that the restraining influence of Ameer Habib Ullah Khan is lost, the future of the country is a source of anxiety not only to the Afghans themselves, but also to the British Government. There is sure to be an upheaval in the country over the question of his successor. The problem is to prevent conditions arising which may necessitate the despatch of a British expedition into the country. If any one has earned his independence in this world, it is the Afghan. His overpowering love for his country has prompted him to deeds which have brought him the opprobrium of savagery. He has, however, been driven in sheer self-defence to show no mercy to his enemy. His primitive weapons and untrained methods of warfare may have been no match for the scientific system of warfare employed by his enemies, but he has always fought bravely and not ineffectively. He has always maintained his freedom.

There is also another aspect of the Afghan character, which, however, is always forgotten when he is regarded as a desperate fighter. Men like Elphinstone, who knew the Afghans well, have borne eloquent testimony to the nobility of their character. They are an enterprising people, keen and businesslike, and capable of giving a good account of themselves as workers.

In the new world which the peacemakers of Paris are busy designing, the small but freedom-loving Afghan nation should be given an opportunity of proving its metal among the workers. In Afghanistan, more than anywhere else, the sword and the gun should yield place to the plough and the mill. Protected against foreign aggression, the Afghans will prove themselves as efficient as workers as they have proved themselves as soldiers. Proof, however, is not wanting already of their business acumen. They are found in many markets in Asia, and they are never deterred by any hardships in the pursuit of their ideals.

What they require is a reliable guarantee that their independence will never be imperilled, and that their mountain homes will ever be secure from foreign aggression, to make them into a useful community among the nations of the world. In spite of their isolation they are not so dense as not to understand the motives that prompt concession-hunters all over the world, and if they are to work out their salvation themselves they would like to do so unaided. Those who go to their aid in the task of nation-building should have their credentials of disinterestedness drawn up carefully and honestly.

If there are any disturbances in Afghanistan owing to disputes over the election of an Ameer, it will be advisable to confine them within the limits of Afghanistan and leave the Afghans to make their own choice of a ruler. Nothing would help them so much in finding a peaceful solution of their difficulties as the assurance that their country is their own, that no power can take it away from them, and that all that they have to do is to have a stable government in the country.

The next decennial census will be taken in India in 1921. Preliminary arrangements are under consideration.

The staff of the Eastern Bengal Railway are providing a monument to the memory of those railwaymen who laid down their lives in the war. It will be erected in the precincts on the Sealdah station.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that all the Serbian students in Italy, of whom there are 240 in Rome and about forty elsewhere, will leave Italy as soon as all the necessary arrangements can be made. Those of them who have been studying engineering will go to Brünn (Moravia), the rest to France.



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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Britain and the East.

In an article headed "Britain's Burden; The Future of Palestine and Mesopotamia," which he contributes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Sir Francis Younghusband puts forward some of the reasons why we should not shirk our "burden." "If British control and British influence were now withdrawn from the ex-Turkish territories chaos would result, and some other control would speedily have to be substituted." But why should *we* take up the responsibility? We have enough on our hands already. Egypt has been a heavy expense to us. What have we got out of it to make up for our expenditure? What do we get out of India itself, in fact, at all commensurate with the responsibilities it entails upon us and the drain it is upon the best manhood of our race? The article continues:

The answer to all such questioning is that in the material way alone we do get considerable benefits from the increased prosperity which our efficient administration brings. The lands are made to produce more, so that we procure more raw materials and food for our needs. And the inhabitants acquire a higher standard of living and a greater purchasing power, and also increase in numbers, so that they form a better market for the sale of our manufactures, more especially our cotton goods. We get good interest, in fact, from the capital expended in these countries.

But over and above these cash advantages there is the satisfaction—the deep, satisfying contentment—which any healthy-minded workman feels at having a good job to do and doing it well. We are proud of our work in India and Egypt, and we have a right to be proud. It is not perfect, and we must seek to make it better; but it is good. If we undertake a similar work in the ex-Turkish territories we may have equal cash advantages, for Mesopotamia, in particular, has only a twentieth part of its cultivable area cultivated, and has immense potentialities as a wheat and cotton growing country. We should, therefore, obtain greater material benefit from it than we do from Egypt. But we should also have the opportunity of gaining this far greater advantage—namely, the satisfaction of having a piece of work to do which we know is exactly suited to our genius, and which we would take a pride in carrying out in a manner worthy of the great people we are.

The writer believes, too, that the cost need not be excessive; since much of the pioneer work has already been done in the construction of roads and railways. Also:

The prestige which the marvellously successful campaigns has brought us is now at our disposal, and in these Eastern countries is of great practical value. If we consider Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, and India together and have troops wisely distributed with facilities for moving them rapidly from one quarter to another, the number of British required might be found not to exceed what India and Egypt alone required in pre-war days. The prestige of the British soldier and the British general has greatly increased. And the effect of modern armaments has trebled. By a process of elimination we now have at the head of affairs in Palestine and Mesopotamia men of pronounced ability, whose services are there ready at hand. The war has shown also that we have to a larger extent than ever before that type of young Englishman who possess an innate aptitude for leading backward people. And with the advantages also of the roads, railway, irrigation canals, and water supplies which we have constructed at enormous cost for war purposes, and with the benefit of modern mechanical appliances, such as aeroplanes and motor-cars, for administrative supervision, the burden of responsibility ought to be nothing like what our forefathers readily undertook in what is now many a flourishing part of the Empire.

Indians v. Bolsheviki.

Monday's *Times* contained a stirring account of "The Fighting in Trans-Caspia," contributed by a Special Correspondent at Merv. The Russians and Turcomans invited us to send troops to secure the safety of the railway line between Merv and the Caspians, and this force has had many "scraps" with the Bolshevist "army." In one of them, at Dushak on October 14, we took the offensive, and—

The assault was delivered at dawn after a two-days' march by a flanking column operating on the left of the railway. The attack was completely successful. The Bolshevists fled from the station. One of their armoured trains as it drew out of a siding burst into flames, ignited by a shell. The whole garrison of the train was cut up afterwards by a party of mounted Turcomans, who had made a wide circuit in the rear and destroyed the line behind it. As soon as the Bolshevists were expelled from the station our Allies, the Russian and Turcoman volunteers, instead of preparing to resist a counter-attack left the fight and fell to looting.

Every British officer in the Punjab regiment had fallen in the assault, and when the Bolshevists came on the Indians were exposed to attack from three sides—frontally down the line, on the right flank by troops who had rallied, apparently realizing our inferiority in numbers, and in the rear by a Bolshevist armoured train, which, had the action developed according to plan, should have been cut off. The Indian officer of the Punjabi battalion put up a splendid fight and refused to retire without orders. The situation was getting desperate, when our cavalry, who had been operating wide on the right of the railway, crossed the line and were returning, came into action. They gave the orders to the Indians to retire, and covered their retreat, the Bolshevists giving them frequent opportunities to get in with the lance. The enemy's casualties were estimated at 1,000, which is perhaps an exaggerated figure. Anyhow, the Bolshevists were shaken, and as a result of the Dushak action they evacuated Merv and fell back on Charjui, the bridgehead on the Oxus.

The Bolshevists do not appear to like meeting the Indians face to face. On another occasion we read:

The Punjabis again saved the situation. Our armoured train was surrounded and the whole of our left was in danger of being cut off, when they detrained and counter-attacked. Once more the presence of a small disciplined force was decisive. The Bolshevists, a disorganized rabble, firing wildly, did not wait for the bayonet, but melted away into the mist.

The article concludes with a tribute to the Indian troops that is evidently well earned:

But the thing that impressed us most on this far-flung front was the spirit of the Indians. The Bolshevists fly like sheep before them. In the three critical engagements at Kaakha, Dushak, and Annenkovo it was their coolness and discipline that turned the tide. It was the handful of men who came up from Quetta that saved Askhabad. The line was drawn against the Bolshevist advance at Kaakha; the enemy had every advantage except that of *moral*, and they never crossed it. Where two or three thousand have been engaged on either side the presence of a single company of sepoys has more than once turned the scale. One may be sure that these values will be discussed on the borders of Persia and Afghanistan to the increase of honour in the Punjab. The *izzat* of the Sikh and the Punjabi Musulman stands high; and higher still, among the thoughtful, the *izzat* of the British officer who has trained and led them.

Beautiful Albania.

Miss M. Edith Durham concludes an article on "Albania and Her People," which appears in the *Manchester Guardian*, with the following attractive description of the country and its inhabitants:—

It is a fair and beautiful land. Its long coast is warm and fertile. Even with the present primitive methods of agriculture crops grew freely. The olive and the vine flourish, and there is winter pasture for the flocks which go in summer to the green slopes of the Albanian Alps, with their virgin forests of beech, oak, and pine. The land is well watered. Its lakes, more beautiful than those of Italy, abound in fish of many sorts. Strange wild fowl haunt their banks—beautiful white herons and spoonbills and big pelicans. Grebes and wild duck swarm in winter, and the marshlands are full of woodcock and snipe. The chamois is not yet extinct upon the mountain, though now scarce, and wild pig are plentiful in the woods on the plains.

Small wonder that those whose forefathers have dwelt in the land for so many generations love it with passionate intensity. They derive the old name of the land "Illyria" from the Albanian word "Liria" (freedom), and "Liria! liria!" is now the cry of all. All who wish for a permanent peace must hope that freedom be granted them. For of late years most of Europe's troubles have originated in the Near East, and a just solution of its racial problems can alone establish tranquillity.

Articles to Note.

"Indian Politics," in *The Round Table* (March).

"Could the Fleet Have Forced the Straits?" by Major-General Sir Charles Callwell; and "The Policing of Asia," by Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, in the *Nineteenth Century* (March).

"The Rise, Decline, and Fall of Young Turkey," by Sir Edwin Pears; and "Impressions of Smyrna in War Time," by Annie C. Marshall, in the *Contemporary Review* (March).

"Armoured Cars, Persia and Baku"; "450 Miles to Freedom," by Captain M. A. B. Johnston and Captain K. D. Yearsley; and "The Tragi-Comedy of Prinkipo" (in Musings Without Method), in *Blackwood's Magazine* (March).

"The Adriatic Problem and the Peace Conference," by Virginio Gayda; and "The Macedonian Question," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (March).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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I learn that Fiume may be the port for shipments to Serbia instead of Salonika. It has the advantage of being very much more direct.

***

The position in Serbia at present is that the country is fairly well off as regards foodstuffs, but prices are very dear. Transport provides the outstanding trouble. Railways have been destroyed by the enemy with fiendish thoroughness, also the roads, and the difficulties of communication are very great. Judging by outward signs, one would hardly imagine, I am told, that Belgrade had been so severely damaged as is actually the case. The walls are standing, but on entering a house one often finds the interior ruined.

***

I understand that, while as far as Manchester firms are concerned there is already considerable activity in shipments to the Levant, a good many London firms are still hanging back, their timidity doubtless being caused by the uncertainty in the present position. The fact remains, however, that in Constantinople, and doubtless in the majority of other large Turkish towns, there is an extreme shortage of everything, and shipments promptly made will certainly find a good market. I would remind firms interested that the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be very glad to give information to anyone desiring to enter the Turkish market as to the opportunities in that direction. *En passant*, it will be noted that Constantinople makes its reappearance this week in the advertisement of the bank.

***

Of the features of special interest in the Indian Financial Statement, which is given in detail elsewhere in this issue, mention must be made of the relief granted to persons with low salaries. The taxable limit is raised from £67 to £133, and this, it is believed, will give relief to 237,000 persons out of the total number of 381,000. This concession brings the estimated deficit to over £5.000,000, and the excess profits duty is designed "to fill the gap and give a small surplus." The net estimated receipts from this tax are placed at about £6,000,000. As regards the Indian railways, a total expenditure is contemplated of about £24,000,000, consisting of the special revenue renewal programme of £6,500,000 and an expenditure on the railway capital programme of £17,570.000. A new loan of £10,000,000 is provided for, and the funds required for railway capital expenditure will be mainly met from the special reserve. £400,000 is provided for irrigation, and the grant for New Delhi is £300,000.

***

Feeling in business circles is very pronounced because there has been, as yet, no indication of the policy of the authorities with regard to trade problems, and this feeling found expression at a widely attended meeting of prominent merchants, manufacturers, and traders held last week at the instance of the London Chamber of Commerce, when a call was made upon the Government to declare its policy in regard to the extension and encouragement of trade after the war. Among the speakers was Sir C. C. McLeod, who said that the peace negotiations had gone far enough to enable the Government to give a definite lead, and through the lack of such an indication trade was being lost.

***

A further marked increase took place in the external trade of the Sudan in 1918, the figures for the total external trade being £E8,234,966, against £E6,831,298 in 1917. The increase has been mainly in imports, and as a result the favourable trade balance of 1917 of roughly £E488,000, without including re-exports, has given place to a slight adverse balance, which, by the addition of re-exports, however, is turned into one of £E186,802 in favour of the Sudan. Turning to the figures, imports amounted to £E4,024,582, against £E3,102,117 in 1917, or an increase of nearly 30 per cent.; exports to £E3,923,771, against £E3,490,565, or an increase of about 12½ per cent.; and re-exports to £E286,613, against £E238,616, or an increase of about 21 per cent. The principal articles of import were cotton fabrics £E1,116,849, refined sugar £E593,137, and coal £E333,855, while the chief articles of export were sheep and goats £E651,257, gum £E638,765, durra £E589,734, and cattle £E519.920.

***

The Foreign Office last year appointed a Committee, called the Nile Projects Committee, to consider certain charges made by Sir William Willcocks and Lieut.-Colonel M. Ralston Kennedy in connection with the present programme of irrigation in the Sudan. The report has now been published of the Committee, which consisted of Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice, past-president of the Institution of Civil Engineers; Sir John Benton, late Inspector-General of Irrigation in India; Sir William E. Garstin, late Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works; Colonel H. G. Lyons, late Director-General, Survey Department of Egypt; Professor W. C. Unwin, past-president of the Institution of Civil Engineers; and Sir Arthur L. Webb, late Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works.

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The charges made by Colonel Kennedy are first dealt with. His first three charges alleged that certain gauge readings and discharge data had been given or used incorrectly, and the Committee's finding is that this was not the case. Colonel Kennedy further stated that taking water from the Blue Nile for the irrigation of the Gezireh would very seriously interfere with the amount of water required for irrigation in Egypt in the early part of the year. The Committee's finding is that there is no justification for this statement. As regards the charges made by Sir William Willcocks, the Committee finds, in the first place, that the measurements at Aswan are direct and absolute, and are the most accurate measurements that have ever been made of the discharge of a large river. His next two charges, referring to records of discharges at Aswan and on the Blue Nile, are not found to be justified, and the Committee further finds no evidence for his complaint that he was refused information by the Public Works Ministry. Finally, with regard to the charge by Sir William Willcocks that "grave inaccuracies in connection with the plates showing the progress of the heightening and widening of the Aswan Dam were published in the Irrigation Reports, 1908-1914," the report states that Sir Murdoch MacDonald had frankly acknowledged that, though he was not personally responsible for the drawings, the plates for certain years were to some extent inaccurate owing to the fact that errors in reproduction were not detected by the officials of the Irrigation Department in checking the proofs.

***

In the preface to its general findings the Committee says that, while it avoided, as far as possible, going into matters outside its reference, it was compelled to touch upon many of the questions which arise in the Irrigation Programme. In these circumstances "we think it may not be out of place to state that, on the information placed before us and from the irrigation point of view, such projects are sound, and form an integral part of the future Irrigation Programme of the Nile Valley. We have not, of course, examined any details of the various works of construction which such schemes necessitate." In the closing passage of the report the Committee states that, "after carefully considering all the matters referred to us, we are unanimously of opinion that there is no foundation for the charges brought forward by Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy, and further that they should never have been made. We feel bound to express our great regret that two past officials of the Egyptian and Sudan Government Service should have descended to the course of action they have thought fit to adopt in making these charges."

COMMENTATOR.

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MOROCCO TRADE NOTES.

Problem of Re-Exports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, February 22.

There is no improvement in business here, and many firms are very badly hit. It was hoped, as mentioned in my last letter, that permission to re-export were granted (efforts to obtain which were being made by the British Chamber of Commerce and others) the situation would be somewhat relieved. Unfortunately this permission has not yet been accorded, though I believe it is now practically assured. After repeated representations to a commission specially appointed to fix prices an endeavour was made to arrive at an agreement as to the conditions under which re-export might be allowed while safeguarding the town against a possible famine of any of the articles concerned.*

Several proposals were made and considered with due deliberation, but most of them proved unsatisfactory; finally, some three weeks ago, an agreement was practically arrived at, and was properly drawn up at the British Agency, and sent round the Diplomatic circle for signature.

Efforts have been made, unsuccessfully at first, but are being renewed, to obtain permission to re-export also from the French zone.

Notwithstanding the state of trade here, it is felt that British manufacturers should not delay sending out their representatives, or they may find others here before them. From the numbers of inquiries received by business firms here it is evident that the interest taken in Morocco by British manufacturers is becoming very widespread. Unfortunately for some of the lines offered this country is not yet ripe, still it is very encouraging to see that Morocco is awakening a much wider interest in British commercial circles than she has done for a very long time.

Cost of Motoring.

A statement appeared lately in an English paper devoted to Morocco that motoring is cheaper here than in England; surely the writer knew little about the conditions of motoring here. To begin with English motors in England have no freight to pay and freight on American cars is higher to Morocco; then there is 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* duty to pay on cars, spirit, spare tyres, oil, etc. Then there are *roads* in England, whilst here even where roads exist they are in a very bad state a great part of the time.

It would be interesting to know the average mileage per gallon of spirit on the moderately good roads in England. Between Tangier and Rabat, for instance, where about 100 out of the 250 kilometres (60 out of 150 miles) are road—five miles per gallon for a five-passenger four-cylinder 30-h.p. American car (we have no British cars here) is as much as one can expect. The price per place for this journey is £6. Lower prices are sometimes charged by certain single car owners, who consider all earnings less cost of spirit as profit.

General News.

I see from a recent French publication that the Comité Consultatif Français are asking that the French Shipping Service between France and Tangier should be subsidised; the impression here is that this line even before the war was making excellent profits.

It is also asked that licences be granted to French subjects for floating coal depots in Tangier Bay until the port is constructed. I believe that just before the war broke out two or three licences had been, or were on the point of being, granted both to French and British firms: of course the war prevented these depots from being established.

Mr. Mulock, of the British Trade Commission, arrived here on leave last week; Mr. Barker has returned to England.

We have had very good rains both here and in the French zones, and the country is beginning to put on its best spring appearance.

* Since this was written the withdrawal of the restrictions on re-export has been published, and candles, soap, and even tea, pepper, and coffee may be freely re-exported by land or sea.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Still Quiet.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

The market during the past week has displayed very little life, and leading buyers have adopted a cautious policy. There is still a strong opinion that some advantage can be gained by holding aloof at the present time. The easier tendency in American cotton rates has an adverse influence upon trade generally. According to one authority there is a possibility of a record acreage for cotton in Egypt next season The current crop is doing fairly well. Egyptian yarns continue to move off slowly and spinners tend to lose ground For Egypt piece goods have not attracted much attention. Rather more activity, however, has been met with for Persia and Turkey, certain local shippers having anticipated future wants. Remittances from abroad are now coming in on a freer scale. Cloth demand for India remains poor, offers being very scarce. Steady buying has occurred for China, chiefly in bleaching descriptions. Scarcely anything at all has been done for South America. Home trade buyers have been cautious. There remains a large amount of machinery standing idle in Lancashire for want of work. American yarns have been purchased from hand to mouth, and prices have tended to favour buyers. There has not been much activity in shipping yarns.

IMPORTS INTO SERBIA.

The Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement are advised by the representatives of the Serbian Government that the import into Serbia of the following articles is prohibited, except to the Serbian State Monopolies:—Tobacco of all descriptions, cigarette paper, salt, kerosene oil, matches.

The import of mineral oil and benzine is permitted to be made by private firms, provided they obtain the authorisation of the State Monopolies. High explosives, dynamite blasting powder, and similar material, as well as arms of all descriptions, can only be imported with the authority and licence of the Serbian Minister of War, while drugs, including saccharine, are licensed by the Serbian Ministry of Health for apothecaries and druggists.

Applications which may be submitted for licence to export the foregoing material to Serbia from this country should, therefore, be referred to the Serbian Delegates on the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, India House, Kingsway, W.C.2, and, provided they are authorised to support the request, export may be allowed.

The above restrictions do not, of course, apply in the case of supplies asked for by the Serbian Government through their Delegates on this Commission.

NEW INDUSTRY AT JAFFA.

Several hundred women are now employed at Jaffa by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund in the making up of 5,000 sets of bedding—composed of mattress, quilt, and pillow—an urgent necessity in the plundered and desolate homes. Several rooms are filled by the busy workers. A notable triumph has been achieved in the undertaking of this work by the women at all, men only having been accustomed to beat the cotton and prepare the quilts before the war. There was much hesitation at first in facing this more elaborate task, but once the bolder spirits had made a beginning the rest soon followed suit, and found the work well within their powers. Some of those engaged are amongst the poorest, in whose homes there is absolutely no daily cookery for want of food and fuel.

The Indian Currency Report for 1917-18 states:—"The rupee coinage of the year was 23,12 lakhs, and purchases of silver for this coinage amounted to 83¾ million standard ounces. These were supplemented by local purchases in Bombay and Calcutta of 3½ million standard ounces. There were purchased in America 40 million, in China 28½ million, and in Australia 5 million ounces, while 1¾ million ounces were obtained from the Bawdwin Mines. The balance was shipped from London."

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Goatskins awaiting shipment at Aden in January totalled about 600,000 pieces.

The British flagship Venus has sailed from Rangoon, homeward bound, via Bombay.

Travancore's first industrial exhibition was held on February 17 and the two following days.

A committee for safeguarding Belgian interests in Roumania has been established at Brussels.

The Indian Excess Profits Tax Bill has been referred by the Viceroy's Council to a Select Committee.

Further consignments of silver bullion to the value of eight million dollars have been shipped to India from New York.

The weekly mail service between Egypt and Cyprus by the Khedivial Company, which has been suspended since July, has been resumed.

Mr. A. C. McWatters, I.C.S., of the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of India, has been deputed to England on special duty.

Mr. W. E. Crum, O.B.E., of Messrs. Graham and Co., has been re-elected to represent the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the Calcutta Port Commissioners.

The chairmanship of the new British Overseas Bank will, provisionally at any rate, be undertaken by Mr. Arthur C. D. Gairdner, general manager of the Union Bank of Scotland.

Mr. G. H. Griffith has been appointed goods manager of the Egyptian State Railways and has been succeeded as general traffic superintendent at Gabbary by Mr. S. R. Hibbert.

The Suez Canal Company, at their meeting on March 4, elected Lord Downham as British representative on the board in succession to Sir William Garstin, who has resigned after ten years' service.

During January 10,208 bales of tobacco, weighing 571,974 kilos, were received at Alexandria from Greece and other countries. Up to the end of the month the tobacco stock in the Customs tobacco stores was 106,296 bales.

Mr. T. E. Casdagli has been re-elected chairman of the Middle East and North Africa Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which will henceforth be known as the Egypt, Levant, and North Africa Section.

Mr. Charles Frederick Hooper, of Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Co., has been elected to represent the Calcutta Trades Association on the Corporation of Calcutta in the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. George Phillips Shelton.

Prince Mohammed Hussein Mirza arrived in India recently from Persia to study local conditions with a view to improving trade relations between the two countries, and to consult local experts with a view to introducing the cultivation of tea into Persia.

Messrs. Cox and Company, bankers and Army agents, of 16, Charing Cross, have opened a City office at 38, Lombard Street, under the management of Mr. C. S. Clarke. This office is being opened with a view to meeting the development of their Indian and foreign business.

The Postmaster-General announces that the Indian mail, which has hitherto been closed for newspapers and other printed matter on Wednesday night, will now be kept open for these classes of correspondence until 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays at the General Post Office. The latest time for posting letters without late fee at the General Post Office remains 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

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TRADE WITH GREECE.

Openings for Machinery.

In view of the efforts now being made to develop British trade with Greece, special interest attaches to a report recently issued in Greece in which, besides the development and progress of manufactures and other enterprises in that country using machinery, the probable requirements of Greece in the way of machinery and mechanical equipment are discussed in detail. The report fully confirms all that has been said with regard to Greece as a promising machinery market, and makes it clear that in the next few years there is going to be a large and increasing demand for varied classes of machinery, in particular for machines for motive power and for agricultural machinery.

It is known that vast schemes of development are contemplated in Greece, as for instance the rebuilding of Salonika, the construction of shipyards at the Piraeus, the Athens water supply project, and extensive plans of railway construction, all of which should provide useful opportunities for British engineers and British capital. Plans are also under consideration for the development of Greece's industries, which, it is pointed out, are being carried on at the present time in most unfavourable conditions as regards machinery and equipment. Wages have been increased in Greece as elsewhere. Lignite is insufficient to meet the need for fuel, and it is obvious that it must be a matter of years (if at all) before coal of good quality can again be imported at the pre-war price. It is maintained that it is necessary for Greek manufacturers and business men to effect partial or even complete changes in their mechanical plant. This question, it is understood, is already being taken in hand by manufacturers of chemical products, who intend to renew and enlarge their plants. As regards new industries, in view of the abundance and good quality of Greece's iron ores, attention is being paid to the question of the erection and equipment of plants for the production of pig iron.

Industries.

Industrial establishments in Greece in 1917 numbered 132; of these 92 are concentrated in Attica-Bœotia, including among them 70 per cent. of the enterprises using machinery. Larissa contains workshops producing tools and machinery for agricultural purposes. The figures for the province of Salonika are unimpressive, but it is emphasised that there is no doubt that mechanical industry there will shortly enter on a career of rapid development.

Electricity is used for power by 47 of the mills and workshops in Attica-Bœotia, steam by 19, gas by 13, and petroleum by six. The machinery and equipment of the plants of these establishments leave much to be desired, it is declared, and it is stated that lathes, machine tools, boring, riveting and polishing machines might well provide large orders for the metal working industries of the Allies. The work done in these shops, it may be added, consists mainly in repairing machines, boilers, and other apparatus used by manufacturers and the mercantile marine, and the production of complete machines has been exceptional, though of late they have successfully undertaken the production of pumps, boilers, presses, oil extractors, agricultural machinery, and small motors.

The average annual value of machines and mechanical supplies imported was 2,731,276 francs. Of this amount the imports of pumps were valued at 719,758 francs, of steam engines at 701,676 francs, of sewing machines at 642,505 francs, of safes and locks at 305,512 francs, and of agricultural machinery at 135,672 francs. Germany supplied most of these goods, her figures being 998,276 francs, while Great Britain came next with 915,450 francs, and Germany and Austria between them supplied 44 per cent. of the total. Great Britain has, of course, an excellent opportunity to take the place of the other countries in this trade, but if the scope for extending the export of British machinery to Greece were confined to this limit it would have to be admitted that the scope for enterprise is small. This, it cannot be too strongly emphasised, is not the case. Greece's pre-war imports of machinery and other commodities were on a small scale simply because the country was undeveloped in every direction, and capital was lacking to assist the steps of progress, while, in addition, for a number of years before 1914 conditions were too unsettled to make any great advance possible. Henceforward the adverse factors will not be present, and there is absolutely no question that the figures just quoted provide no guide whatever as to Greece's future requirements. To be correctly estimated they must be regarded merely as marking the opening of a market which promises to be of great importance. There is also the fact, which ought never to be lost sight of, that in entering the Greek market whether for machinery or other commodities, exporters will have a much wider field than is indicated by the map, since the orbit of Greek trade also includes an insignificant part of the Levant.

Opening for Power Plant.

One of the principal openings for machinery will probably be in connection with motive power, and here it is thought that boilers, engines, and motors of all kinds will be the main imports. The power plants at present in use are objected to on the ground of their fuel consumption, and the importation of tubular boilers is regarded as essential for industrial progress. There will be a need for other types of engines and motors, notably in connection with the utilisation of water power, which cannot be carried out without a sufficient number of turbines. The industrial census of 1917 showed that the hydraulic horse-power developed then amounted to 6,272 horse-power. This amount, of which flour mills use 1,662 horse-power, oil factories 202 horse-power, chemical producers, 1,095 horse-power, cotton, woollen and thread mills 3,288 horse-power, tanneries 10 horse-power, and saw mills 15 horse-power, is estimated to be only one tenth of the potential hydraulic power of the country. Steps are to be taken to increase this power to 66,000 horse-power, and the power obtained will be mainly used in the production of high tension electric current for the manufacture of nitrogen fertilisers and for supplying light to certain cities. This development will, of course, bring about a large demand for dynamos, transformers, transmision systems, and other accessories.

Then there should be an excellent opening for steam turbines. Three 10,000 horse-power steam turbines have been installed by the Hellenic Electric Corporation in its main plant at Phaleron, and by the General Cement Corporation in its factory at the Piræus. It is stated, however, that the engines which will be in the greatest demand are the Diesel petroleum motors where large amounts of power are required, and the semi-Diesel for smaller plants. At the present time 282 petroleum motors are in use. It is thought that this type of motor will not only be largely utilised by manufacturers, but will also be used for small ships and sailing vessels.

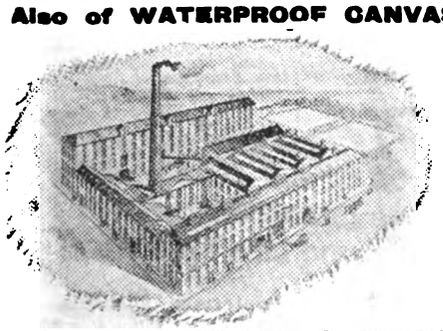
UNITED EGYPTIAN LANDS.

Scheme of Reconstruction.

An extraordinary general meeting of the United Egyptian Lands, Ltd., will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on April 2, when a scheme of reconstruction will be submitted. The scheme provides for the formation of a new company, with a capital of 1,400,000 shares of 5s. each, to take over the assets and liabilities of the existing company. The consideration is to consist of 1,400,000 shares in the new company of 5s. each, of which 38,829 will be credited as fully paid up and will be applicable to the discharge of the liabilities of the existing company. The remaining 1,361,171 shares will be credited as paid up to the extent of 3s. 9d. per share, and will be offered to the shareholders in the existing company in the proportions of two of such shares for every fully-paid ordinary share and one such share for every fully-paid deferred share in the existing company. The agreement for transfer will contain usual provisions for enabling the liquidator to dispose of shares not applied for, for dealing with the interests of dissentients and for distributing the proceeds of shares sold (other than those required for discharging liabilities) among the shareholders entitled, and other usual provisions. The new company will be entitled to rescind the contract if holders of shares in the existing company to the nominal amount of £50,000 or upwards effectually dissent from the special resolution sanctioning the sale. The subscription of 900,000 of the said shares of 5s. each (3s. 9d. paid) has been guaranteed for a total commission of 1¾d. per share and the right until June 30, 1921, of subscribing for shares not taken up and discharging the liability of 1s. 3d. per share on any shares so subscribed for. The sanction of the Treasury has been obtained to the proposed issue of shares, subject to the conditions that so long as the Treasury restrictions continue (a) not more than 6d. per share is to be called up in respect of the liability of 1s. 3d. per share on the 1,361,171 shares; (b) no cash commission is to be paid to underwriters until these shares have been fully called up, and (c) no part of the proceeds of the issue are to be remitted from England.

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GREEK DEBT INTEREST.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received information that the surplus of the revenues assigned to the service of the Greek Debt in respect of the year 1918 will permit of the increase of the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund in 1919 by the following percentages of the original interest: Loans of Group 1., interest 26 per cent., sinking fund 14 per cent.; ditto II., interest 26 per cent., sinking fund 16 per cent.; ditto III., interest 26 per cent., sinking fund 14 per cent.

With the addition of the above percentages, the total interest payable in 1919 in respect of 1918 will be 2.76 per cent. on the 4 per cent. Monopoly Loan, 2.90 per cent. on the 5 per cent. Funding Loan, 2.90 per cent. on the 5 per cent. Loans of 1881, 1884, and 1890, and 2.32 per cent. on the 4 per cent. Rentes. The whole of this additional interest is payable on the April coupon in the case of the Funding Loan and Rentes, on the June coupon in the case of the 5 per cent. Loan of 1890, and on the July coupon in the case of the Monopoly Loan and the 5 per cent. Loans of 1881 and 1884.

The following are principal figures on which the above results are based:—The gross receipts in 1918 from the Assigned Revenues from which the plus values are derived were 36,264,901dr., showing an increase of 2,741,810dr. The receipts of the Assigned Revenues after deduction of 18 per cent. of the plus values for expenses were 34,939,219dr., and the amount fixed by the Law of Control being 28,900,000dr., there was a plus value of 6,039,219dr., of which the bondholders are entitled to 60 per cent. or 3,623,531dr.

Net profit on exchange was 6,194,250dr., of which the bondholders are entitled to 60 per cent., or 3,716,550dr. The total plus value applicable to the service of the Debt is 7,340,081dr. Of this amount there is available for interest 3,566,040dr., or 3,726,220 francs (being half the above amount of 7,340,081dr., less 104,000dr. representing the deficiency, due to the fall in the rate of exchange in the equivalent in drachmæ of the amount assigned by the Law of Control for the expenses of the Commission), and for the sinking fund the other half without deduction, viz., 3,670,040dr., or 3,712,022 francs.

Adding to the above amounts balances brought forward from 1917 and, in the case of the former, interest saved on bonds amortised, the following result is shown for 1918: Total amount available for increase of interest, 5,304,061 francs; ditto sinking fund, 3,807,111 francs; balance carried forward, 125,653 francs.

ENTERPRISE IN PALESTINE.

The London Bureau of the Zionist Organisation states that great activity in industrial directions is being shown by the Jews of Palestine, and there is a spirit of optimism in the air. Efforts are being concentrated on procuring agricultural machinery, the purchase of live stock, and the development of credit facilities. Everyone seems inspired with the hope that a splendid era of prosperity, of large agricultural, industrial, and commercial enterprises is about to open out.

During the war the co-operative economic system as applied to farming has won new partisans, particularly in Northern Palestine. Now that Samaria and Galilee are liberated, there are known to be twenty-nine workmen's co-operative groups at work. The eight girls' allotments, or vegetable cultivating groups, are of special interest among these co-operative undertakings. The present high prices for vegetables have encouraged their efforts.

In a Palestine letter published in *Palestine* it is stated that the cultivation of vegetables is appreciably more intensive than in the previous winter. Large tracts of land have been planted with tomatoes, cucumbers, etc. This is particularly the case in the Jewish colonies, where labour groups have been formed specially for this purpose.

In all the colonies the cultivation of almonds and cloves has already begun; and the colonists have begun to plant new trees in place of those destroyed during the war. In the vineyards they are pruning the vines, ploughing, and paying special attention to the preparation of manure, as the vines suffered badly from the locusts and from divers diseases prevalent in the country during the four years of war, and are in great need of special manuring.

The picking of the oranges has already begun, but the work is proceeding very slowly because of the lack of transport to Europe. The Government has indeed allotted to the orchard owners some wagons on the trains to Jerusalem and Egypt; but the demand in these two districts for oranges is very small as compared with the quantity of oranges in the colonies; there is also a great shortage of boxes and packing materials. In such conditions there is scarcely any possibility of exporting oranges.

At the request of the Committee of Federation of the Colonies, the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture supplied them with two sorts of cotton for experimental purposes. The seeds have already been distributed in several colonies.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—February 18, 1,430,000 francs against 360,000 francs; February 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2,620,000 francs against 1,540,000 francs. February 27, 28, and March 1, 760,000 francs against 680,000 francs.

British Indian imports for January increased £1,754,000, and exports increased £1,112,000, as compared with January, 1918.

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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Elbe-Oder-Danube Waterway.

Reference was made in previous notes to the ambitious Austro-German scheme for the construction of a waterway so as to make it possible for vessels of 1,000 tons to pass from Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremen, or any other port on any large German river or canal to the Black Sea by way of the Danube. The subject was of great importance to Germany in connection with her schemes for the Central European Commercial Union, for, apart from the great advantages that the waterway would afford to the German trade with the Near and Middle East, it was declared in a "Central Europe Congress" that the waterway "would make the Central Powers independent of British sea-power and give them access to markets hitherto controlled by British sea-power." The original object of this Danube scheme," as it was called, was to secure to Germany the control of both banks of the Danube from source to mouth. Throughout Austria and Hungary, and along the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier the control was assured; whilst it was hoped to bring Roumania into the scheme by persuasion or force. Thus, German control of the whole waterway would be complete, and would, together with the control of the railway route, link Germany indissolubly with the East. How the waterway would affect British trade with Southern Russia, and the Near and Middle East was pointed out in these columns when the scheme was urged in Germany during the war. Heavy goods, such as engines, steam boilers, machinery, etc., would not be sent by German manufacturers to Hamburg or Trieste as hitherto, by rail, to be shipped for the East; but would be despatched by this waterway, via the Rhine or the Elbe, the Danube and the Black Sea, and would reach their destination at undoubtedly very cheap rates. However, this German scheme belongs to the past, and it is very interesting to hear now that the Government of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, too, attaches great weight to the free use of the Danube and the Elbe, as is manifest from the speeches of President Masaryk. It must, therefore, be anticipated that after the consolidation of the political conditions, the Czech State will seriously contemplate the construction of the Elbe-Oder-Danube Canal, a project which has already found much support on the part of the Moravian Czechs. This canal, in connection with a waterway from Semendria, on the Danube, through the valleys of the Morava and the Vardar to Salonika, as has been suggested in these columns, would prove of great benefit to the newly-created States and the Balkan States generally in the development of their industries, agriculture, and commerce. It would also open a new and safe route from the Baltic to the Black Sea and the Ægean Sea, which would offer special advantages for the promotion of British trade in the East.

Iron Trade in the East.

There has been in recent years a remarkably steady increase in the importation of iron of all kinds in the Near East. The demand has been in connection with engineering works, shipbuilding, construction or reconstruction of houses, shops, and a great variety of native industries, such as for making agricultural implements, etc. Great Britain and Belgium were once the principal suppliers, but in recent years Germany, by systematic efforts, managed to supplant both and to secure the greatest share. Thus, taking the year before the war, we find that Roumania alone bought from Germany and Austria iron or steel bars, rods, angles, shapes or sections, girders, etc., to the value of £382,870, and from Great Britain only £4,300; Bulgaria's purchases amounted to £78,930 from Germany and £100 from Great Britain; Serbia's to £41,310 from Germany and nothing from this country; Turkey's to £107,510 from Germany and £10,700 from Great Britain; Greece's to £29,530 from Germany and £5,300 from Great Britain; and Egypt's to £41,000 from Germany and £90,700 from Great Britain. There has been a great and steady demand for girders, and in that line German goods found an increasing opening, because the German manufacturers produced a special section of less weight than the Belgian girders. Girders are used not only by builders, but also as supports for wooden telegraph posts and for light iron buildings. In Serbia girders amounting to 2,500 to 3,000 tons annually were imported. Wrought steel girders are in demand in Syria. The consumption at Beyrout, the Lebanon and Damascus, is estimated at not less than 4,000 to 6,000 tons per annum, which are imported through Beyrout. These girders are from 3 to 11½ metres in length, and the two ends which are at right angles to the length are from 10 to 30 centimetres in breadth. Germany and Belgium have been the principal suppliers, and sent considerable quantities of these girders to Syria. In Aleppo these were scarcely known eight or nine years ago owing to the difficulties of transport by road from the coast, but the linking-up of Aleppo with Beyrout by rail made their introduction into that region possible, and large quantities were imported during the last two or three years before the war, the imports being over 1,000 tons each year. These imports also came from Germany. Iron or steel plates and sheets were also imported in all parts of the Near East in large quantities; also sheets for working shaped articles by stamping, spinning, drawing, etc. Why this very important trade was neglected by British manufacturers and was left to fall almost entirely into the hands of the Germans is a puzzle to the native importers. It is not too soon to draw the attention of manufacturers to this matter, for, according to reliable information, there are already representatives of American iron manufacturers and merchants in the Near East studying the kind of goods required, and making arrangements with native importers who undoubtedly would prefer to deal with British firms if they could.

Persia's Mineral Wealth.

Persia's mineral wealth of various kinds is great, and the greatest yet discovered is mineral oil, the development of which will be the work of the near future. German experts have declared that deposits of undisclosed value underlie the extensive oil-field of the Irak districts. By trial borings it was proved that there is an oil-bearing tract of more than 1,000 square kilometres, apparently capable of yielding a larger output of oil than the wells of Baku, and, it is asserted, of better quality. The northern limits of the oil-zone lie in the province of Kermanshah, to the east it reaches the neighbourhood of Ispahan, then runs diagonally across Arabistan, continues along the border hills of Dashti and Dashtistan behind Bushire, the most important port in the Persian Gulf, and ends in the neighbourhood of Bunder-Abbas, the terminus of the great caravan-route, Meshed-Kerman. Borings made in 1890 proved the existence of rich oil deposits in the island of Kishem, lying off the coast. Since that date great progress has been made in developing the industry. It is in these districts that before the outbreak of the war England obtained the sole concession to work these rich oil-fields for 99 years. Persian oil is said to be superior to the American product. It contains a large proportion of benzine and kerosine.

TRADE WITH BALKANS AND ADRIATIC

The Board of Trade announce that they have issued a General Licence authorising, so far as the Trading with the Enemy legislation is concerned, the resumption of trade with Croatia and Slavonia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. It is also notified that the restrictions imposed by the Trading with the Enemy (Occupied Territory) Proclamation no longer apply to trading with Montenegro and Albania, and that consequently commercial transactions with those countries may be resumed. It will be necessary to obtain export licences from the War Trade Department before shipping to the above-named countries goods of kinds prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom, and to obtain import licences from the Department of Import Restrictions before importing goods of kinds covered by the Prohibition of Import Proclamations. The general licence does not remove certain existing restrictions in respect of the payment of pre-war debts and the return of property held or managed before the war for persons in enemy territory. Moreover, any permission which may be necessary in respect of any transaction under the Defence of the Realm Regulation 41D must be obtained from the Treasury. The effect of this and previous notifications is to permit, so far as concerns the Trading with the Enemy legislation, the resumption of trade with the whole Adriatic Coast and with all the countries of the Balkan peninsula.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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INDIAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Currency Problem.

The financial statement of the Government of India was presented in the Viceroy's Legislative Council by the Finance Member, Sir James Meston, K.C.S.I., on Saturday last.

Reviewing the closing year, Sir James Meston said that all other features were dominated by the cessation of hostilities in November. The first seven months were a period of great and widespread activity, largely connected with India's war efforts, reflected alike in Government revenues and trade prosperity. The later months were marked by a sharp reaction due to the collapse of speculation and accompanied by unfavourable agricultural conditions and the influenza epidemic. To the painful process of descending to the more normal plane of trade and business the chief obstacle at present was the persistently high range of prices.

The Imperial section in the present year was expected to close with a deficit of £4,500,000, as against an estimated surplus of £2,500.000, the total revenue being now estimated at £85,500,000 and the expenditure at £90,000,000. The revenue improvement amounts to £11,000,000, due to exchange £4,250,000, railways £2,333,000, Customs nearly £2,000,000, and Mints £1,250,000. Expenditure is £18,000,000 more than anticipated, mainly on account of the additional liability accepted by India in September last towards the maintenance of the cost of the additional troops raised in India, amounting to £12,750,000 in the current year. The position was also affected by scarcity, the Imperial share of relief measures costing about £400,000 apart from the loss on land revenue receipts of over £1,000,000.

The difficulties arising from the lock-up of Government resources in London continued in an acute form, and the total disbursements in India for which it was necessary to provide apart from expenditure debited to Indian revenues amounted to £141,000,000, more than half of this representing war outlay on behalf of Home Government. These disbursements were financed mainly by the receipts of the Indian War Loan, £37,000,000, receipts of silver, £56,000,000, and the issue of currency notes against additional investments, £25,000,000. Of the War Loan, subscribers numbered 228,000, against 155,000 to the preceding loan.

Excess Profits Duty.

The forecast of resources for requirements during reconstruction were no less difficult than in the war period, owing to the lack of experience in calculating the legacies of the great war. On the civil side, external trade was largely governed by shipping, which made it difficult to estimate confidently Customs revenue, or gains or loss from exchange; while internal trade might be affected by scarcity or a slump in prices; hence the uncertainty regarding railway earnings and other important heads of revenue. The Government had, however, felt justified in taking an optimistic view of revenue prospects. As regards expenditure, military estimates were £41,200,000, including £8,700,000 for the cost of the additional contribution under the September resolution. The total Imperial expenditure was £85,357,300. On the revenue side the railway estimate, taken at 80 crores, against 76½, anticipated that the current year's revenue would be counterbalanced by heavy expenditure on repairs and renewals. Improvement was also anticipated under Customs, Stamps, Excise, and Posts and Telegraphs, set off by a falling off mainly under mint and exchange gains. In view of the great hardships caused by the present range of prices to persons on low salaries, Government had decided to raise the minimum taxable limit of income-tax from Rs1,000 (£67) to Rs2,000 (£133) entailing a loss of £500,000, but affording relief to 237,000 assessees out of the total number of 381.000. On the existing basis of taxation modified by this concession, Government had to meet a deficit of over £5,000,000. To fill the gap and to give a small surplus an excess profits duty was proposed with an estimated gross yield of £7,500,000, set off by an estimated loss of £1,000,000 under super tax, since this tax and the excess profits duty would not both be charged on the same business, and £450,000 under income-tax, rebate being given for the purpose of this tax in respect of the amount paid as excess profits duty. Allowing for these losses, the net estimated receipts from the excess profits duty were placed at about £6,000.000. Subject to the above the taxation imposed during the war was maintained, including the motor spirit duty of six annas per gallon, the duration of which was previously limited to the period of the war and six months after. The estimated total revenue amounted to £86,225,400, leaving a surplus of £868,100.

The outstanding feature was the capital expenditure of £17,570,000 on the railway capital programme, apart from the special revenue renewal programme of £6,500,000, making a total railway programme expenditure of over £24,000,000. The Budget provided for a new loan of £10,000,000, it being explained that this was an estimate only, the intention being to accept sums received in excess of this amount, with the view of funding the temporary debt as far as possible. A loan of £10,000,000 would already provide for the funding of such debt to the extent of £8,000,000, the funds required for railway capital expenditure, etc., being found mainly by drawing on the special reserve held by the Secretary for India for the purpose. The sum provided for irrigation was £400.000, it being impossible to push preparations of schemes during the war owing to the depleted conditions of the Engineer Cadre, apart from the financial stringency. The grant for New Delhi was fixed at £300,000. The estimate for the Secretary of State's Council Bill drawings was £10,300,000.

The Future.

The necessary task before India on the financial side was coping with the reaction inevitable after the great war. The first obvious necessity was to get currency habits back to a sounder basis. The addition of 120 crores to circulation in the last four years had involved the using up of the world's current production of silver and depleting its accumulated stocks. Two conclusions were inevitable:—(a) The huge sums paid for silver brought home the wasteful and extravagant nature of what had been done; (b) the continuance of a demand on this scale must react violently on the currency and exchange policy of the Government of India. If absorption continued at the present rate it might be physically impossible to purchase sufficient silver, in which case the internal currency policy would have to be fundamentally recast. On the other hand, if by superhuman efforts the requisite amount of silver could be obtained it was more than likely that the operations would force the price up to a giddy height and throw the whole exchange policy in the melting pot. On this side the problem was being carefully examined with a view to defining the exchange and silver policy of Government. The second task was the contraction of the note currency. While it might not seem consistent to deplore the high figures of the currency note circulation after extolling the superiority of paper over metal currency, it could not be regarded as satisfactory for Government to finance itself by borrowing from the paper currency reserve, and the time had come to make a start in the desired direction by the retiring of portions of the fiduciary issue. The third and most imminent phase of the problem was the redemption of the heavy temporary war obligations. If these could not be funded on reasonable terms, it would be necessary to redeem them as they matured. Simultaneously Government would have irresistible claims on them for raising capital for the internal development of railways, industries, forests and the like. In indicating the tasks ahead Sir James Meston disclaimed pessimism, expressing the belief that India's control of raw materials, for which the whole outside world would be contending, placed her in a position of exceptional strength, and would exempt her from many discomforts and sufferings entailed by the reaction period on other countries.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick, I.C.S., Indian Trade Commissioner, will read a paper on "The Report of the Indian Industrial Commission," before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts on March 13. Lord Inchcape will preside at the meeting.

ROUMANIA'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

Intense Desire for Trade with Great Britain.

A Roumanian correspondent, writing from Bucharest under date February 19, gives us the following interesting particulars of the situation in that country. It will be noted that he amplifies what has already been said in these columns regarding the attitude towards Great Britain:—

"Stocks of all manufactured articles in our markets have been exhausted. You are aware, of course, of the terrible food position. Had not the Allies sent us some cargoes of flour in time we should have died of hunger.

"As regards prices, a metre of cloth for a costume costs 300 francs (it was 400 when the Allies arrived here). Cloth manufactured in the country costs 65 francs to-day. It is the official price, but at that it can hardly be procured. A yard of linen for shirts costs 40 francs, and a shirt costs 200 francs. A kilo of butter costs 55 francs.

"You will realise from this how anxiously we are awaiting the moment when we shall begin to receive goods from abroad. The French Government has established here a Bureau Economique Français to prepare the way for French trade and commerce. The British Government should also do something like this in order to facilitate the re-establishment of commercial relations between the two countries.

"British business men neglected the Roumanian market before the war. But now that the Black Sea and our harbours are accessible to the British Fleet, there will be no reason why Great Britain should not devote her full attention to the market. The more so since the Roumania of to-day numbers about fourteen millions of inhabitants, and will import goods on a large scale.

"Our business men hold in high esteem British goods and British methods of doing business. Any effort on the part of the British to introduce their goods here will be completely successful. We wish to have close relations with Great Britain, because we know that besides commercial advantages British merchants and British goods will bring us also British civilisation. And, believe me, we want it very much."

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 27:—

General rain in Chota Nagpur and parts of the United Provinces, light rain in Bihar and Orissa, Punjab, Sind and Central Provinces. More required in Assam and in the irrigated portions of the Punjab.

Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good Broach April-May quoted Rs.539. Piece goods quiet.

Calcutta Rice Market: The Government standard price has been reduced from 5 rupees 1 anna to 4 rupees 14 annas.

The Jute Market is dull. Fine jute prices are well maintained, but very little available. The gunny market has slightly revived. The mills have announced that they will resume four days' working April to June.

Estimates of crops, 1918-19:—Sugar cane, acreage 2,820.000, yield 2,337.000 tons; rice, acreage 75,864,000, yield 23,822.000 tons: wheat, revised acreage, 23,403,000.

Deferred T.T.s.—£125.000 were applied for and allotted on February 20, viz., £50,000 at Calcutta and £75,000 Bombay.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

The Monsoon and Indian Prices.

A communique issued by the Department of Statistics in India shows the marked effect of the last monsoon in the level to which prices had risen by the end of the year.

In the middle of December 1918, the wholesale prices of principal food grains in India increased by 51 per cent. (unweighted average), as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. The weighted average shows a rise of 63 per cent. The prices of rice advanced by 64 per cent. The increases in the chief producing areas, i.e., in Bengal, the Madras Presidency, and Burma, were 62, 59 and 45 per cent. respectively. Among other provinces the rise of 109 per cent. in Sind and Baluchistan is noteworthy. Wheat prices advanced by 39 per cent. (unweighted average). The weighted average shows a rise of 35 per cent. Among the principal producing provinces prices in the Punjab rose by 20 per cent., in the United Provinces by 43 per cent., and in the Central Provinces and Berar by 55 per cent. Prices of barley increased by 43 per cent. (unweighted average). The rise of 78 per cent. in the United Provinces is noticeable. Jawar prices in India showed a rise of 66 per cent. (unweighted average). The weighted average shows a rise of 93 per cent.

Among the reporting provinces the high prices of jawar in the Central Provinces and Berar, which shows an increase of 163 per cent., and in the Bombay Presidency an increase of 114 per cent., are noteworthy. Prices of gram advanced by 48 per cent., and those of arhar dal by 54 per cent. Maize prices increased by 44 per cent. (unweighted average). The weighted average shows a rise of 71 per cent. In Bihar and Orissa the prices of maize advanced by 100 per cent. The prices of ghi and raw sugar showed a rise of 23 and 16 per cent. respectively, but there was a noticeable fall of 18 per cent. in the prices of salt in India, the noticeable decreases being in Delhi (54 per cent.), Bihar and Orissa (47 per cent.), Bengal (42 per cent.), and in the United Provinces (40 per cent.). Compared with December 1, the prices of food grains in India on December 15 were practically stationary. Although there was a rise of 1 per cent. in wheat, and in gram, and of 2 per cent. in arhar dal, prices of rice, jawar, and maize fell by 2, 5, 1 per cent. respectively, while barley, ghi, and raw sugar showed no fluctuations. There was also a fall of 4 per cent. in salt prices.

Tobacco in Greek Macedonia.

The cessation of hostilities and the liberation of the productive regions of eastern Greek Macedonia, until recently occupied by the Bulgars, have introduced a new factor in the estimates of tobacco in Macedonia, increasing them by 6,500,000 okes. (18,330,000 lb.), says an American Consular report, so that the yield should be figured as follows:—Crop of 1916 in eastern Macedonia, left there in consequence of the Bulgar invasion, 4,230,000 lb.; crop of 1917 in eastern Macedonia, 7,050,000 lb.; crop of 1918 in eastern Macedonia, 7,050,000 lb.; crop of 1918 in western Macedonia, 8,460,000 lb.

The quality of the new production in the districts west of the Struma is about 40 per cent. better than the 1917 crop and 15 per cent. better than the new yield in eastern Macedonia. This unprecedented fact is due to the lack of care in planting, gathering, and drying the tobacco, caused by the war operations in this region, and especially on account of lack of male labour, most of the work having been done by unskilled women and children. The tobaccos left from the 1917 crop in this region are of better quality than those of 1918, but they have been very badly manipulated. Tobaccos left from the 1916 crop were of prime quality and well manipulated, but unfortunately, as they were deprived of the daily care they required for two years, they have lost a few grades in their quality. To sum up, the tobaccos in all Macedonia may be divided as follows:—western Macedonia (1918), 3,000,000 okes (8,460,000 lb.), in excellent condition; eastern Macedonia (1916 and 1917), 4,000,000 okes (11,280,000 lb.), in good condition; eastern Macedonia (1918), 2,500,000 okes (7,050,000 lb.), in fair condition.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Southern Punjab.

Net revenue for the year to September 30, 1918, was £410,577, of which £146.209 is payable to the Secretary of State for India as the share of surplus profits due to the Government and £20,000 is transferred to contingencies account. This leaves £244,368, to which must be added £103,846 brought forward, making £348,214. The dividend on the Preference stock paid in respect of the six months to March 31, 1918, together with the dividend and bonus on the ordinary stock for the same period, reduce the balance available to £242,214. The dividend of £46,000 on the preference stock for the six months to September 30, 1918, was paid on December 1, leaving £196,214. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary stock of 7 per cent. and a further bonus of 1 per cent. (making a total distribution of 14 per cent. for the year), from which English income tax at 4s. 9.24d. will be deducted. The final dividend and bonus will absorb £80,000 and leave £116,214 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Meeting, Egypt House, 36, New Broad Street, E.C., on the 12th inst., at 2 p.m.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

The directors of the Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary shares, on account of 1918, payable forthwith.

The directors of the Prince Line have declared a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum (1s. per share), free of tax, for the half-year (interim). Last year the dividend was the same.

The dividend of the National Bank of Greece for the second half of 1918 is at the rate of 160 drachmæ per share, against 120 drachmæ for the corresponding period of 1917, making 300 drachmæ for the year, against 245 drachmæ.

The directors of the Compagnie Industrielle du Levant have not yet been able to present the accounts for the past year or those for the preceding year, owing to the lack of communications with the East.

The directors of the Bengal Dooars Railway recommend a final dividend on the ordinary stock of 3½ per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., both subject to income-tax, payable on March 28, making a total distribution of 9 per cent. for the year ended September 30 last.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants will be held in Athens on March 16 O.S. (March 29 New Style) to decide on the modification of the articles of association numbered 26 and 42 and to receive and approve the accounts for the year 1917-1918.

During the year ended October 31, 1918, the total receipts of the Sucreries et Rafineries d'Egypte amounted to £E3,246,505, against £E3,315,888 for the preceding years and the surplus to £E346.839 against £E475,164. The dividends are at the rate of 105.50 piastres on the ordinary shares and 198.26 piastres on the deferred shares, against 164.22 piastres and 346.60 piastres the previous year.

The Bank of Athens made a profit in 1918 of about six million francs, which amount is to be set aside for redemption. The position of the bank, it is stated, has much improved in Egypt.

NEW COMPANIES.

Banking in Turkey.

A syndicate of Greek bankers is to establish a bank with a head office in Constantinople and branches in the territory of the old Turkish Empire. The capital of the new institution will be fifteen million drachmae. It is understood that the Industrial Bank of Athens and the Bank of the Piræus are connected with the scheme.

BRITISH MISSION TO SERBIA.

The following official communiqué has been issued:—

Under the auspices of the Department of Overseas Trade and the British section of the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement a British Mission is proceeding to Serbia to investigate the damage resulting from enemy occupation of the country and to ascertain the extent to which reconstruction will be necessity and the nature and quantity of the materials required. The mission will also examine general economic conditions in Serbia and will be in a position to report on the prospects of British trade development in that country.

Mr. E. C. Donaldson Rawlins, the Commercial Secretary for Serbia and Greece, is in charge of the first party (which left on March 1st, which includes a civil engineer and architect from H.M. Office of Works and a railway engineer lent by the War Office. Commercial experts are also attached to the mission, and a second party will leave in a few weeks, when the weather conditions will permit of investigation being undertaken into the conditions existing in regard to agriculture, mining, waterways, and other reconstruction problems. It is anticipated that the mission will remain in Serbia for about two or three months.

The functions of the mission do not embrace questions dealing with relief, which are being arranged by the Supreme Council on Supply and Relief, meeting in Paris.

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Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
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,, priv.	L.E.	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	240
Bons de Panama	Frs.	177
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	102½
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Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	103½
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 1/16
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 13/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 5/16
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Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 5/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	12 13/16
Unifiée	L.E.	92
Privilégiée		79
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7¼
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 3/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 3/16
,, Fondateur	£	535
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4⅜
,, Ord		95/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	14 7/16
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5 1/16
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7 11/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	115
,, Jouissance	Frs.	189
Egyptian Markets		25/9
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	405xd
,, Div.	Frs.	360xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	298
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 1/16
Egyptian Salt and Soda		47/10½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	769
,, Fondateur	Frs.	1100
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	421½
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	512
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	283xd
United Lands	P.T.	14
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		8/1 1/16

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday

There has again been a fair amount of business doing this week in Egyptian securities, and, on balance, the changes in prices are mostly in favour of holders. In Government stocks Unifieds are again one point higher at 92, but business is still restricted through the scarcity of sellers.

In Bank shares a fair amount of business has been done in both Nationals and Agriculturals, and the latter are closing 3-32 higher at 6 27-32.

In Railways Delta Lights are again fractionally firmer at 8½.

Amongst Land shares Aboukirs on further profit-taking receded at one time to 28s. 3d., but are an improving market at the close at 28s. 9d., a decline of 9d. since last week. Allotments are in demand at the current level, but sellers are non-existent. Behéra Prefs. have recovered the further 6d. dividend just declared at 4⅝ x.d. In Delta Lands some selling reduced the price at one time to 15s. 6d., but they are closing only 6d. lower at 16s. New Egyptians have been in persistent demand throughout the week, and a large turnover has resulted, the closing price being 1s. 9d. higher at 27s. 4½d. In Sudan Plantations the price, after dropping 3-16 to 4 1-16, has since recovered to 4 3-16; a large block of shares which was overhanging the market having now been placed. Union Foncières have remained a firm spot, but business has not been possible as there have been no sellers. United Egyptian Lands are 3d. easier at 2s. 6d., at which price some few thousand shares were done.

In Miscellaneous descriptions there has been steady business in Markets round the current level. Salts and Sodas are 1-16 firmer at 2 15-16, and Khedivial Mails are unchanged after being rather better.

In Greek securities there is no change to report since last week, with the exception that the 1914 loan is a shade firmer at 81 x.d.

Oil Shares.

The oil market has been variable. Anglo-Egyptian B are firm at 76s. 10½d., and Anglo-Persian Prefs. have also shown an improving tendency at 26s. 4½d. In Roumanians Roumanian Consols are 17s. 3d., Anglo-Roumanians are 11s. 9d., and Traians 13s. 1½d. Bakus have been the subject of many transactions round 4s. 9d.

REDUCED FARES FROM INDIA.

The P. and O. decided to reduce their fares as soon as their steamers were freed from Government control, with the object of assisting in the homeward exodus. The homeward steamers will not be free till about the middle of April, but the Controller of Shipping has consented to the reduction taking place in all steamers leaving India after March 1. The reduction will be 20 per cent., and the old return tickets for fare-and-a-half will again be introduced.

Following on the relaxation of Government control of shipping, the Ellerman Lines, Limited, have arranged to reduce by 20 per cent. all fares by the City and Hall lines' joint service between the United Kingdom and India. This reduction will apply immediately to homeward steamers, and from April next to the outward steamers also. Return bookings, which were disallowed during the period of Government control, are again in operation on the basis of single fare-and-a-half.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Feb. 25	Mar. 4
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	93	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	91	92
Do. Pref. 5% %, 1890	88	78	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	71	71
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	71	71
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58	58
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55½	55½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	71	71
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	82½	81xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	97	97
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	—
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16½	16½
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅝	7⅝
British Trade Corporation	—	11¼	11¼
Chartered Bank of India	65	71	71
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	5½	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	17⅞	16⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22⅛	22⅛
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8⅞	8½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	29/6	28/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	13⅞	13⅞
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/6	16/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/-	16/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/7½	27/6½
Sidi Salem Co.	A	2¼	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	4½	4⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	72/6	72/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/9	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	28/3	28/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	2⅞	2⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	5½	5¼
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	4½	4½

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. £2,000,000 | Reserve Fund £1,350,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 410.—Vol. XV. THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Since March 5, when General Anto Gvozdenovitch, Montenegrin Minister at Washington, submitted the point of view of the Montenegrin Government on the situation in and the future of Montenegro, the Paris Conference has been mainly engaged with subjects not immediately connected with the Near or Middle East. Committee work, however, has been in progress, and we understand that an important statement which may go far to settle the future boundaries of the Balkan Peninsula has been finished by one committee during the past week. It will be of interest to see to what extent the Council of Ten exercise their revisionary powers in regard to the work of the various committees. The pressure upon their time is already great, and there will be a strong temptation to save further trouble by accepting *en bloc* the findings of the subordinate body. But in no instance should the Council forgo its right and duty to check the evidence, and to make sure that all sides of the question have received equal attention. The importance of the Balkan settlement lies in the fact that the least flaw may endanger the peace of Europe. The experts forming the committee may have profound knowledge of a given subject, but unless they adjust that knowledge to the broad issue grave injustices may be done.

The reminder is not altogether wide of the mark, if we may judge from the by-play that is taking place in regard to Montenegro. Last week reference was made in these columns to an alleged report of a Commission appointed by the Allies and the Associated Powers, under the presidency of General Franchet d'Esperey, to inquire on the spot as to the events that have occurred in that country. We are still of opinion that no responsible international body could draft a report in the terms attributed to the findings of this one; but it is evident that Montenegrin opinion is seriously exercised over this Commission. Before its report was published a memorandum on the subject was addressed to the Great Powers, informing them that some *soi-disant* commission was being made the victim of an elaborately staged hoax. People who were not Montenegrins were being presented to them, dressed in the national costume, and were posing as representatives of Montenegrin public opinion. On other occasions the Commission was taken to villages whose inhabitants were also of non-Montenegrin origin, in order to learn the views of the people "on the spot." But the greatest *coup* of all was the unanimous testimony of a host of Montenegrin officials. The explanation given of this phenomenon is that the officials had been reduced to penury as a result of the Austrian occupation; and they were offered food and arrears of salary if they undertook to sign a document in favour of the absorption of Montenegro in Serbia. At the same time they were assured (so it is stated) that King Nicholas had been deposed and was a prisoner in the hands of the Allies.

Here then are two statements: the findings of a Commission—if we suppose that their tenour corresponds with the alleged findings without being couched in such undiplomatic language—and the allegations of the Montenegrin Government regarding the trick played upon that body. In ordinary circumstances the Commission has played the part of the expert committee charged by the Paris Conference to examine a particular question. If it has been made the victim of a hoax, or even if there is the least suspicion that it has allowed itself to be hoodwinked in any way, clearly the Council of Ten cannot accept its findings without further investigation. But if one committee is liable to be imposed upon to the extent alleged, we may be sure that every other investigating body appointed by the Conference runs the risk of being misled by a mass of *ex parte* statements which it may not be in a position to check. For this reason there should be no final decision on any single point connected with the Balkan settlement until the subject has been submitted to the court of appeal after the preliminary hearing by the court of first instance.

It is difficult to exonerate the Great Powers from the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in the Balkans. While they are deferring action it is the peoples of the different countries who are adding fresh sufferings to their former miseries. It may be only a small clique of irresponsible extremists who are trying to coerce Montenegro into annexation, but they are indirectly victimising the whole population of Yugoslavia. The spirit of distrust is abroad, and Italy is inflicting upon the Yugoslavs something of the treatment meted out to the Montenegrins by the Serbian officials in their country. Even the future of Yugoslavia may be said to be involved, for any undue favouritism by the Powers of Serbia at the expense of the Croats and Slovenes must tend to make the latter suspicious of an arrangement that promises to bind them to the chariot wheels of a Greater Serbia rather than place them on an equal footing with the Serbians in a composite State. In some quarters it is supposed that the international financier concerned for his Serbian investments does not feel sure of his position, if Serbia becomes entirely

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merged in a Yugoslav federation; and for this reason is encouraging the Serbians to consolidate their power at the expense of all their neighbours. What truth there may be in the insinuation we have no means of knowing; but if the Serbian Government is allowing itself to be prompted by such advice it is doing a disservice to itself, to Serbia, and to Yugoslavia.

There is, let it be added, a more serious aspect of the situation in Montenegro, about which little seems to be known outside the country. A revolt has taken place; and it could only be a revolt of Montenegrins against the troops in occupation of their country. It was put down, presumably, in the way in which similar risings are generally suppressed in the Balkans. If the Council of Ten could spare attention to the subject they would have to ask themselves how it came about that there should be something in the nature of an organised revolt against their authority on the part of an Allied people. For, technically speaking, Montenegro was recovered from Austrian domination by Allied troops, and should either be held in trust by the Allies or be handed back to the Montenegrins. Neither course has been adopted, and the Council of Ten would be hard put to it to say why.

The announcement that the resignation of Hussein Rushdi Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt, has at last been accepted brings to an end a Ministerial crisis of some months' duration. Our Cairo Correspondent tells the story of the crisis in his letter in this issue, and here we need only express the general regret felt that Rushdi Pasha should have taken this step. The incident proves that the situation in Egypt still calls for skilled and tactful handling. Above all, difficulties require to be faced at once, if they cannot actually be forestalled. There is no room for watertight compartments, and if any responsible person shows signs of wishing to create one, the sooner he is eliminated the better for the country.

Everyone who was able to keep in touch with the course of events in Egypt during the first two years of the war will be glad to see that the case of Sir Henry McMahon has been taken up in the House of Commons. On the evidence adduced there can be little doubt that a capable and distinguished Civil servant has been badly treated. It is possible that he was the victim of political circumstances in having been relieved of his post in Egypt just at the end of Mr. Asquith's regime, and in being "overlooked" by the new Government. The explanation, however, even if correct, is no justification. There is some truth in the contention that Sir Henry McMahon's appointment as High Commissioner was regarded as "provisional," but in those days "provisional" was apt to mean "for the duration of the war." Sir Reginald Wingate was the natural successor of Lord Kitchener, but could hardly be offered the post while there was a chance of Lord Kitchener's returning to Egypt. The mere fact that the British Government made a convenience of Sir Henry McMahon ought to have entitled him to special consideration, the more so in view of the sterling work that he did as High Commissioner. He has been accused of not having exercised sufficient control over the military authorities. It is only necessary to apply such a charge to a Government in this country in order to gauge its justice at a time when Egypt was threatened with invasion. Sir Henry McMahon's work was well summed up by our well-informed Cairo Correspondent in THE NEAR EAST of November 24, 1916. He wrote:—

"The work he has done will, in the long run, prove of the utmost value to Egypt and to Great Britain, and it should in many respects facilitate the settlement of many of the problems which the war has created in Egypt and elsewhere. . . . . Sir Henry has the satisfaction of knowing that, at the end of two momentous and difficult years, he is handing over to his successor a peaceful, prosperous, and contented country, where cordial relations exist between the ruler and the protecting Power, and unity reigns between elements which were previously not in sympathy or accord one with the other."

It is satisfactory to learn that a memorial has been presented to the Lords of the Treasury urging the creation of an Imperial British Institute of Archæology in Cairo, and it will be still more satisfactory to know that the project has been agreed to, and will have the active support of the Government. At present a Service of Antiquities has charge of the monuments in Egypt, and to it is nominally entrusted the supervision of excavation in the interests of the Museum at Cairo. But the bulk of the practical work of excavation has been in the hands of various organisations associated with Great Britain, France, Germany, and the United States. Both the Egyptian Exploration Fund and the British School of Archæology in Egypt have done important work; but it is notorious that their efforts have been handicapped by insufficient funds, and that they have been at a considerable disadvantage in comparison with the French, American, and German institutions. With the altered status of Egypt it is right that this anomalous condition of things should be remedied, and the committee, representing various learned bodies interested in archæological studies, which has been formed under the auspices of the British Academy, has done well to insist upon adequate State recognition and support for archæology in Egypt.

Great Britain's responsibilities in the domain of archæological exploration, however, are no longer restricted to Egypt. Whatever may be the political status of Mesopotamia, the country will rely upon British help and guidance for its material and cultural development. Now the early pages of the history of Babylonian and Assyrian exploration are almost entirely occupied by the record of British achievements. But for the last thirty years British archæologists have done nothing of importance in Assyria, and have paid practically no attention at all to Babylonia. One or two members of the British Museum staff have worked spasmodically at a few sites in the north, their efforts being inevitably hampered by lack of funds. In the meantime the French were busy at Tello, the Germans at no less than five sites, the Americans at Nippur and Bismya, and the Turks at Abu Habba. No doubt good reasons could be adduced for British reluctance to embark on any extensive enterprise in Turkey in the old days. But the excuse no longer holds good. Numerous ruins of Babylonian and Assyrian cities, temples, and fortresses on the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris await exploration, and any scheme inaugurated for the more effective prosecution of archæological research in Egypt should be duplicated for Mesopotamia.

Confirmation of the desperate plight of Roumania as a result of the systematic pillage of the country by the Germans is continually being received. As already recorded in our columns, the worst feature is the lack of transport. It is stated that there are in the whole of the kingdom only eighty-four locomotives in fit condition. All the horses and most of the men were taken by the enemy. Competent observers are of opinion that, given the means of transport—and this means as well repaired roads and bridges—there is sufficient food in the country for the immediate needs of the people. In these circumstances the first need is for railway engines, and it is to be hoped that an effort will be made to send some without delay from the neighbouring countries. Unfortunately the whole world outside America is suffering from a shortage of rolling stock; but by a judicious selection it may be possible to supply Roumania with the measure of relief that she needs most.

It is by no means an unreasonable request that all parties who hold strong views on the future of Constantinople—more particularly in its religious aspect—should adopt an attitude which indicates that they recognise that there are two sides to the question. The Government of India has found it necessary to repeat its assurance that it regards the question of the Khalifate as affecting Moslems alone, and as one to be decided by Moslems without interference. There is, however, not the least ground for any Moslem misgivings on this subject, or as to the pledge given regarding the Holy Places of Islam. On the other hand, that some misconception may prevail with respect to the future of Con-

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stantinople is suggested by a passage in the Aga Khan's speech at the banquet given in honour of Lord Sinha. Whatever decision may be reached on this point, there is no reason to suppose that the deportation of the Turkish rank and file is contemplated by anybody. It would be possible to move the Turkish seat of government to a town in Asia Minor without interfering with the everyday life and religious exercises of the Moslems, who comprise a large, if not the largest, section of the population of Constantinople. No one can examine the problem presented by Constantinople without appreciating its difficulties, and whatever decision be reached it is to be hoped that the announcement will be made in a form that will convince everybody concerned that every argument bearing on the matter has been carefully considered.

All's well that ends well, and the oracular declaration that any reduction of Indian passage rates would be "entirely inopportune" was promptly followed by the substantial reductions which we announced last week. The credit for this act of justice is claimed very properly by the shipping companies concerned, but in the case of one line at least it is shared by the Controller of Shipping, whose consent was necessary to the immediate change, and homeward passengers will not be greatly concerned as to the precise distribution of their gratitude among the various authorities. Adhering to its recently adopted attitude of abnegation in administrative matters, the India Office has not yet claimed a share, but we believe nevertheless that Mr. Montagu and his staff have worked earnestly on behalf of the community interested, and their efforts should not pass entirely without recognition.

This attitude of abnegation does not, of course, extend to political questions, and Mr. Montagu's speech was, perhaps, the outstanding feature of the proceedings at the complimentary dinner given last week to Lord Sinha. which opinions may differ, but Mr. Montagu is very sensitive to the criticism which he has invited, and since he complains that it is difficult to find an audience, we can understand that the temptation was too great to be resisted. His speech was, in fact, a reaffirmation of the position which he has taken up, and its most noteworthy point was the recognition of the fact that communal representation is practically inevitable: genuine representation is essential, and if it can be secured only through communal electorates, then communal electorates must come. The secrets of Lord Southborough's Committee have, of course, still to be disclosed, and it is possible that some practicable alternative may have been discovered, but at the moment all indications are in the direction which enthusiasts deplore, but which hard-headed opinion recognises as the statesmanlike course.



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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 25.

The Cairo Cathedral Scheme.

The committee of All Saints' Church held a meeting this week at the Residency, at which it was decided to authorise the sub-committee to prepare and issue as soon as possible an appeal for funds for the erection of the projected Anglican cathedral in Cairo. As has already been announced, the Egyptian Government has generously given the ground on which the Ottoman Commissiariat was formerly situated; the present site occupied by All Saints' Church will, however, revert to the State as soon as the cathedral has been completed. It is computed that a sum of about £100,000 will be required; and I understand that the appeal will be issued not only in Great Britain, but also in Australia and New Zealand, where it is hoped that the connection with Egypt created by the war and the fact that many Australian soldiers worshipped in the present edifice may be productive of subscriptions.

The "Nationalist" Clique.

Apropos of the remarks made last week in this correspondence concerning the attitude of the Extremist Nationalist clique, headed by Saad Zaghlul Pasha, it is amusing to note that while these gentlemen contest the validity of a British Protectorate over Egypt, they do not disavow the Sultanate, which was created by that Protectorate; nor do they hesitate to use the new terms of address introduced under the new regime, or to avail themselves of the grades and titles granted to them under the Sultanate, and therefore under the Protectorate. Surely if these extreme Nationalists were as sincere and disinterested as they say they are, they should not accept the favours bestowed on them under a regime which they so indignantly repudiate. The inconsistency of their attitude in this matter would seem somewhat to weaken the strength of the case which they are trumpeting abroad so loudly.

Sir William Willcocks and the "Sudd."

In the winter of 1918 Sir William Willcocks and Mr. John Wells visited the Upper Nile with a view to investigating the possibilities of that region in the matter of irrigation and agricultural development. The result of the former's studies has been given us in the form of two lectures. In the first, delivered before the Sultania Geographical Society last November, he explained that, in his own opinion and that of Mr. Wells, the vegetable matter of the Sudd could be satisfactorily utilised for the production of the fuel necessary to the dredging machinery required for keeping a channel free in that weed-locked region, as well as for the irrigation plant of the adjoining territory which would be available for cultivation as soon as the necessary works had been carried out in the river. This week he delivered his second lecture before the Egyptian Institute, on the subject of the sudd region as Nature's provision of perennial irrigation and flood protection for the whole of the Nile Valley. Sir William gave it as his considered opinion that the sudd region is one of the most wonderful reservoirs in the world, and that, coupled with the conversion of the basin areas in Upper Egypt to perennial irrigation, it could supply the full measure of the water which will be needed by Egypt for all time and by the Sudan for many generations, whilst at the same time it would free Egypt from the fear of an inundation.

The task which faces the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund in Syria is especially the provision of clothing, medical help, and employment. There are also a number of orphans and sickly children gathered in different places, who need to be provided for; whilst for hundreds of young women, untrained, unmarried, and more or less stranded, shelter and occupation are most necessary. Centres of relief are likely to be established at Damascus and at Beyrout (for the Metn district of Lebanon) and manned from workers already in Palestine; while the new Relief Unit called for by General Allenby is also leaving this country.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, February 16.

Profits and Profiteering.

Notwithstanding high hopes, the harvest of 1918 proved to be but mediocre. Fortunately, the demand for export for military purposes was cancelled, and the country has been able to apply itself to the normal supply of internal wants and such outside trade as might prove sufficiently profitable. This was mainly to be found in Eretria, where there is considerable want, and to some degree in Arabia, where millet is taken for animal food. The local supply, however, has not been coming on to the market with any great freedom, partly because the amount available may have been overestimated and partly because, since 1913, the natives show a tendency to maintain an adequate supply stored to meet emergencies. Even so, the rise in prices is not fully explained, and there is little doubt that certain merchants have taken the opportunity to corner a small market. In these days of restrictions the way of the gambler in differences is hard. But the instinct of gambling is deeply ingrained in the heart of the native, who, indeed, does not really distinguish between it and legitimate trade. It is probable that there are considerable stores of grain on which merchants have paid an advance, making the owner a partner in the deal to ensure his keeping grain in hand. As the grain is stored in "matmuras," or pits in the ground, which are scattered over a very wide area and as the grain in these keeps for a very long time, it is almost impossible to tell what the actual supplies available in the country are or where they may be.

The native passion for unearned increment has been well displayed on the publication of the new regulations dealing with the trade in sugar. The price to the consumer had gone up to such prohibitive heights that it was necessary to do something to control it. It was therefore decided to put the distribution in the hands of the Government, which would allot the sugar to approved dealers, who would, in their turn, distribute to the small retailers at determined prices. Previous to the war the wholesale trade was in the hands of a few, perhaps six, merchants. Now, however, there are said to be over a thousand applicants in Omdurman alone for a proportion of the sugar. It is difficult not to believe that a large number of these have been lured on by the enormous profits made by some of their friends during the last two years, and that they hope to go and do likewise. It will be interesting to see how events turn, and if the regulations will result in a reduction of the price of sugar to the consumer.

Visitors to Khartoum.

Among recent visitors to Khartoum are Mr. and Mrs. Foa. He is the chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, which has recently taken over the premises of the old Bank of Egypt. The bank has had an increasing business for the last few years, and may, it is hoped, further extend its activities.

Mr. James Laing, of James Laing and Son, the well-known gum merchants, has been staying in Khartoum for some days with his daughters.

Mr. Job, the manager of the National Bank of Egypt in Khartoum, is to be congratulated in every aspect of his life. He was lately decorated as an Officer of the British Empire for his services during the war, he has just become the father of a son and heir, and he won in the last week the tennis championship of the Sudan after an exceptionally fine match. He has held the cup since 1911. The final this year, in which he defeated Mr. Chase, R.N.V.R., in the last set, was an extremely good match, of a standard rarely to be met with outside Wimbledon.

Sheikh Abdallah Abu Sin Nazir of the Shukria, who recently received the M.B.E., has left for Rufaa, his home, after being treated in Khartoum Hospital for several weeks.

SUDAN.

¶ All interested in the commercial development of the Sudan are invited to communicate with the offices of the

Sudan Government Railways & Steamers,

5, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. 2.

where information regarding the produce of the country, facilities for transport, etc., may be obtained.

THE QUESTION OF SYRIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 20.

The Syrian community in Egypt is bestirring itself in the matter of the future of its own country. Not that its preoccupation in this respect is of recent growth; only the censorship has prevented it durirng the past four years from giving that expression to its hopes and fears which is now heard on all sides.

From all that one hears, and from the documents from Syria and Syrian communities in other parts which one has been privileged to peruse, there seems to be a consensus of opinion among all parties as to the fallacy of dividing the country into separate administrative and political zones, as it is at present, and as threatens to become a permanent feature. The existing state of affairs seems to please no one, and one and all hope for a radical change that will bring the whole country from the Taurus Mountains to the Sinai Peninsula under one administration.

The question of who is to be entrusted with this unified administration is, however, the point on which this general agreement breaks down. From what one can gather, the bulk of opinion tends in one direction—viz., that Great Britain shall be entrusted with the task, or, failing her, the United States of America. The minority—and they appear to be in every sense of the word the minority—incline towards France as the country which should administer the whole area between the limits stated above. The party in favour of France appears to be made up solely of the Maronites, for long years the friends of the French, from whom they have received and still continue to receive material assistance, and the Catholics; though why the latter should support a country which has driven out their Church as opposed to the one which has for several centuries provided a sanctuary for it is not quite clear. On the other hand, those in favour of Great Britain comprise the Moslems, the Greek Orthodox, the Druses, the Protestants, and a certain number even of the Maronites. To these must be added the large Syrian communities in North and South America and elsewhere.

The great argument advanced in favour of Great Britain is the fact that she will have under her protection Egypt and the Irak, both contiguous territories, with which the economic future of Syria must inevitably be closely connected, if the latter country is to attain its proper development. If France assumes the direction of Syria there will necessarily be Customs and administrative boundaries, which will, it is pointed out, militate against the development of the country's trade and its internal economy. This barrier will not exist if Great Britain is in charge of Syria. The minority would appear to be actuated by pure sentiment due to the assistance given by France in the past, and the educational facilities and culture which her missions have provided in Beyrout and the Lebanon. The majority, while also acknowledging their debt of gratitude in this respect, consider that sentiment should not dictate the decision as to the future of their country. They believe that Great Britain's greater experience of colonisation and more abundant resources, added to the fact that she is predominant in the contiguous territory, indicate that she is the Power better responding to the future needs of their country than France.

The majority recognise that the existence of agreements between France and England may prevent either Power from carrying out the wishes of either party in the matter of not dividing Syria; and, since the unity of Syria is the all-important condition in any settlement of their future, they turn to the United States. That country is not bound by any agreements or treaties; in their opinion it fulfils all the other necessary conditions—though, of course, the boundary difficulty would still exist—and the high and enlightened principles of its citizens are known to them through the schools at which so many thousands of Syrians have received their education.

To sum up, the position seems to be that the Sykes-Picot agreement, which stipulated a separate zone of influence for France, England, and the Arabs, does not please any of the parties, since it sins on the point of the division of the country. If that agreement is to stand, it will be against the wishes of the people in regard to whose government it has been made. If, on the other hand, it is not to stand, then it would appear that some means should be found to ascertain the real wishes of the Syrian nation, and not leave the matter to be decided on evidence brought forward by interested parties or by persons who have never had any mandate conferred on them by the people on whose behalf they claim to speak. No doubt the League of Nations will study the question in all its aspects; yet one can quite understand the anxiety of the Syrians, who feel very uncertain whether the real interests of Syria as a whole will be consulted when it comes to taking the final decision.

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MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, February 22.

The Administration of Tangier.

From the number of articles and references to Tangier which have been appearing lately, it would seem that the impression that international government has had a fair trial here and has failed is more widespread than was thought. The accuracy of this impression depends entirely on what is understood by international government, and it may be useful to explain the particular form under which Tangier is administered.

The nearest approach to a municipal authority that we have is the "Commission d'Hygiène." This is a body to which the Diplomatic Corps and the "Conseil Sanitaire" (which is the Diplomatic Corps under another guise) have entrusted the government of Tangier, but under their direction and with very limited powers. The Commission d'Hygiène can do very little on its own initiative, most matters having to be referred to the Diplomatic Corps for decision. The Commission consists of twelve elected members, divided amongst the different nationalities, *plus* the official members, of whom one is appointed by the diplomatic agent of each country represented here. The elected members are distributed amongst the different nationalities in supposed proportion to their interests and population. Each nation selects its own candidates, whose names are communicated to the diplomatic agent, who passes the names on to the Commission d'Hygiène at its last meeting before the election. A list is made of the candidates who are submitted for election by all those qualified to vote—the qualification being the payment of ten *pesetas hassani* per year. The term of office is one year. It rarely happens that an independent candidate offers himself. The French and Spanish consuls are elected alternately as President of the Commission for the year, and vice-presidents are chosen from the elected members.

Now, notwithstanding that there are official representatives of the different countries on the Commission, it cannot, as I have said, take a decision on any important, nor on many unimportant, matters without having the approval of the Diplomatic Corps; and this approval must be unanimous. Any proposal from the Commission d'Hygiène, or, indeed, a proposal originating with one of the diplomatic agencies, may or may not be discussed at a meeting of the Corps, but it has to be forwarded to the doyen of the Corps and passed on from one agency to another for signature. Some of, if not all, the diplomatic agents have to submit proposals of a certain importance to their home Governments and await a reply before they can act. It would almost seem as if some of the home authorities occasionally gave leave to their agent to sign a regulation with his tongue in his cheek; for there have been decrees issued, with notices from the various agencies that non-observance would be punished with various fines or imprisonment, according to the law and after trial by the Consular Court of the country to which the offender belongs, but flagrant breaches of these regulations have passed quite unnoticed. Instances of this are to be met with in the streets every day.

It will be seen from the foregoing that there are here just as many Consular Courts administering as many codes of law as there are nations diplomatically represented here.

The British Representatives.

The election of members of the Commission d'Hygiène takes place early in February (this year it was on the 9th). Two of the twelve elected members are allocated to the British colony, and a meeting of the colony, which was fairly well attended, was held at the rooms of the British Chamber of Commerce on the 3rd inst. to select two gentlemen to be proposed as candidates. The question was raised as to why the colony should not have three members, and delegates were appointed to bring the matter before his Majesty's agent.

There is no keen desire among the members of the colony to sit on this Commission, and, as no other names were proposed, the sitting members, Mr. Abensur, partner in Pariente's Bank, and who has for many years been a most useful member, and several times vice-president, of the Commission, and Mr. Biddulph, manager of the Bank of British West Africa at Tangier, were again chosen and were eventually duly elected. Mr. Abensur has long been a prominent member of the British Colony, and has in an unobtrusive manner devoted much of his time and energy to British interests; and at the meeting Mr. W. B. Harris drew attention to Mr. Abensur's devotion, and proposed a vote of thanks to him from the colony. This was unanimously passed.

The Question of a British School.

Advantage was taken of the occasion to bring before the colony the question of establishing a British school at Tangier. The British Chamber of Commerce had been requested officially last year to report on the subject, and more recently had been invited by his Majesty's agent, on behalf of the Government, to submit an estimate of the probable expense of a school based upon their first proposal, and of the amount of financial support (school fees, donations and subscriptions) likely to be obtained locally. This inquiry was not to be taken as engaging the Government in any way. The meeting was informed that a sub-committee of the Chamber of Commerce was at work preparing the report asked for, and it was in order that the sub-committee should have as much information as possible that the views of the colony were invited.

The discussion which took place left no doubt of the keen desire of the colony for the establishment of a British school, not only, nor chiefly, for the children of British parents, but as an aid to the advancement of British trade in the country. It was finally decided that a circular should be issued inviting the members of the colony to state the amount of subscriptions or donations they were prepared to promise, and the hope was expressed that many of the British firms both here and at home interested in the country would promise annual subscriptions. Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, who is greatly interested in this matter and has done much to bring it to a practical solution, promised £25 a year. Mr. L. J. Brown, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, remarked that Tangier was not alone in desiring a British school; British colonists in other Moroccan cities were just as keen, and in one, at least, although the colony was very small and largely composed of British protected persons, financial support had long been promised, if a school could be started.

Though the labours of the sub-committee having the matter in hand are not completed, the meeting was informed, in reply to a remark by Mr. W. B. Harris, that the report would be based on the principle that the school must offer at least as good an education as that obtainable at the French, Spanish, or Jewish Alliance Schools; otherwise it would have no chance of success. It should be open to all nationalities; the report would also probably propose that there should be kindergarten classes besides those for older children, and evening classes, and that, at least to begin with, a building should be rented, leaving the question of building until it was seen how the school prospered.

It is earnestly to be hoped that people in England interested in British trade here will take this matter up and help in every way they can.

The local French and Spanish papers here have been having a rather heated discussion on rights in the Spanish Zone and Tangier—the French holding that they alone have a treaty with the Sultan of Morocco, the Spanish Zone being a matter of arrangement made subsequently and being a zone of influence only. It is further argued that, as Tangier still forms part of the Sultan's kingdom, the natives, as his subjects, are French *protégés*. The way some of the local Moorish authorities sometimes act, being apparently unwilling or unable to decide cases without permission of the French authorities, has given many people the impression that this view has been pressed upon them.

As to French interests in Tangier, it is as well to remember that even during the war everything possible was done to make these more important. At a time when money would not have been allowed to leave England for such a purpose, at least outside her colonies, very large sums were spent in building new schools here, although the existing college was barely completed and provided accommodation for very much larger numbers than attended.

GENERAL ALLENBY'S VERDICT.

The various problems in connection with the relief of distress in the areas now under his administration have recently been investigated by General Allenby, who warmly commends the work of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, and strongly supports their efforts to raise and spend as much money as possible in the next six months. "The work," he writes, "has been admirable," but "all possible help is required." The fund is now facing most intense need in Syria, and the greatest work since its organisation still lies ahead. The sufferings of this country during the last few years have been almost incredible. The scarcity of food has driven the people to eating dead animals, refuse, etc., and in some cases to cannibalism. From one-third to one-half of the population in some parts died of starvation or disease. The work of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund in relieving distress, feeding and clothing the inhabitants, establishing orphanages, creches, workshops, etc., has already accomplished much, but more money is very urgently needed. Please send what you can to the secretary, Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, 110, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, February 18.

Change of Governor: Rumours.

There are various surmises current relative to the impending departure of Lord Methuen and a change in the Admiralty *personnel* here. It is rumoured just now that Sir Rosslyn Wemyss will come to Malta as Governor; but if he were to come out to the Mediterranean he would do so, we are inclined to believe, as Commander-in-Chief of the newly reconstituted Fleet rather than to succeed Lord Methuen as Governor. But in the event of the rumour proving correct Malta will have for the first time an admiral as Governor. It is not likely, however, that he would be able to combine the duties of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief of an active fleet. The fact that the present Naval Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean holds Vice-Admiral's rank does not preclude Sir Somerset Gough Calthorpe from assuming command of an augmented Mediterranean Fleet. Not all the Commanders-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet held full admiral's rank on first coming out here. Moreover, acting rank has in many cases been resorted to.

Admiral the Honourable Sir Somerset Gough Calthorpe, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.V.O., the Naval Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean, and now High Commissioner in Constantinople, arrived here on Saturday for a short visit. Admiral Calthorpe is accompanied by his Staff.

Honour for Lord Methuen.

Among the promotions in and appointments to the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England we are gratified to note that the name of our Governor, Lord Methuen, heads the list of those who have been appointed Knights of Grace, the highest distinction which the ancient and chivalrous Order can bestow. When hostilities broke out, and our little island was called upon to rise to the occasion, his Excellency promptly took the lead in rallying our resources and making due provision for eventualities. The unremitting care for the sick and wounded landed here displayed by him—he was always among the first to board the ships and visit the hospitals—can never be over-praised. Lord Methuen has fully and faithfully upheld the principles of the illustrious Order during a happy occupancy of the Palace of the Grand Masters; and the honour now bestowed upon him will, we are sure, be cherished among the most valued reminiscences of his term of office as Governor of these islands, so long and closely associated with the Order.

The Mediterranean Fleet.

It is understood locally that the restored Mediterranean Fleet, which will mainly consist of a battle fleet of super-Dreadnoughts, may be expected to arrive here from England in the early part of March, whilst all the destroyers at present in our waters will be replaced by a flotilla of the modern destroyers of the "S" class, of which five are already in the Mediterranean. Some twenty of these splendid craft are earmarked for this station, and they may arrive here before the capital ships of the new Mediterranean Fleet. Two destroyer leaders of the modern type have also been detailed for service with the Mediterranean destroyer flotilla, and Captain the Honourable W. S. Leveson-Gower has been appointed captain (D), and will fly his pennant in one of these destroyer leaders.

Naval Movements.

The battleship Agamemnon, Captain F. S. Lichfield, C.M.G., D.S.O., has just left Malta for home waters. The Agamemnon and her sister ship the Lord Nelson have been "roughing it" in the Mediterranean since the earliest stages of the war, and have done yeoman service. These two ships carried the White Ensign wherever British warships may have been required during the four and a-half years of war—from the Dardanelles operations up to the entry of the Allied Fleet through the famous Straits—and they have acquitted themselves in a manner worthy of the great traditions of Britain's "Sure Shield." The Agamemnon and Lord Nelson do not belong to the "all big-gun" or Dreadnought type; they are, nevertheless, fine ships, and at one time were preferred by a section of naval experts to the capital ships.

The Blenheim, cruiser, which is the mother ship for the Mediterranean destroyer flotilla, has returned to Malta. The Blenheim belonged to the original Mediterranean Fleet when war broke out, and was then carrying out her present duties. Since then we have hardly seen her in our harbour, but she is here now, having been continually on the move all through the war, and her officers and ship's company deserve well of their country for the splendid work standing to their credit.

War Echoes.

The wreck of the French S.S. Saint Laurent, which is lying in the Lazzaretto Harbour, partly visible, is to be removed, as it is about to be offered for sale. It will be remembered that three years ago the Saint Laurent was all but completely destroyed by an internal explosion which shook the island to its very foundation and caused great excitement. There were French troops on board at the time, but the loss of life has never been stated; nor has the cause of the explosion. The ill-fated ship was afterwards intentionally sunk in the place where it has since lain.

The French armed yacht Phœnix has arrived here en route for Salonika and Constantinople.

Among the recipients of naval salvage money appear the following ships now serving, or which were serving in Malta in connection with the salvage of the S.S. Sébek between October 13 and November 14, 1916:—H.M. ships Penstemon, Cyclamen, Safa-el-Bahr, Lynmouth, Princeps, Lemberg, and Vigilant II., and H.M. tugs Cracker, Restive, Veteran, and Lingdale. Working parties from Malta Dockyard also are mentioned.

A New Judge.

Several notable changes are announced in the ranks of our Civil Service. The vacancy on the Judicial Bench of the island, caused by the death of Judge Dr. G. Pullicino, has just been filled by the appointment of Dr. Giuseppe Cremona, Magistrate for Gozo, to be one of his Majesty's Judges at Malta. The appointment is sure to be received with general satisfaction, for the new judge's abilities and qualifications, especially in Civil and Canon Law, are well known.

Mr. C. W. Duncan, Commissioner of Police, has been appointed Inspector-General of Police and Director of Prisons for the Southern Provinces of Nigeria, and is expected to leave shortly to take up his new duties. He has been at the head of the local police force only since July, 1916, but he has given proofs of administrative and organising abilities, coupled with great tact.

ROUMANIAN RELIEF FUND.

A further remittance of £16,000 has recently been sent by the National Roumanian Relief Fund to the Roumanian Minister. The fund was founded in Edinburgh, when Roumania joined the Allies, for the purpose of providing Red Cross supplies and relieving civilian distress, and £25,000 had already been handed over by Lord Rosebery for the Queen of Roumania before that country signed the Armistice with the Central Powers.

Acknowledging the recent gift to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, chairman of the fund, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires wrote:—"I take this opportunity to express to your lordship and to the Committee of the National Roumanian Relief Fund, on behalf of her Majesty the Queen of Roumania, and of the Roumanian nation, my most grateful thanks for your lordship's noble efforts on their behalf, which have so much contributed to relieve the distress prevailing in Roumania. When forwarding the goods to her Majesty the Queen, I shall not fail to lay before her Majesty all the facts connected with the efforts of your lordship's committee, resulting in such splendid help for the necessitous population of Roumania."

The Hon. Treasurer is Mr. John Rae, J.P., the Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh.

CAPE TO CAIRO AIR ROUTE.

Under date of February 28, Reuter's Johannesburg correspondent reports:—Major Court Treatt, the officer in charge of the Southern Survey of the aerial route from Cairo to Cape Town, stated to-day, in the course of an interview, that all the sites for aerodromes from Abercorn southwards were now being surveyed preparatory to the erection of the aerodromes. In the meantime, supplies of petrol, oil, distilled water, and other necessaries have been got together at Pretoria for distribution.

The distance between the sites is from 300 to 400 miles. With a large Handley Page machine the 5,300 miles from Cairo to Cape Town should be accomplished, Major Treatt says, in about 50 flying hours. The survey of the region from Victoria Nyanza to Abercorn has been entrusted to Major Emmett, a South African officer, who landed at Mombasa about the middle of January.

MAILS FOR THE NEAR EAST.

The Postmaster-General announces that mails are now forwarded to all countries in the Balkan Peninsula, subject to censorship, and to the additional restrictions shown below:—

Greece.—Correspondence of all kinds, including uninsured parcels. Correspondence may be registered.

Roumania, Serbia, and Albania.—Correspondence of all kinds, except parcels. Correspondence may be registered.

Croatia, Slavonia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Bulgaria.—Unregistered correspondence of all kinds, except parcels.

Turkey.—Correspondence of all kinds, except parcels. Correspondence can be registered, if addressed "Poste Restante, British Army Post Office, Constantinople."

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THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN EGYPT.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports (March 3):—The Premier, Hussein Rushdi Pasha, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. A new Cabinet is in process of formation.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 20.

The Ministerial crisis continues, and we are about to complete the third month since it started. The settlement which has repeatedly been promised us has so far not materialised; and we still possess a Council of Ministers which cannot perform its duties owing to the persistence of the Prime Minister in the matter of his resignation, which has not been accepted. I notice that articles are appearing on the subject in the London Press, and to prevent any misunderstanding it may be as well if I give the history of this affair.

The crisis had its origin in a letter addressed to the Sultan in November last by the Prime Minister, in which he sought the former's consent to his applying for permission for himself and his colleague Adly Yeghen Pasha, to go to London in order to lay before the British Government the views as to the political future of Egypt held by the Egyptian Government, as well as by his Highness. The latter gave his consent, and the request was duly transmitted to the British Government, who replied, quite naturally, that they would be delighted to receive the two Egyptian Ministers, but that, in view of the general press of business connected with the Peace Conference, they would be glad if the proposed visit could be deferred until the earliest convenient moment. Unfortunately, when this reply was communicated to him Rushdi Pasha took it into his head to regard it as a rebuff, and he at once tendered his resignation and that of his colleague Adly Yeghen Pasha. These resignations were not accepted, for it seemed on the face of it obvious that the two Ministers must be labouring under a misapprehension which it should not be difficult to remove. What the British authorities were, indeed, keen about, apart from, any personal considerations for the two Ministers, was to secure continuity of action by keeping in office, at any rate during the period of reconstruction, the same Cabinet as had borne the heat and burden of the day during the war. The Rushdi Cabinet had at its fingers' ends all the details of most of the post-war problems with which Egypt is being faced; and it would obviously conduce to a speedier and easier settlement of those problems if the men who had collaborated so successfully during the previous five years could be retained for the working out of the details. For this reason the British authorities have left no stone unturned to re-establish the *status quo*.

The British Government, shortly after its first reply, intimated that possibly it might be able to receive the two Ministers in March. Interviews between them, the High Commissoner and the Sultan, as well as other high British officials, have been held at frequent intervals, with a view to find a way out of the *impasse*, but all in vain. Rushdi Pasha and Adly Pasha have proved so far deaf to all persuasion, and have persisted in their determination to resign. Except for a brief interlude of about a fortnight at the end of January, during which the decree for the renewal of the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals was passed, all important Government work entailing a decision of the Council Ministers has been at a complete standstill, and it is likely so to remain unless either the two Ministers decide to come into line once again or the British Government makes up its mind to look elsewhere for a Prime Minister. Something will certainly have to be done in this direction during the next month, for at the end of March the Budget will have to be approved by the Council; otherwise, constitutionally the Government will neither have funds to carry on with nor be able legally to collect the revenues.

I notice in the London Press a tendency to belittle the position held by Rushdi Pasha. It may be quite correct, as one of the writers says, that some ten years ago he was only a minor judge in the Mixed Courts. That should, however, not detract from the fact that he has by his receptivity, courageous initiative, and foresight rendered very material assistance to the British authorities in their control of the country, and that he has indeed displayed qualities which, it is generally agreed by all who have come into contact with him, few, if any, other Egyptians could or would have shown in similar circumstances. But while one would like to see due credit given to the Prime Minister for the very loyal and valuable share he has taken in the administration of Egypt during the past five years, nevertheless, look at the matter how one will, one cannot help blaming him severely for his persistence in regarding the British Government's reply as a rebuff and for his refusing to listen to any persuasion.

He seems to have lost all sense of proportion and to have given way to an impulsiveness—which, it is true, is one of his characteristics, but which during the war years certainly has not been a feature of his actions—succeeded by an obstinacy which is entirely foreign to his nature. The most charitable explanation one can give for this is that the distorted view he has taken of this incident is due to his state of health, which has been undermined by the strain and stress of the war, and in regard to which he has never spared himself. At the same time it is highly probable that the fact that the clique to which I referred last week was striving to get permission to go to London to lay its exaggerated ideas before the British Government may have goaded Rushdi Pasha to go to the extreme of trying to force the hands of the latter, so as to be the first in the field, not merely from the personal point of view, but also in order to prevent those misguided Egyptians from creating a false impression and spoiling the political prospects of Egypt.

In this connection it should be made perfectly clear, in all fairness to the two Ministers, that whatever blame they may have to bear for their attitude in this matter they have at no time worked in collusion with what may be called the Zaghlul clique. As far as can be gathered—and there is no reason to think otherwise—they by no means approve of the constitution or of the *modus operandi* of that clique. If anything, they are rather annoyed with it for having taken up a line which could not fail to make their own task somewhat more difficult than it would otherwise have been.

Nor is it correct to say, as some seem to infer, that the activities of the Zaghlulites prompted the Prime Minister to bestir himself in the same direction. I have the best of reasons for denying that there was any connection between the two proposals at all. Indeed, I can definitely state that Rushdi Pasha had for some considerable time been meditating obtaining permission to go to London as soon as hostilities should cease, in order to ask for certain political concessions which he thought might reasonably be demanded for Egypt. The reason I am so certain of this fact is that in the early part of 1918—and I think that in this respect I am not making any breach of confidence—Rushdi Pasha told me what he had in mind, and dwelt on the great hopes he had for the success of his mission, which he intended to undertake as soon as peace came within sight.

Whatever effect the activities of the Zaghlulites may have had on his subsequent attitude, and whatever personal motives may have underlain his persistence in his first decision, the fact remains that the Prime Minister's request to be allowed to go to London to plead the cause of Egypt was not prompted by the action of the other party, but was the fruit of the seed which had been germinating for some considerable time in his mind. In the interest of accuracy as well as in fairness to the man I think that it is only right that this fact should be made clear, but it is extremely difficult to find any excuse for his subsequent mistaken and ill-inspired attitude towards the British Government.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

RHODES AND THE DODECANESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of March 7 Colonel A. C. Yate gave us his view why Italy should not part with Rhodes, though he allows the Greeks possession of the eleven rocks that constitute the remainder of the Dodecanese.

Colonel Yate has struck out an entirely new line, and his argument is unique. I venture to think that not even the marvellous ingenuity of the Consulta could produce arguments of the kind he advanced. According to him, because over six hundred years ago the Grand Master of the Hospitallers, Fulco de Villaret, and his noble company of God-fearing brigands took advantage of Greek hospitality to make Rhodes their permanent home until they were ejected by the Turks, the island should pass once more under the sway of the Order.

This is not so difficult as one would imagine at first sight, for the charming simplicity of this practical solution to a complicated international problem is instantly seen when we are informed that by some fortunate chance the Sovereign-of-nothing Order of Malta takes its orders from Rome, and by an equally fortunate coincidence the flag of the ancient Order of St. John of Jerusalem is the present Italian flag. Hence the cession of Rhodes to the Hospitallers would entail no change whatever in the present administration, though we presume a certain amount of mummery would be gone through on the return of "the long-lost stolen sheep" to the paternal bosom of the "Brotherhood." There are other striking resemblances, which Colonel Yate has overlooked, between the present holders of Rhodes and that adventurous band of freebooters misnamed Crusaders, of which League of Rogues the Noble and Most Ancient Orders mentioned by Colonel Yate formed a very important part.

With regard to the memorable sieges of Rhodes, the brunt of the defence was borne by the local Greek population; and when things became too hot, the gallant Hospitallers evacuated the island under agreement with the Turks, leaving the unfortunate Greeks at the mercy of the foe, who slew them by the thousand. As for the Auberges, they were raised by exactly the same system as that employed at the building of the Pyramids—namely, the *corvée*—and their existence at the present time is the strongest argument why any of the above Orders should not return to Rhodes.

If Colonel Yate cannot produce a stronger argument in favour of Italy's retention of Rhodes than the melodramatic supposition that objection would be raised to the island's cession to Greece by the Manes of a hoary old pirate like Fulco de Villaret, his "brother" Dieudonné de Gozo—who, we are assured, slew a dragon, in poetry, and whose name in history has about as much significance as that of Sir Roger de Coverley—I should like to express my opinion that if the Hospitallers would like to have a home, they should induce Great Britain to cede Malta to them, especially in view of the fact that whereas they lost Rhodes nearly five hundred years ago, Malta was only taken from them in the days of Napoleon.

But in view of the fact that there are other Powers that be besides Italy and her protéges, the Hospitallers, and in view of the keen determination of all Greeks to be united to their Mother Country and stand no nonsense, I am afraid that the Noble and Most Ancient Orders will be grievously disappointed.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER CALLINICOS.

Greek Church House, Manchester, March 8, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have read the interesting letter of Colonel Yate in your issue of yesterday.

Being a Dodecanesian, I cannot agree with the "points" put forward by your correspondent, who perhaps knows my native country only through the glasses of the mediæval authors of the History of the Order "Sancti Iohanni Ierosolymitani." As a good scholar, he ought to know the meaning of the Greek "Dodeca" before styling the South Sporades "Rhodes and the Dodecanese." Colonel Yate has generously awarded the "Endecanese" to Greece, but he has reserved the right of the future of Rhodes, though he acknowledges the fact that the Island of Helios Phœbus was taken from the Greeks by the Christian Fulco.

I am afraid your correspondent's historical notions are very poor and of a very "auld" school when he tries to show us that Rhodes, being Greek, should be passed over to the Hospitallers *honoris causa*. This new theory is amazing, and Baron Sonnino must be congratulated on his new ally, *plus royaliste que le roy*. In spite of the present century in which we live, the daring suggestion is made: the resurrection of a mediæval theocratic administration which was by no means purely Italian, and had always boasted of Rome as Motherland and its Bishop as Father. According to that bright idea, the Knights ought to take back Valetta, and Pope Benedict re-take his rank of *Pontifex Maximus Laicorum*. In this wonderful world of ours, which has just escaped from the hideous grip of the Prussian Kultur, we do not need chivalrous Monkish Orders to reappear again, binding and unbinding consciences and holding the keys of eternal life. We have already seen in our days the true and modern Knights receiving their golden spurs at the Marne, Ypres, and Verdun, and the time has happily gone by when knights of the kind of Bois Guilbert (*vide* "Ivanhoe") shamed the title of the Soldiers of Christ. Every civilised nation nowadays has its Red Cross Order, which practically acts as the *locum tenens* of the Hospitallers, and Colonel Yate, instead of being the champion of "ye olde days," ought to use his talent in writing in favour of the people of the Dodecanese that appeals to the principle of self-determination, which he mentions in the beginning of his letter. Your correspondent may be sure that the ghosts of the chivalrous gentlemen that he has invoked will not veto the cession of the islands to the Christian Greeks. Their curses have already been bestowed upon those who pledged their word at Ouchy to give back a Christian people to the Turk.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, March 8, 1919.

STARVING DODECANESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I beg of you to publish in your hospitable columns the following appeal in favour of the starving Dodecanese. In spite of the present deliberations of the Council of Ten at Paris promising better days for every oppressed nation, the people in the Dodecanese are dying every day, or committing suicide, for lack of food. In your issue of December 20, 1918, you published the official statistics I sent you relative to the population in the Twelve Islands. Since then the Executive Committee of the Dodecanesians in London have issued the second edition of their White Book, which reveals many amazing facts that have occurred in the Island since the Italian Occupation. It is obvious, therefore, that the above-mentioned statistics, given by the Unredeemed Greeks Congress in Paris, have been materially altered, owing to the continuous exodus to Greece of the Islanders, who preferred a voluntary exile and the scanty refugee ration offered by their Motherland Greece than die of starvation and ill-treatment in their own homes. The number of the Dodecanesian refugees in Greece, according to official statistics, is over 80,000 souls.

Kalymnos, for instance, with an original population of 26,000 inhabitants when Proconsul Ameglio landed in the Dodecanese in 1912, had only 14,000 in December, 1917, and her population had decreased by 5,688 souls when a census was taken in the early days of May, 1918. Leros, numbering 8,000 inhabitants, has now only about 2,500, and the Island of Symi, with a population of 23,000, lost 16,500 of her people during six years.

Before leaving Egypt in November last I myself heard from sailor natives of the Island of Cassos that their people were so physically exhausted that they had scarcely the strength to walk about, and I was horrified to learn that Italy had not only failed to send to the Islands the food apportioned solely for the use of the Dodecanese by the Allied Control, but had taken every restrictive step not to allow the import of any foodstuffs sent to the Islanders by their relatives in Egypt and America. I also was told that small children were extremely emaciated for lack of food, and—the bitterest of all—that night classes of the Italian langauge were compulsory for young Greeks, and they were prohibited to speak their own mother tongue even during recreation hours. All these facts, which appeared to me exaggerated, have been fully confirmed by the second edition of the Dodecanesian White Book.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, March 3, 1919.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A delayed Reuter's message from Delhi says that the news of the Ameer's assassination was received with the sincerest regret in that city, as both before and during the war Habib Ullah proved himself to be a strong and impartial ruler, and maintained quiet among many of the turbulent frontier tribes.

The Church Missionary Society, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society are co-operating with a number of other societies working in India in the issue of an appeal to relieve the alarming distress owing to famine conditions in large districts in India, particularly in the Bombay Presidency, the Punjab, and Central India.

The Syrian Relief Society in Cairo recently asked the Egyptian Customs Administration to exempt from dues the consignments of goods which it forwards occasionally to Syria for the victims of the war, and to refund to the society the money paid on account of former consignments. The Administration has agreed to the request, and has notified the Syrian Committee in Cairo accordingly.

Speaking in Bombay, Dr. Dutta announced that one day while in France he saw the New Zealand troops immersed in digesting the contents of a fifty-paged summary of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report! The General had distributed copies of the report amongst his men, so that they might know something about India. It would be interesting to know, says the *Englishman*, if the General also distributed copies of the Rowlatt Committee report.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

A sad state of affairs in an Egyptian household was revealed a few weeks ago, when a native schoolmaster brought an action before the Lebban Summary Court, accusing his wife of having insulted and beaten him. That is bad enough, one would think, but worse is yet to come! "The court could not find that the offence was punishable legally." No wonder that "the teacher has now brought the question before the Parquet, requesting criminal investigation." If an Oriental husband's ideas of the fitness of things are to be thus rudely turned upside down and inside out he might almost as well live in the Occident.

***

I wonder who was responsible for abolishing the bridge tolls at Constantinople? Whoever he was, he must have been blessed by a good many thousands of Constantinopolitans; for, though the charges were not heavy, considering the convenience of the bridge as compared with a ferry, it seems to be a trait of human nature to object to paying anything at all for the mere privilege of walking or driving along a road, even though that road be thrown across a waterway. Personally, I used to dislike Galatea Bridge in the old days because of the beggars who swarmed on it and endeavoured to excite your pity by exhibiting their afflictions. Of course, they were removed some time ago; but I still remember one of them with a feeling almost of nausea. Beggars, by the way, used to be allowed to use the bridge without payment; so were lame people, no matter how well able to pay the toll they might be. But, unless my memory plays me false, dogs were liable to a fourfold tax.

***

Have you ever heard the story of the British Consul, the Vali of Smyrna, and Kara Geuz—of the insult put upon the Consul by the indelicate puppet, and the "apology" offered by the Vali? The incident happened many, many years ago, of course, but it was intensely funny, and if you have never heard the tale I should advise you to get somebody who knows it to tell it to you. Unfortunately, I dare not attempt to give it to you here: no British compositor would set it up; and if it did get itself into type it would result in this respectable journal being suppressed by an outraged Censor of some kind or other. There are so many of 'em, and they are *so* censorious! The point is that Kara Geuz is a very dreadful little person. And having made that clear, I have a suggestion to offer to Turkey. Since one of the Czech representatives at the great Paris Pow-wow of the Politicians is an actress, why should not Kara Geuz go there as one of the Turkish team? At least he would not waste time in talk, as some of the more celebrated performers seem bent on doing.

***

I have before referred to the good feeling often shown by their guards towards our countrymen who were prisoners in Turkey, and I heard recently of another instance of the kind, which seems amusing enough to pass on. At a certain camp in Asia Minor several officers noticed that while most of their guards were somewhat indifferent, so to say, one of them showed a strong tendency to gossip with them. Very soon the reason leaked out. The old gentleman had two sons, and both were prisoners of the British—one being in Egypt, the other in far-away Burma. The father was much afraid that his sons were not getting enough to eat, and he consulted the British prisoners on the subject, inquiring earnestly how he might best send them some meat and some money. Careful questioning revealed the fact that the poor old man's notion was to send them a few piastres and a lump of camel's hump, or some such delicacy. But—great are the benefits of education?—he was not quite sure that the meat would be edible by the time it reached Burma. What did the *Firenghis* think about it? And *would* the money pass safely through the hands of the guards—for his hearers must remember that the war was on; otherwise, of course, he would have no doubts on the subject. Touched by the venerable man's solicitude for his offspring and his patent poverty, the captives gave him the best advice possible: Let him send nothing, and *insh'Allah* he would soon get good news of his sons.. He appeared a little doubtful; but one morning he came to them in great spirits. He had had news of his sons; both were in good health, thanks to Allah; and—verily the British were good people!—both declared that they were better fed than ever before in their lives, and excellently treated in all respects. After that the old man could never do enough for the prisoners over whom he watched; and we have at least one sincere well-wisher in Turkey to-day.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE PROPOSED REVIVAL OF A JEWISH STATE.†

This collection of essays entitled "England and Palestine" covers much more ground than the title suggests. The author introduces his subject with a condensed but brightly written account of the "military geography" of Palestine; and then, in three chapters which are models of condensation, he sketches the leading points of Jewish history under the Greeks, under the Romans, and under Islam, including in this last the Crusades. Although necessarily incomplete, it is difficult to see how this historical summary does anything to confirm the modern Jewish claim to Palestine or to reassure the reader as to the fitness of the Jews as a race to control a State. As is here shown, any degree of political independence which they enjoyed under the Greeks and Romans was largely the result of intrigue and compromises, and the extent of temporary independence obtained was at best very limited in area. The best friends of Zionism will, if they are wise, not lay too much stress upon the records of history with respect to a Jewish state. As the writer here shows, the greatest difficulties in the past have been caused by the clashing of the party with purely religious ideals with that with purely secular aims within the Jewish body politic. But what is the guarantee that this will not occur again?

The remaining essays are concerned with the events of modern history. There is a chapter on Napoleon's adventure in Syria. Napoleon was, it appears, a Zionist—for political reasons—and one of his most youthful enthusiasms was his interest in the "restoration of the Jews."

In advocating a British-protected Jewish State, the author is rather inclined to take for granted the continued friendliness of the Jews, forgetting that while the faithfulness of British Jews to the Empire is assured, the great majority of Zionists are not British in their sympathies, nor in the least likely to favour British interests in the land. We fear that Great Britain will either be compelled to leave Palestine severely alone, after securing for Egypt a better frontier, as the author suggests, by the annexation of Gaza—"a possession indispensable to an army marching either to or from Egypt," "the most famous bridgehead in history"—or, if compelled by circumstances to take over the very heavy responsibility of Palestine, she will have to see that the political power of the Jews is strictly confined to self-government with regard to their own community interests. The more practical of British Zionists will, we feel sure, see this.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Book of the Cave." By Sri Ananda Acharya. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.)

"Bulgaria Self-Revealed." By Victor Kuhne. (London: Constable and Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

"An Ethiopian Saga." By Richmond Haigh. (London: Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 5s. net.)

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

The Civil Service Commissioners give notice that an open competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service will be held in London, beginning on August 1, 1919. No person will be admitted to examination from whom the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission has not received, on or before June 2, an application, in the candidate's own handwriting, on a prescribed form, which may be obtained from the Secretary at once.

Lady Allenby presented the prizes at the close of the meeting to decide the Egyptian Expeditionary Force championships.

Under the title of "The Land of Heart's Desires," Miss Mary Debenham has written a new Pageant of Twenty-one Centuries of Palestine for the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund. A series of historical scenes, illustrating the Passover Pilgrims, Judas Maccabeus, St. Jerome at Bethlehem, and the Crusaders, is followed by several appealing pictures of Palestine under Turkish rule and the sufferings of the land during the war. Others at the close suggest the work of the Relief Fund. The pageant is arranged for presentation either by adults and children, or in simpler form by children alone. Copies may be had on application to 110, Victoria Street, S.W.1, at 3d., post free.

† "England and Palestine. Essays Towards the Restoration of the Jewish State." By Herbert Sidebotham. (London: Constable and Company, Ltd. 6s. net.)

THE "NEAR EAST" INDEX.

The Index to Volume XIV. (January—December, 1918) is now ready, and may be obtained, post free, by subscribers, on application to the Manager.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. March	1919. March.		1337. Jumada II.	5679. Adar II.
14	1	Friday	12	12
15	2	Saturday.....	13	13
16	3	Sunday	14	14
17	4	Monday	15	15
18	5	Tuesday	16	16
19	6	Wednesday	17	17
20	7	Thursday	18	18

General and Lady Allenby are taking a short holiday in Upper Egypt.

Mlle. Helen Vacaresco, the Roumanian writer, has arrived in London from Paris.

Dr. Oscar Straus, formerly American Ambassador to Turkey, has arrived in London from Paris.

Archdeacon and Mrs. Beresford Potter, who had been staying in Cairo, have left Egypt for Cyprus.

M. Venizelos has arrived in London from Paris. He visited Earl Curzon at the Foreign Office on Monday.

It is announced that the Sultan of Egypt will proceed to Alexandria for the summer season at the beginning of May.

Lady Sykes has definitely declined to become candidate for Central Hull in place of her late husband, Sir Mark Sykes.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, left London on Sunday night on his return to Paris for the Peace Conference.

Sir Henry Babington Smith was one of the passengers on board the Cunard liner Aquitania, due at Liverpool on Wednesday.

Lieut.-Colonel Robert W. Graves, C.M.G., arrived in Cairo from Damascus recently, and is leaving Egypt for England shortly.

Sir Vincent Caillard, owing to illness, will be unable to join the delegation of the Federation of British Industries which has gone to Paris.

The Maharaja of Bikanir and Lord Sinha, the two Indian delegates to the Peace Conference, left Charing Cross for Paris on Tuesday evening.

Lord and Lady Barrymore, who have both been suffering from colds, left London last Friday for Torquay, where they expect to remain about a week.

Miss Durham's lecture on Albania, which was to have been delivered at the Steinway Hall on Friday, the 14th inst., at half-past three o'clock, will now be given at 28, Bruton Street, W.1.

On January 28, at Lahore, India, the marriage took place of the Rev. H. Jenkin, Wesleyan Chaplain, Lahore, and Amy, second daughter of Mr. W. P. Annear, St. Margaret's, Whitchurch, near Cardiff.

The engagement is announced of Captain C. H. K. Phillips, M.C., I.A.R.O., attached 24th Punjabis, and late of Kandanewera, Matale, Ceylon, and Dorothy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Dennison, of Cranford, Leamington Spa.

Queen Alexandra has granted her patronage to the Serbian matinée which Colonel Charles Gulliver is arranging at the Palladium, on March 28, in aid of the Royal Horticultural Society War Relief Fund, the proceeds to be allocated to Serbia.

Lieutenant-General Sir W. R. Marshall, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, who arrived in London last week, had the honour of being received by the King, and subsequently by the Queen, on Friday.

The Queen of Roumania was entertained at luncheon at the British Embassy in Paris on Monday. At the time of writing her Majesty was expected to leave Paris for London on Wednesday evening.

Sir Henry McMahon, who, as High Commissioner, was closely in touch with Y.M.C.A. work in Egypt during the war, has consented to become hon. treasurer of the Association during the six months' absence of Sir Henry Proctor in India.

His Highness the Agha Khan arrived in London on Thursday of last week from Paris. He was met at Victoria by, among others, the Maharaja of Bikanir. His Highness is staying at the Hyde Park Hotel, and his visit will last about a month.

A marriage has been arranged between Major Reginald H. Anderson, 11th Lancers (Indian Army), and Miss Ellison Janet Torrie, second daughter of the late Robert Jameson Torrie, 1, Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh, and will take place in the autumn.

The *Sphinx* (February 1) announces that a marriage has been arranged between Miss Edna Ruth Lawson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Lawson, of Ibrahimieh, Alexandria, and Lieut. Whittall, Intelligence Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Whittall, of Constantinople.

A solemn requiem will be sung for Sir Mark Sykes in Westminster Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. on March 26. A certain number of seats will be reserved, and it will be a great convenience if applications for them are sent without delay to the Secretary, 9, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Rostrevor on March 20, between Captain E. F. O. Richards, M.C., the Lincolnshire Regiment, only son of Lieut.-Colonel E. W. Richards, late Indian Army, and Rosalie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Butterfield, Bermuda.

A musical entertainment was given in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday of last week, in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund. It was organised by Mr. Walter H. Giles, and was under the patronage of the Duchess of Somerset, Lady Bective, Lady Henry Cavendish Bentinck, and Mr. W. R. Portal.

The marriage arranged between Captain John Maitland Salusbury Trelawny, M.C., I.A.R.O., and Freda, youngest daughter of the late Captain Guy Mainwaring, R.N., and Mrs. Mainwaring, of 18, Iverna Court, Kensington, will take place at Christ Church, Chelsea, on Tuesday, March 18, at 2 p.m.

An engagement has been announced between Captain G. H. Bittles, R.A.F. (late flight-lieutenant, R.N.A.S.), only son of the late Major G. H. Bittles, Indian Army, and of Coleraine, co. Derry, Ireland, and Nora Elsie Bathurst, only daughter of Mrs. K. M. Bathurst, of 9, Matheson Road, West Kensington, W.

The engagement is announced between Basil Herbert Ashton, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Stranack, of Elmhurst, Batheaston, and Haddon, Kodaikanal, South India, and Kathleen Victoria, younger daughter of the late Canon Cleworth, of Middleton, and Mrs. Cleworth, Hatherden, Ashton-upon-Mersey, Cheshire.

The engagement is announced of Temporary Major J. D. Denniston, General Staff, Fellow and tutor of Hertford College, Oxford, younger son of the late J. L. Denniston, I.C.S., and Mrs. Denniston, 6, St. Margaret's Road, Oxford, and Mary Grace, youngest daughter of J. J. Morgan, 134, Holland Road, Kensington, W.

An engagement is announced between Lieutenant Alan C. M. Bennett, D.S.C., R.N., youngest son of Sir Courtenay Bennett, C.I.E., lately H.B.M. Consul-General at New York, and Lady Bennett, of Archerton, Postbridge, Devon, and Gwendoline, youngest daughter of Edward J. Dove, J.P., and Mrs. Dove, of Riding Mill, Northumberland.

An engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Captain E. C. Lentaigne, D.S.O., 4th Gurkha Rifles, eldest son of the late Sir John Lentaigne, F.R.C.S.I., and Cecilia Mary, younger daughter of the late Colonel C. T. Bunbury, Rifle Brigade, and Lady Harriot Bunbury, Cotswold House, Winchester (present address, 1, Albert Court, S.W.7).

Miss Edith Johncock, who as Matron of the British Hospital at Nazareth, Palestine, was made a prisoner by the Turks on the entry of Turkey into the War, has returned to her home at Dover. She and the two other English nurses at the hospital were put in charge of 350 Syrian girls who were brought to Nazareth to act as nurses to the Turks. Subsequently they were removed to Damascus, where they were eventually released by our troops.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* understands that Sir Richard Crawford is to be appointed Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, and that Sir William Brunyate will now revert to the position of Judicial Adviser. Sir Richard Crawford, as many of our readers will remember, was for some years Adviser to the Turkish Ministry of Finance. During the war he has done splendid work for this country in the United States as Commercial Commissioner.

Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., is to act as Commissioner of the British Relief Unit, which left London for Syria on Wednesday. The party, which numbers about fifty, includes doctors, a full staff of nurses, and others qualified to organise industries for boys and girls. They will be accompanied on a short visit to Syria and Palestine by Mr. T. H. Baxter, organising secretary of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, which, in conjunction with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, has organised the Relief Unit. It is expected that the work of the unit, which will be stationed at Damascus, will continue until nearly the close of the year.

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The Hon. Mrs. Watson-Armstrong gave birth to a son, at Cragside, Rothbury, Lord Armstrong's Northumbrian home, on March 6. Her husband, Captain Watson-Armstrong, the only son of Lord Armstrong, is in the Northumberland Fusiliers, and is at present serving in India with the Bhopal Infantry, but expects to be returning to England shortly.

The engagement is announced of Mr. R. H. Crooke, of the Local Government Board, eldest son of Mr. William Crooke, C.I.E., I.C.S. (retired), and Mrs. Crooke, Langton House, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, and Edith, elder daughter of the late J. R. C. Nicolls, superintending engineer, P.W.D., India, and Mrs. Nicolls, 31, Blackheath Park, S.E.3.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Walter Balfour Barttelot, Coldstream Guards, killed in Persia on November 23, left unsettled estate of the value of £62,059.

Colonel James Sconce, Indian Army, of Edinburgh, an Indian Mutiny veteran, late Deputy-Surveyor-General of India, left personal estate valued at £84,317.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. Velimir M. Popovitch has been appointed Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London.

M. Yovanovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has been transferred to the Legation at Berne.

Mr. T. J. Morris, Deputy Assistant Financial Secretary Sudan Government, has been appointed British Consul at Teneriffe.

Mr. B. C. H. Calcroft-Kennedy has succeeded the Hon. Mr. C. A. Kincaid, C.V O., as Additional Judicial Commissioner for Sind.

Mr. P. L. Moore, C.I.E., I.C.S., Inspector-General of Police, Madras, has been nominated as the official Madras representative on the Imperial Legislative Council.

We learn from a good source that M. Yovan Plamenatz, who recently escaped from Montenegro, has been appointed Prime Minister of Montenegro, *vice* M. Popovitch.

The Hon. Mr. W. F. Rice, Chief Secretary to the Government of Burma, is expected to succeed Lieutenant-Colonel Obbard as Commissioner of Pegu when the latter goes on long leave preparatory to retirement.

Kamala'd-Din Ahmad has been appointed University Teacher in Hindustani at Cambridge during the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Phillott on Government service.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Mr. H. C. W. Grimshaw has been appointed President of the District Court of Papho.

Captain A. M. Fleury acts as Commissioner of Kyrenia during the absence on leave, of three and a-half months, of Mr. E. McDonald.

Major Northcote has been appointed Local Commandant of Military Police at Famagusta.

Major Bayly, Acting Chief Commandant of Police at Nicosia, will act as Commissioner of Larnaca, visiting that town twice a week and when necessary.

The place of Mr. Nicolls, Director of Public Works, who has left for the Gold Coast, has not yet been filled.

OBITUARY.

MR. D. P. McGILLIVRAY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 25.

By the sudden death of Mr. D. P. McGillivray, Anglo-Egyptian society loses one of its well-known members, and the Sudan one of the chief pioneers of its agricultural development. Mr. McGillivray first came to Egypt about the beginning of the century, when he held an appointment in the national Bank of Egypt. His business ability quickly attracted the attention of the late Sir Elwin Palmer, and he became his right-hand man in many of the enterprises which that financier undertook. When the Bank of Abyssinia was formed, it was only in the nature of things that he should be selected as its first Governor, and he was exceedingly successful in his inauguration of that institution's activities in the realm of the "King of Kings." But the Sudan soon called to him, and it was perhaps there more than anywhere else that his main interest lay, and that he did his best work.

Mr. McGillivray early realised the great future that lay before that wonderful country, and he threw himself heart and soul into the development work which the Sudan Plantations Syndicate carried on in the Gezira. Only those who came into contact with him either on the farms themselves or in the course of the negotiations in connection with the economic development of the country can have any conception of the interest he took in the enterprise, and of the extent to which he sacrificed himself, not only for its success but also to prove to the world the agricultural possibilities of the whole country. If the future of the Sudan as a cotton-growing proposition is assured, it has been in a very great measure due to his enterprise; tenacity, and initiative, and also thanks to the optimistic belief that he had throughout in its destiny. His name will always be intimately associated with the pioneer agricultural work in the Sudan, which loses in him a worker whom it will be very difficult to replace.

MR. EDWARD C. BLECK, C.M.G.

Mr. Edward Charles Bleck, C.M.G., formerly British Consul-General at Port Said, died on March 2 at Genoa, where he was at the time of his death Consul-General. Mr. Bleck became a Student Interpreter in the Levant in 1883, and an Assistant two years later. Afterwards he served as Acting Consul at Bourgas and at Adrianople; then at Sofia, first as Vice-Consul and later as Acting Agent and Consul-General; and in 1892-94 he was at Smyrna. In the latter year he was appointed Dragoman-Archivist at the Constantinople Embassy, and in 1898 became one of H.M. Consuls in that city, where also he acted many times as British delegate on the Board of Health. In 1906 he was sent to Palestine as Consul, with residence at Jerusalem; and in 1909 was promoted to be Consul-General at Port Said. The following year he was made a C.M.G. In 1914 he was appointed Librarian and Keeper of the Papers at the Foreign Office, which post he held until his transfer to Genoa. He was a very able linguist, and an authority on Bulgarian language and literature.

M. Victor Jonescu, formerly Roumanian Minister to Portugal, and a brother of M. Take Jonescu, died at Nice on March 3 from pneumonia following influenza.

Mr. Robert Nathaniel Burn, late Accountant-General of the Public Works Department of India, has died at Gidea Park, Essex, aged eighty-six. He joined the Department in 1870, and after thirty years' work was appointed Accountant-General and Departmental Secretary to the Government of India, and served until 1906. He retired from the Service in 1907.

Colonel John Clerk, C.S.I., late of the Rifle Brigade, died last week at Eastbourne. He was the son of the late Sir George Russell Clerk, G.C.S.I. He served in the Crimea with the Rifle Brigade in 1854-5, and had the medal with two clasps and the Turkish medal. Colonel Clerk was guardian to the Nizam from 1874 till 1876, and was at one time an Extra Equerry to Queen Victoria.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1919.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

The issue of the Indian Financial Statement may almost be classed along with the Nile flood and the strength of the monsoon as one of the great annually recurring facts which the world at large cannot venture to ignore, for, quite apart from the light thrown on the condition of something like a fifth of mankind, producers and merchants may find in it indications of changes in demand and in supply affecting the markets of every other country, while financiers turn to it for information on those complex questions of currency, which—always important—are particularly momentous at the present time. The statement is inevitably a document of considerable length, and the current issue has not yet reached this country, but the summary distributed by the India Office, though of necessity condensed to the verge of exiguity, enables us to view the broad facts of the situation and form a general estimate of India's present position in the commercial and financial world. The accounts of the year now closing need not detain us; revenue on the whole came in well, and the rise in the sterling value of the rupee resulted in a large windfall, but there is nevertheless a substantial deficit due to the heavy military expenditure undertaken on Imperial grounds after last year's Budget was made up. A similar cause dominates the balance-sheet for the coming year, for special military charges are expected to amount to almost £9,000,000, and the surplus on the ordinary transactions is thus converted into an anticipated deficit of close on five millions, which is further increased by the statesmanlike determination to abandon the taxation of small incomes and raise the taxable minimum to approximately the level prevailing in this country. This measure will actually reduce the number of persons liable to income-tax by almost two-thirds, while it will cost only about half-a-million sterling; the fair assessment of these small incomes of from £70 to £133 is practically impossible in the conditions which prevail in India, and there is not the least doubt that the efforts of the limited staff will be much more usefully spent when they are concentrated on the relatively small number of well-to-do persons among whom the practice of evasion is generally believed to prevail. There is unfortunately less prospect of general approval for the excess profits duty, by means of which the anticipated deficit is to be covered, and which has been the subject of vigorous criticism since its imposition was first announced. To our mind, the worst that can be said of this measure is that it is *infelix opportunitate;* it would probably have met with acquiescence if it had been imposed in the years of strenuous effort, before shareholders had become accustomed to dividends of 50 per cent. and upwards, and before prices of stocks had been adjusted to these abnormal conditions. Coming as it does when the call for effort has relaxed, and the anxieties of peace have superseded the anxieties of war, the hostility which it has aroused can readily be understood, but at the same time we must confess that, since the money has to be raised, we can suggest no alternative which would not be open to even greater practical objections.

So far, then, as the current account goes, India expects to pay her way for the next year without undue pressure on any section of the public, a position which is calculated to arouse the envy of almost every European Exchequer. When we turn to the wider prospects for the future, we find that the capital account shows that the railways at least are ready to resume the process of development interrupted by the war, and the provision of £24,000,000 for much-needed extensions and even more necessary renewals is probably at least as much as can be spent in the present condition of European markets, though it cannot suffice to recover the ground which has been lost. Irrigation works, on the other hand, receive only a trifling allotment, the justification for which is even more to be regretted than the fact itself; the depleted and overworked staff of engineers have been unable to push the preparation of schemes of construction, and the country must, therefore, wait still longer for the water which it so urgently requires. No immediate provision appears to be made for capital expenditure on forests or industries, but the needs of these branches of development are recognised to be pressing, and probably in their case also the staff has been unable to perform the essential preliminary work. Except, therefore, as regards railways, the present Budget is one of promise rather than performance, but the promise at least is there, and the measure of its sincerity may be found in the fact that Sir James Meston, the new Finance Member, has definitely accepted the principle that the development of the investing habit is a matter of primary concern to the Administration. We can recall the time when that principle was first put forward, and its chilling reception in official quarters, then committed to the view that the State should encroach as little as possible on the limited resources of the Indian money market. That attitude persisted until quite recently, when the stern necessities of war drove the Government to seek for capital throughout the towns and villages of India; the experience so gained has shown that aggregates hitherto undreamed of can be obtained by suitable methods, and that every man or woman who is induced to make a single investment represents a permanent economic gain; in future, therefore, India will be expected to provide the capital required for her own development, and thus one more "heresy" has found a place in the official creed. With the adoption of this principle, we believe that the economic future of the country is assured; the investing habit is essentially cumulative in its effects, and every year should now see an increase in the proportion of the stream of savings applied to various forms of productive employment.

The importance of this principle becomes still more apparent when we turn to the position of the Indian currency. The appetite of the people for the precious metals is no transient phenomenon. Roman financiers deplored it in the second century of our era, and the first English visitors to the country were struck by its intensity; as one of them wrote, "all nations bring coyne, and carry away commodities for the same, and this coyne is buried in India, and goeth not out." No surprise, therefore, need be felt that the uncertainties of war should have brought this appetite into prominence. We are told that in the space of four years India has used up the world's current production of silver, and depleted its accumulated stocks; if this absorption should continue, the coinage of silver may become physically impossible, and the whole currency system may have suddenly to be recast. Something, indeed, has been achieved of late in the way of popularising the use of paper money, and we are told that over ninety millions of the one-rupee notes have now passed into circulation, but much more than this is required if the currency is to be placed on a really stable basis; it is good news that paper is flowing out, but it is much more important that silver should begin to flow back, and that the vast accumulation of idle treasure should be restored to active use. To achieve this result, the holders must be induced, not forced, to give it up, and it is only through the growth of the investing habit that inducements can influence any substantial proportion of the people. We trust, therefore, that the Administration will leave no stone unturned to ensure the success of this year's Loan, and that its efforts will be backed up by the enlightened members of the community, so that in a few months' time the tide of silver may begin to set strongly towards the Treasury. When that happens, India can face the future with reasoned confidence.

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QUEEN MARIE OF ROUMANIA.

(By One Who Knows Her.)

Her Majesty Queen Marie of Roumania has so long been known as one of the most beautiful women in and out of England that her beauty and its recognition has a little obscured the fact that she is also one of the most courageous and intelligent. There are two kinds of courage, the moral and the physical, and I doubt whether any woman during this war has had to bear a longer strain, taxing them both. Her resistance against discouragement has been marvellous, and she comes as an established heroine to her own country this week.

We have, I fear, given little or no thought to what the daily and hourly resistance against discouragement has meant to her, although many of us have often thought of her with admiration; but it has been rather a wondering than an understanding one. Most of us have suffered the sorrow and had the discouragement of this war brought home to us; some of us have had the fear of sudden death forced upon us; but none of us have had to face death, moral and physical, daily through the fear that the oceans round England might rise and wipe us off the map, without our seeing any way to prevent the destruction and extinction of our life, though we saw the waves growing higher each hour!

This moral and physical fear of extinction has been before the Queen's eyes since the beginning of the war, for absorption by Germany meant to the Queen extinction worse than death. Since Roumania's entry into the war as an Ally to The Cause there have been moments when it seemed as if she would indeed be swept off the map, and that the Royal family, if they hoped to escape at all, must "run away." The Queen looked upon this *impasse* in a purely impersonal manner, but it was constantly bef ore her, and to this anxiety of uncertainty was added a great sorrow which came to her just before the great retreat, the loss of a dearly loved child. Queen Marie bore her sorrow with little weeping, though to those who knew her well there was never any doubt how deep it went. It was always at these supreme moments of anxiety and depression that the Queen's courage showed itself most dominant; at such moments she rose above herself, armed with the consolation of the belief in the justice of a great cause for which she fought, and to which all else became subservient. She never faltered in her certainty as to the rescue of Roumania by the Allies, and their ultimate success in the war. It was at one of these supreme moments which would have discouraged most people into weakness that her decision was taken to undergo what no head of a State has suffered during this war, the humiliation of remaining in a country under German rule and sharing the lot of her unfortunate people.

To the Queen the German occupation must have been an agony! For she had to remain an onlooker of the misery of the peasants whom she had known personally through her constant work during the war. This to a woman of her marvellous activity must have caused the acutest pang, yet she had gone about doing what was hardest, saying how desperately sorry she was herself that she had nothing left to give, and could only offer words of sympathy while still asking for patience from the poor people for whose redemption she was working.

Queen Marie has been the active life and soul of family, Court, society, and people in Roumania since the beginning of the war, never resting her body or her mind, organising relief during the typhus epidemic —of which she showed no kind of fear—working in the operating rooms of her hospitals, distributing herself, from her motor-car, all the Red Cross comforts that she could carry when the railways were closed to all but ammunition traffic, and in all ways providing where it was possible for the orphans and the destitute. If I do not lay more stress on the detailed work done by the Queen it is because I honestly think that she left undone nothing that she could do, and that the *résumé* of her labours would fill a volume. Her will to do was only limited by her lack of means; she got as much help in her work of mercy by her charming way of asking for it as most people do by offering exorbitant pay or high promotion. Hers is a nature softened and ennobled by the stress of war, for it must be remembered that all she accomplished was done without the ordinary comforts of life to make it easy. It meant days of heat or cold in open cars on impossible roads leading to distant fronts, and the return to her home was but exchanging one form of discomfort for another. She brushed all inconveniences aside as of no account, and was able to drop from the height of queenly state to sitting by the bedside of feverish conscripts as easily as a drop of rain lights on a rose leaf after its terrific fall through space, and, like the dew, she kept her wonderful brilliancy.

That the Queen of Roumania has played an active part in the history of her country is undoubted, that it has taken all the mental and moral courage of a strong and sweet nature to do so and survive is a fact that I hope will receive the full appreciation of the British public; for by her courage she has woven the first strands of a chord that should bind the country of her adoption to the country of her birth for their mutual benefit, and it must not be thought that the Queen is not fully alive to this great result.

The Queen is a valiant soul, and all those who admire the capacity for "sticking out" the last ten minutes of a horrible trial, at no matter what cost, should do her homage. It is an English, but it is also a Roumanian, attribute this tenacity of purpose, and this the Queen has understood. She averted the humiliation of her country by the magnificent attitude she adopted of sharing it with them. The certainty of ultimate success upheld her, and the country through her. For to the attitude of the Crown is due the moral victory of Roumania's national endurance, which has not only risen triumphant over its natural enemies and home schisms, but has also brought the Roumanians untainted through the menace of Bolshevism that it has put to shame by the serene dignity with which it has ignored it.

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.

Lecturing at University College, London, on Monday, Sir J. Bampfylde Fuller said that the basis upon which Indian administration rested was that of obedience to command. The Hindustani word for command was one of those in commonest use in the country; one commanded the suspension of the land tax after a hail storm, or commanded another slice of toast at breakfast. But it was not to be imagined that Indian legislation was hasty or slipshod because it was arbitrary. The Indian laws had been complimented by the highest legal authority as models of lucid and intelligible drafting; and the Indian penal code was a signal illustration of a fair-minded compromise in the adjustment of Western standards of morality to Oriental conditions. The British Government of India had followed tradition in interfering despotically for the people's welfare, and, on occasion, by stretching out its authority, had produced results that might be envied by the poor in democratic countries.

The lecturer gave as an example of this the case of an Indian province, where the landlords had enhanced very oppressively the rents of those tenants who were unprotected by the law. The rents were unpayably high, and would have reduced the tenants to such a state of indebtedness as would enable the landlords to exact almost the whole produce. But the Government, using as a lever its power to base its right to a revised land revenue upon the rent rolls, prevailed upon the landlords to agree to a general reduction of rents. Arrears were recalculated, and many thousands of tenants set upon their feet again. The beneficial consequences of the Government's interference were appreciated by the very landlords themselves, and when, some years later, the Government took statutory powers to interfere in this drastic fashion between landlord and tenant, the necessary legislation was accepted as non-contentious. In another somewhat similar case debts due by cultivators to landlords, moneylenders, and the British Government were written off. The load of indebtedness lifted on this occasion from the shoulders of the tenantry amounted to several millions sterling, and the area through which the arrangement operated was equal to that of six or seven English counties. Throughout this extensive region the peasantry were given a new lease of life. But despotism had another side; and democracy, although with grave defects, offered undeniable advantages.

The Punjab Legislative Council has passed a compulsory Primary Education Bill.

The Roumanian Press Bureau announces that 332,000 Roumanian combatants were killed in the war. This number includes those who died of wounds.

A regular mail service has now been resumed between Marseilles and Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Syria.

Deaths from influenza in India as a whole in 1918 are calculated at 5,000,000 for British India and 1,000,000 for Indian States.

Mr. K. Funduklian, of Manchester, has been elected Delegate of the Armenians in England to the Armenian Conference in Paris, whither he proceeded a few days ago.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Constantinople Hunt.

An interesting note on "Hunting at Constantinople" was contributed recently to the *Field* by "D.C." "When the British Salonika Force entered Constantinople," he writes, "we found to our great surprise that there still existed a remnant of the pack of ten couples of hounds, which used to be the property of the British colony in Constantinople. This remnant was in charge of Harry Maiden, formerly of the Chiddingfold, Belvoir, and Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn's (indeed, I can remember seeing Maiden hunting with Sir Watkin.) Somehow, by hook or by crook, and no doubt by a good deal of wangling, Maiden had managed to obtain enough scraps to maintain three couples of hounds and also to bring up a litter of puppies, which it is hoped to enter next season. The pack was used indiscriminately to hunt either a drag or jackal, the drag being more popular, as the country, except in selected parts, is very rough and wild, resembling a mixture of the Devon and Somerset and the heather country of Brittany. Maiden himself had suffered considerably during the war, as although he was allowed his liberty, food was scarce for man and beast, and became practically non-obtainable towards the end of the war." One feels that this brief mention can hardly do justice to one who must be a very prince of "wanglers." But that is by the way. Here is a passage that will be read with interest by hunting men who know not the Constantinople region:—

Capt. Reginald Wilson, A.D.C. to Sir Henry Wilson, Commander of the Allied Forces occupying Constantinople (Turkey in Europe), took over charge of the hounds, and very soon a weekly drag was instituted, with occasional by-days after jackal. To realise the difficulties of hunting a jack or fox it must be remembered that the country is very hilly and "*accidenté*," as our French Allies call it, and in most parts is covered with heather which grows high enough to hide a horse, that the country is intersected by deep combes or gullies, which are thickly filled with brambles, oak scrub, laurels, heather, and forest trees, and that hounds, even when running over the so-called open, are entirely hidden from sight and have to smeuse their way along the pig and jackal paths bored through the heather. The accepted theory of keeping to the high ground and the heads of the combes will not work here if a huntsman wishes to see what his hounds are doing. He must keep in touch with their cry at all hazards (which means continual climbing up and sliding down steep hills) if he is not to lose them once they disappear into the thick stuff. The only so-called rides are the forest tracks made by the woodcutters' and charcoal-burners' ponies, and as they usually lead to clearings they do not help much in a run after a jackal, whose one idea is to bury himself in the heaviest thickets he can find. Against these disadvantages of terrain may be set the fact that a jackal never travels far ahead, but keeps waiting for hounds to come up to him, and that the heather carries a wonderful scent, or the jackal smells very strong, which, after all, amounts to the same thing, and that the jackals here do not go to ground, but are apparently stub-bred, and lie up in the thickets. I have not yet seen a jackal earth, though I have come across several foxes' and badgers' earths.

The article concludes with a lively description of a fine run, and an appeal to Masters of foxhounds for hounds.

Indian Rumours and Reports.

In a leading article, "The Condition of India," *The Times* (March 6) says:—

Private advices suggest that India may be on the verge of a worse food famine than the visitation of 1900. There is also a grave fodder famine, which is said to be resulting in a wholesale loss of cattle, just as the herds of Gujerat were all but wiped out eighteen years ago. Prices are astonishingly high, and an official statement says that in mid-December last the wholesale price of the principal food grains had risen by 51 per cent. as compared with the corresponding month of 1917, which was also an abnormal period. This figure is simply an average, and in some provinces, including Bombay, Sind, and Baluchistan, the rise is over 100 per cent. Although in this matter India is only sharing the common lot of the whole world, the pressure upon the peasantry must be exceptionally severe, because even in normal times the bulk of the people live on a scale of bare subsistence. Simultaneously there have been grievous cholera epidemics, possibly accentuated by malnutrition, while statements are current that the influenza epidemic has in some places swept away a fifth of the local population in two months. Owing to the congestion of the cable routes, it is now extremely difficult to obtain prompt information. We have no adequate means of judging the present economic condition of India. The India Office remains dumb, and leaves us to suppose that the Indian peoples are solely engaged in rather acrid discussions of the reform schemes. We suggest that a simple statement should be issued, explaining to what extent the reports we have mentioned are well founded.

The same article refers to the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme and certain opinions on it that have been expressed. The writer concludes:—

The scheme was never meant to be a cut-and-dried plan which both Parliament and India were expected to accept without amendment. It was and is a rough design which must be finally shaped by mutual agreement. It may require either pruning or expanding, and we do not necessarily associate ourselves with the Viceroy's declaration last September that the scheme reaches "right up to the line beyond which our principles forbid us to go." The great need of the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme at this juncture is neither laudation nor abuse, of both of which it has had far too much, but constructive criticism, of which there has been far too little. The chief defect of the scheme is its complexity. It postulates the creation of at least five new bodies, and will make the already intricate machinery of the Indian Administration far more involved than ever. Oriental countries require simplicity of control, especially in the earlier stages of self-government, and any changes made should be in this direction.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

English in Egypt. March 5.

Major HURST asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a resolution from the principal business houses of Port Said, Egypt, has been transmitted to him by the High Commissioner of Egypt; whether this resolution emphasises the necessity of the use of the English language and the adoption of English law and procedure in the Courts, particularly in criminal matters; whether any reply has been sent; and what action it is proposed to take?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The answer to the first and second part of the hon. and gallant member's question is in the affirmative, subject to the reservation that the form of the communication in question was that of a letter expressing agreement with a memorial previously addressed to Sir R. Wingate by British lawyers in Egypt; it consequently required no special reply. The views put forward by the British lawyers, and supported by the British business houses, were communicated at the time to the Commission sitting at Cairo, which is charged with the preparation of the proposed new judicial organisation, and is receiving careful consideration by the Advisory Committee in this country as well as by the Foreign Office.

Major HURST: Is the hon. gentleman aware of the indignation that is felt among business classes, both in Egypt and in England, at the proposed exclusion of the English language and English law from the Egyptian Courts?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: Yes, sir, I am fully aware of that. I have received a deputation on the subject quite recently.

Distress in India. March 10.

Mr. BENNETT asked the Secretary for India if he had any information as to the extent and intensity of famine conditions now prevailing in India?

Mr. FISHER, who replied for Mr. Montagu, said "famine" in the technical sense that relief works had been opened had been declared in one district in Bombay, and in parts of two other districts in the same province. There was distress of a less severe character in several other districts in Bombay and the Central Provinces, in two districts in the United Provinces, and in a few places in other provinces. In November and December there was in India as a whole a serious deficiency in the rainfall, resulting in failure of the autumn crops over wide areas and restricted sowings of winter crops. The latter had benefited considerably by fairly general rain. There were about 43,000 persons on relief works. The number was kept down by the good demand for labour on private account. The increase in the price of food grains had varied in different parts of India. As far as could be judged from the figures that had been received, the average increase over normal prices would appear to be about 50 per cent. Prices had not as yet shown a tendency to decline.

General Townshend. March 11.

Captain GUEST, replying to Sir F. Hall, said:—General Townshend is on the active list on half-pay. There is, at present, I understand, no suitable appointment available in which his services could be employed.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report:—

India: Government Headquarters (Overcrowding). Constitutional Reforms. Mutiny Veterans.
Demobilisation: Troops Serving in India.
Montenegro.
Europe and Asia Minor (Revictualling).
Demobilisation: Troops in the East (March 5).
Malta Hospital Staff (Leave).
Demobilisation: Troops in Egypt (March 6).

GENERAL ALLENBY'S CAMPAIGN.

A private view of three films illustrating General Allenby's campaign in Palestine was given at the New Gallery Kinema, Regent Street, on Tuesday morning. Two of the films were new official war films, released for the first time; the other depicted life in the Holy Land before the war. Some coloured lantern slides by the Australian official photographer were also shown. All were full of interest, and remarkably good in the matter of clearness, and Miss Frances E. Newton, who delivered the accompanying lecture, added further vividness by her admirable descriptions. The lecture is to tour the country in aid of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, and we advise all our readers who can do so to attend it.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The British staff of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway left London for the Levant on February 26.

***

The appointment of Sir Richard Crawford to succeed Lord Edward Cecil as Financial Adviser, which is forecasted by the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, is a development on which Egypt is to be congratulated. Sir Richard, who was Adviser to the Turkish Ministry of Finance from 1911 to 1914, and subsequently Commercial Adviser to the Embassy at Washington, and from February, 1918, Commercial Commissioner at Washington, has made a great reputation by his able handling of financial questions. He will have a field worthy of his ability in Egypt, and his presence there will inspire additional confidence in the outlook for that country.

***

A contemporary pointed out this week that the question of the exchange was the great obstacle in regard to British trade with Turkey. The solution of the problem undoubtedly is to allow the free export of goods from Turkey to this country. I understand that there is a fairly large amount of goods in Turkey which could be shipped, and if no obstacle is placed on its coming to this country, but rather every facility is given, it will naturally produce Turkish credits in London, which are necessary as a counterpart to British exports. In this connection I understand that an Inter-Allied Committee has been formed at Constantinople which will issue import and export permits to subjects of the Allies pending the abolition of all restrictions on Allied trade with Turkey This step will facilitate exports from Turkey.

***

The decision of the British Government to appoint a British Commercial Agent to Egypt, which has just been announced by the president of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt at a general meeting of that body, marks a most important development of the policy of furthering trade within the Empire. There is great scope for the extension of British commerce with Egypt; trade lost to Germany and Austria can and must be recovered; but besides that there is the fact that the rapid progress of the country will find expression in a wider range of requirements, and if British merchants and manufacturers are to obtain their proper share of this trade it is obvious that expert guidance will be necessary, and in this direction the Commercial Agent's services should be of great help.

***

The decision, it may be noted, follows very closely on the presentation by the Chamber of a memorandum to the High Commissioner concerning the various measures which might be taken to further the development of British trade with and in Egypt. The memorandum was the work of a Special Commission composed of members of the Alexandria and Cairo committees of the Chamber, assisted by Mr. A. T. Lloyd, O.B.E., specially appointed by the Residency, and formed at the suggestion of the High Commissioner. The appointment of a Trade Commissioner to Egypt was one of the principal recommendations, the Chamber stating that the question was of great importance, and that the country ought not to be left out of the scheme both on account of the interests involved locally and of its geographical situation.

***

In response to representations by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the subject of cable delays to Egypt, India, and Ceylon, the Secretary to the General Post Office has written explaining that the delay is due to "the great increase of traffic which, unfortunately, has to be concentrated on a limited number of cables in consequence of the continued interruption of certain of the submarine lines and the stoppage of auxiliary routes through Russia and Germany which were in existence before the war. The increase is largely in Government telegrams, and special steps have been taken to curtail this traffic as much as possible. An auxiliary wireless service has just been established between this country and Egypt by means of existing Government stations, and meanwhile every effort is being made to repair the interrupted cables. There is no doubt that relief would be afforded if an extended use of cables could be permitted, and thus reduce the length of telegrams, and the Censorship authorities have the question now under consideration."

***

The decision to construct a Channel Tunnel is of great importance in regard to communications with the East, for it will make it possible in due course to take a through train from London to Baghdad, and beyond to India, perhaps, if, as is extremely probable, the Indian system is eventually linked up with the Baghdad line. Trains for the East will presumably be run in sections, the first part going to Baghdad, and detaching the Jerusalem and Egypt section at Aleppo. It is a marvellous prospect to look forward to, and one which is the direct result of the war, without which it could only have been regarded as a matter of the far-distant future. As to the influence of the tunnel on trade with the Near East, there are too many considerations involved—such as, for instance, freights; the development of aerial transport, etc.—to make prophecy advisable. Through communication should be of extreme use, but we must wait and see.

***

Pending a definite decision on the whole question of aerial navigation enterprise by private firms is out of the question, but indications are not wanting that once private initiative is permitted there will be rapid developments in the direction of the provision of flying services. There is no question as to the scope for aerial transport, especially in serving the remoter parts of the Empire—districts like the Sudan, where our Khartoum Correspondent points out, in a letter published this week, the advent of the Handley Page may revolutionise the question of transport—but time is obviously required to overcome the initial difficulties.

***

The Allied Powers have taken the important decision in reference to the Turkish Internal 5 per Cent. Loan, to which the public was forced to subscribe, that they cannot admit any operations connected with the payment of the May coupon of this loan while similar transactions in regard to external loans in the possession of Allied subjects must remain in abeyance. The Imperial Ottoman Bank has, therefore, been invited to withhold payment, and to hold the money in question at the disposal of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration.

***

The *Pioneer* believes that the question of utilising ships of the Royal Indian Marine to relieve the situation created by the shortage of passage accommodation is under consideration. It cannot be said that the vessels are very suitable for the purpose, but in the present emergency they may serve to relieve the pressure to some extent, and it is also very evident that some further steps will have to be taken to cope with the position, and the utilisation of these vessels might well be one of them.

***

An interesting note has been written by Mr. A. P. Morris, principal of the Government Engineering School, Insein, on the possibilities of glass manufacture in Burma. This industry has not been introduced into Burma hitherto, one obstacle being the lack of supply of sufficient pure silica; but the researches of Mr. Morris indicate that the manufacture of glass is not only practicable, but that it would apparently be inexpensive. The experiments conducted led to the conclusion that paddy husk can be used to develop sufficient heat for glass manufacture, that paddy husk yields, as a by-product, silica sufficiently pure to be suitable for the manufacture of colourless glass, and that ingredients for lime soda glass are available locally, and the glass obtained is of a high fusibility and good quality.

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TRADE OF THE SUDAN.

Further Improvement in 1918.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 21.

The December quarterly statement of the Sudan Customs, which has just reached here, indicates an important development in the foreign trade of that country during 1918. Imports during the year came to £E4,024,582 and exports to £E3,923,771, as compared with £E3,102,117 and £E3,490,565 respectively during 1917. Re-exports for the year totalled £E286,613, as against £E238,616. The total turnover in trade has, therefore, increased by over 20 per cent., the improvement being as to 29 per cent. in imports, 12 per cent. in exports, and 20 per cent. in re-exports. The following table shows what an advance has been made during the past twenty years in the foreign trade of the Sudan:—

	Imports. £E.	Exports. £E.	Re-exports. £E.
1903.....	749,537	378,133	19,434
1908.....	1,892,798	515,938	27,261
1913.....	2,109,776	1,185,186	89,491
1918.....	4,024,582	3,923,771	286,613

As the country was reoccupied in 1898, in which year trade for statistical and, indeed, for all practical purposes was non-existent, I have given figures for the last year of each of the subsequent quinquennial periods up to and including 1918. The progress made is, indeed, quite remarkable. During the first ten years, when the work of development and reconstruction was in full swing, it was only natural that the imports should far outstrip the exports. The effect of that work is, however, seen at the end of the subsequent five years, when, although imports had increased by about 10 per cent., exports had more than doubled; whilst at the conclusion of the fourth five-year period we find that, whereas imports have about doubled, exports have increased more than threefold. What is even more satisfactory is that, taking into account, as one ought, the re-exports, there is to-day a small balance of trade in favour of the Sudan.

Substantial Progress.

It may, of course, be objected that the general inflation of prices which has taken place since the war makes this comparison with previous years somewhat unfair. But the rise in prices naturally affects both sides of the account—possibly the import more than the export—since the values of the former are inflated by the increased freights, whilst those of the latter are the f.o.b. values. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that the shortage in shipping must have had its affect on the total output of the Sudan. Indeed, there is every reason to believe that, had there been more shipping offering, the export quantities would have been very much greater, and consequently the total value of the shipments abroad would have been considerably higher. Since the main object of the above comparison is to show that the Sudan has progressed in its production, and that it is now beginning to pay its way economically, just as it has done administratively since 1913, I submit that this comparison is quite permissible, and that it in nowise leads to an erroneous conclusion.

The appended table, giving the quantities and values of the more important exports in 1918 and in 1913—the last normal year prior to the war—shows clearly the enormous impetus given to the export trade of the Sudan during the five years in question. The increase in the livestock trade and cereal export is considerable. The export of cattle has quadrupled, and that of sheep and goats more than doubled, whilst the export of dura, dukn, dates, ground nuts, etc., has increased in an even more remarkable manner. Cotton, sesame, and dom palm nuts are the only items which show any decrease in quantity, and in these instances, as well as in that of gum—which, however, exceeds the 1913 figure—the lack of shipping has undoubtedly not been without its effect.

The table obviates the necessity of giving the increases in exports as compared with 1917. I will only give these details for the imports. Amongst the latter the most important increases, compared with the preceding year, have been:—Refined sugar from £E409,555 to £E593,137; tea from £E75,083 to £E140,260; wheat from £E5,387 to £E51,917; matches from £E3,200 to £E34,385; soap from £E41,654 to £E62,433; cotton fabrics from £E776,205 to £E1,116,649; sacks from £E110,047 to £E164,743; clothing from £E45,182 to £E70,715; tobacco of all sorts from £E68,068 to £E107,654. The effect of the rise in prices on the world's markets is seen from the following:—Sugar imports increased by about 15 per cent. in quantity, but the value rose by over 40 per cent.; petroleum fell off by 30 per cent. in quantity, but increased by just under 20 per cent. in value; coal decreased by about 20 per cent. in quantity, but rose by 5 per cent. in value; soap, which remained constant in quantity, increased by 50 per cent. in value; and tea, of which practically the same quantity came in, rose by about 90 per cent. in value.

Share of Countries.

Turning to the countries which have been the customers of the Sudan, we find that, as usual, Egypt has sent and taken the major quantity. Her exports to the Sudan amounted to £E2,776,779 and her purchases to £E3,087,094, as against £E1,845,162 and £E2,589,541 respectively in 1917. This is an increase of about 50 and 20 per cent. The next important country under imports is "India and Aden," with £E413,468, a slight decrease compared with 1917, whilst next in order come South Africa, with £E316,429—double the 1917 figure—and Abyssinia, with £E181,558, an increase of about 60 per cent. Great Britain takes fifth place with only £E176,881, as against third in 1917 with £E396,260. Under exports, however, she secures second place with £E515,985, a decrease of £E191,651 compared with the previous year, whilst Eritrea and Arabia fight for third position with £E129,775 and £E118,358 respectively, in the former case an increase of 300 per cent. and in the latter one of 150 per cent. over the 1917 figures.

The set-back to trade with Great Britain is very considerable, but it is more apparent than real. Owing to the shipping difficulty, to which reference has already been made, the Sudan has used the Nile route, and has exported via the Egyptian ports and drawn on the Egyptian stocks of imported goods to a much greater extent than in pre-war days. It is, therefore, only natural that the figures for Egypt should have increased and those for Great Britain have decreased as they have done. In fact, the Egyptian Customs statistics show that cotton piece goods—to name only one item of indisputable British manufacture—of the value of £E693,086 were sent from Egypt to the Sudan, as compared with £E319,244 in 1917, whilst the value of gum and cotton which passed over the Sudan frontier, and a large portion of which was destined to Great Britain, amounted to £E404,027. There is, therefore, reason to expect that as soon as shipping conditions resume their normal state direct trade with Great Britain will take place again in the same manner and at least to the same extent as before the war.

At the same time, it must not be forgotten that trade with Egypt has undergone important development since 1913. For example, the Sudan now consumes Egyptian cane-sugar where before she took Austrian beet-sugar, whilst Egypt is relying on her southern neighbour for her supplies of meat where formerly she obtained her requirements from Serbia, Syria, etc., and she looks to her to supply any shortage in her own production of certain cereals, such as dura, sesame, etc. This interdependence will certainly continue, and will most probably become closer after the war. In fact, there is every indication that the Sudan will in the near future take an important place in the British Empire in so far as trade relationship with its various dependencies are concerned, and from that point of view alone its present development, as shown by the latest statistics, is eminently satisfactory.

		1913.		1918.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£E.		£
Camels and Horses	Units	789	2,790	602	10,422
Cattle	,,	10,532	74,664	39,205	516,920
Sheep and Goats	,,	99,174	97,059	208,805	651,257
Untanned skins	,,	371,458	31,906	(tons) 242	37,789
Untanned hides	Tons	403	22,821	1,234	172,419
Ivory	,,	125	113,236	39	35,460
Dura (Dari seed)	,,	2,080	21,716	54,915	589,734
Maize	,,	—	—	2,615	33,545
Dukhn	,,	7	80	14,234	177,233
Peas	,,	3	33	1,210	29,840
Beans	,,	191	1,602	4,607	122,326
Sesame	,,	6,841	101,939	4,314	160,733
Dates	,,	2,785	31,872	4,363	83,957
Ground nuts	,,	719	9,198	2,646	67,529
Gum	,,	15,129	371,528	16,348	638,765
Charcoal	,,	420	1,286	6,556	64,073
Cotton (including seed)	,,	7,101	173,207	4,697	298,231
Dom Palm nuts	,,	1,349	7,982	569	8,500
Senna	,,	810	9,647	521	24,661
Salt	,,	—	—	2,265	14,807
Other Products	,,	—	109,653	—	263,762
Total for year		—	1,185,588		4,001,963

CYPRUS TRADE NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

At last there is a re-establishment of a mail service. The s.s. Tanta, of the Khedivial Company, is to run between Egypt and Cyprus, taking ten days instead of a week for the circuit, which will considerably increase trade facilities at the principal ports. It is hoped that a weekly service will soon be possible.

All persons who desire to visit occupied territory in Syria and Palestine must apply for passports to the Commissioner of the district in which they reside. All boats have been requisitioned for military purposes, questions of compensation being settled by a board appointed by the Government.

Good rains have fallen during the last days of February, and farmers are satisfied with the prospects.

REDUCED SHIPPING FARES.

Messrs. Bibby Brothers and Co., the managers of the Bibby Line, intimate that now their steamers are being relieved from Government requisition all fares to and from Ceylon and Burmah have been reduced by 20 per cent., and return fares will be issued for a fare and a-half.

The Anchor Line have reduced the fares by their steamers to and from Indian ports by 20 per cent.; the reduction from this country will begin with their first sailing in April, and from India at once. Return tickets to and from India are now issued at the price of a fare and a half.

Mr. W. K. Dods has been appointed a member of the Board of Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta, in succession to Sir Archy Birkmyre.

Athens newspapers state that an English company will shortly begin construction of the railway line between Drama and Kavalla, east of Salonika.

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TRANSPORT IN THE SUDAN.

Promising Field for Motors.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Khartoum, February 16.

There has been a slight but gradual increase, noticeable over a considerable period, in the number of motor-cars in the Sudan. The advent of the Handley Page may begin a new era in the history of the country. It is not to be expected that aeroplanes can be used extensively for commercial purposes, in view of the great expense involved in the upkeep and staff of such elaborate mechanism, but the presence of any, if only for military or Imperial purposes, must inevitably give a great impetus to the use of internal combustion engines, implying, as it would, the presence of adequate workshops and an increase in all the necessary supplies and spares for such engines.

It has been shown during the war that the motor-car can go almost anywhere, and the Sudan opens a great field to this class of transport. The larger part of the country is flat, and though the soil is often sandy, it is generally possible to find a route which circumvents the more difficult spots and makes a regular service possible. The outlay on cars suitable for this work (*i.e.*, carrier work) is not very great, and negligible compared to that of putting down a light railway. Moreover, the difficulties in obtaining fuel for any steam-driven engine are great. For instance, there is a quantity of material suitable for export in places such as Gedaref or Nahud, which are a long way from rail or river—200 miles in the one case and 150 in the other—but the roads are feasible for motor traffic, as has been shown by the frequent journeys of a F.I.A.T. from Eretria, or by the regular service to Nahud during the Darfur patrol. It should, therefore, be possible for any enterprising person to manage a business of carrying cotton goods to these places and bringing back the staple products to the Nile.

The use of Ford cars by the Government has been steadily increasing for the purpose of facilitating administrative work. A light car of this character can go practically anywhere, and is of the greatest use for such purposes. It has not, however, been yet applied to commercial uses here. It is likely that the heavy and slower car for heavy transport may be the more useful as a commercial asset, and the light car has yet to increase its sphere of usefulness. It is already used by the agricultural companies settled in the Sudan, but it has not yet extended to the native. There is little doubt that when the native finds opportunity to purchase a cheap car, and to obtain repairs for it without great delay and trouble, that he will adopt it with advantage. There should therefore be a good opening for the motor business in the Sudan as soon as motor matters have returned to something approaching the normal.

SUDAN TRADERS' TAX.

According to *Al Mokattam*, the Sudan Government has in view an increase of the Traders' tax, which will be assessed at the rate of 4 per cent. for persons whose profits do not exceed £E100 per annum, 5 per cent. for those whose profits exceed £E100, but not £E500, and 6 per cent. for those whose profits exceed £E500 per annum.

FACILITATING EXPORTS.

Speedy Information Regarding Licences.

In order further to assist exporters to recover their trade in goods of which the export is or has been controlled, and generally to ensure that no openings for trade are lost to British exporters owing to ignorance of existing export facilities, the Department of Overseas Trade, in concert with the War Trade Department, has made arrangements for bringing to the notice of exporters, through the medium of the Press, trade journals, chambers of commerce, and trade organisations, and by special notes direct to firms on the "Special Register" of the Department, information regarding changes affecting control over exports.

Firms not already on the Special Register who desire to receive such information direct from the Department may apply for admission to the Special Register to the Comptroller-General, Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 73, Basinghall Street, E.C. 2. The annual fee for admission to the Special Register is £2 2s., which includes the supply of the *Board of Trade Journal*.

It is understood that, owing to the necessary formalities and consequent delay in connection with the obtaining of export licences, exporters find themselves at a disadvantage when dealing with orders requiring immediate acceptance. The Department will, therefore, on request, undertake to ascertain from the War Trade Department, and reply by telegram or telephone at the earliest possible moment, whether licences will or will not be granted for such orders. In the event of an applicant being promised a licence, he will be enabled to deal with the order straightaway, with the knowledge that upon application being made formally to the War Trade Department the licence will be granted.

Inquiries should be by telegram rather than by telephone, and should be addressed to "Orders, c.o. Advantage, Stock, London." They should give, in addition to the name and postal or telegraphic address of the applicant, the quantity, value, and description of the goods comprised in the order, and the name and address of the ultimate consignee if the goods are destined for a neutral country. In the case of orders from Allied or British territory, or from territory in the occupation of troops of the Associated Governments, the consignee need not be stated; the country of destination will, of course, need to be given. A reply of twenty-four words (1s. 6d.) must also be prepaid.

Applicants are requested in their own interest to confine their inquiries to orders needing a very urgent decision, since the fewer the inquiries the more promptly can answers be given.

M. George Boncescu, Commercial Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, gave a lecture on "Roumania and its Commercial Possibilities" at a meeting of the Bishopsgate Institute Ward Club at the Great Eastern Hotel, on March 12. The report of the lecture and of the discussion which followed is unavoidably held over until next week.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Mr. H. St. G. Gilmore, traffic manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, has been granted combined leave for twelve months.

The editorial office of the *Board of Trade Journal* has been removed to 7, Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 1.

A telegram has been received from the British Commercial Secretary at Odessa stating that navigation in the Sea of Azov is reopened.

Mr. Thomas Smith, of the Muir Mills Co., Ltd., Cawnpore, has been elected President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year.

Mr. Sydney Preston, C.I.E., has been appointed to succeed Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., as chairman of the Canal Control Committee.

The Liverpool branch office of Messrs. Lionda and Co., Ltd., has been moved from Tower Buildings, Water Street, to Apsley Buildings, 4, Oldhall Street.

A branch of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank has been opened at 4, Silver Street, Hull, under the management of Mr. E. Moore.

Mr. W. L. Frier, assistant traffic manager, Ceylon Government Railways, has left the Island to take up an important appointment on the East African Railway.

It is announced that the Japanese mail steamers are fully booked to Europe until the end of August, and passages are not, therefore, available from Colombo.

It is reported that Mr. Patrick C. Young, formerly Secretary to the Indian Railway Board, and recently employed on military duty in France, will shortly resign Government service.

The International Sleeping Car Company announces that the Rome express, from March 8, will leave Paris at 2 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and will arrive in Rome the following day at 9.30 p.m. A through car for Milan will be detached at Turin. Milan is reached at 11 a.m.

The Tea Commissioner in Ceylon will release 1,000 tons of shipping space monthly for shipments to the United Kingdom from Colombo of teas other than those controlled by him. Nine hundred tons of space were to be reserved for this purpose in the s.s. "Mahsud," sailing for London about February 20.

The Association of British Motor and Allied Manufacturers has appointed Major R. E. Goddard as its overseas commissioner for the purpose of investigating on the spot the markets of Australasia, India, and the East. Major Goddard left England last month, and is due to reach Ceylon about the middle of this month. His tour will last about a year.

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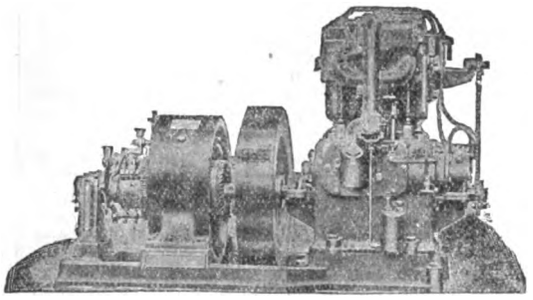
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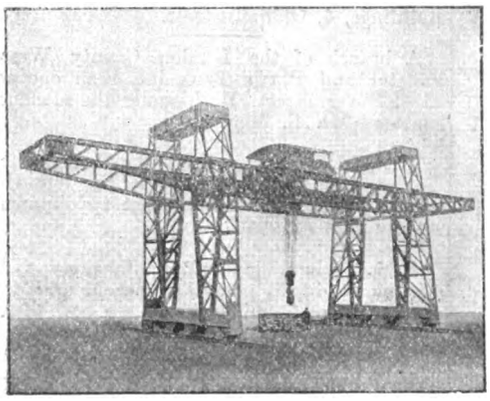
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Railway Material.

In view of the contemplated reconstruction of many railway lines in the Near East, which were either damaged or destroyed during the war, and the construction of new lines in accordance with the new territorial arrangements, it is very opportune to remind British manufacturers that in the supply of railway material (other than rolling stock) in those markets, except in Egypt, the United Kingdom has hitherto hardly been represented. Germany has been the principal supplier for years. Therefore, the present difficult position of Germany offers very considerable opportunities to British producers of rails for railways, tram-rails, iron sleepers, fish-plates, bolts for sleepers, gauge-bars, clamp plates, hooked-nails, railway buffers, parts of signals, railway switches, etc., large quantities of which are annually imported in the Near East, provided, of course, that producers act promptly. To secure only Germany's share in the supply of the above-mentioned goods to the principal markets in that region would be an important commercial achievement. In the year 1912, which may be taken as a normal year, Germany exported railway material to Roumania to the value of £32,800; her exports to Turkey were £472,100; to Egypt £90,000; to Serbia £9,100; to Greece £3,600 (iron sleepers); against exports of similar material from the United Kingdom to Turkey of £8,100; to Egypt of £172,500; to Greece of £300; to Roumania of £100; and to Serbia nothing. With regard to Egypt it is interesting to note that the values of iron and steel rails imported into that country in 1912 and 1913 were:—From the United Kingdom £E35,377 in 1912 and £E106,423 in 1913; from Germany £E60,327 in 1912 and £E19,980 in 1913; from all countries £E116,650 in 1912 and £E184,980 in 1913. The position of the United Kingdom improved greatly in 1913, mainly at the expense of Germany, and present conditions should give British manufacturers an opportunity to establish themselves still more firmly in the Egyptian market. With regard to Greece it will be remembered that considerable supplies of railway material, including rolling stock, engines, etc., for the union of the Athens-Larissa railway with the Salonika Monastir and Western Europe lines were obtained, in 1912-1914 from the United States of America.

Minerals in Asia Minor.

Whatever the new territorial arrangements may be in Asia Minor, the natural wealth of that historic land will be an object of great interest to engineers and enterprising business men in the very near future. The realisation of that wealth was one of the aims of the *Drang nach Osten* policy. Many years ago Rocher set out Germany's dreams in that connection in these words: "There, in Asia Minor, by peaceful conquest we can create a new Germany, which would elevate her in grandeur, population and riches, in front of the old Germany and which would form the safest road against our enemy." The Germans contemplated the time when they would obtain the sole control of the natural wealth of the country, which includes important coal and iron mines, petroleum areas, etc. It is proved that the latter are found almost all over Asia Minor, especially in the provinces of Mosul and Baghdad, in which two districts alone there are a couple of hundred areas. There are also petroleum springs at the Van lake and at Puek, in Terdsehan, to the west of Erzereum. The largest iron-ore deposits are in the mountainous country north of Satium, where the annual production is about 300,000 tons, whilst some 30,000 tons per annum are broken at Ayasmaud. The most important coal deposits are those of Ergli (Heraclea), on the Black Sea; the quality of the coal varies, but resembles on the whole Newcastle coal. About ten companies are working in that district, a French concern heading the list with an output of 500,000 tons a year. The Duysa mine has an annual production of 110,000 tons, the Kurdschi Mining Company one of 85,000 tons, and the Zaridscha Brothers Company of 60,000 tons yearly. Some smaller companies produce an annual aggregate of 50,000 tons. With the construction of a small railway, modern loading facilities, and a suitable harbour on a certain point of the district, a French engineer, who had prepared the necessary plans, etc., assured the present writer, on his visit there some years ago that "Heraclea could be another Cardiff!"

Small Machinery.

In view of the urgent need for agricultural machinery and implements in the Near East, and the apparent desire of British manufacturers to do business in those markets, it is advisable to remind the latter that the majority of farmers in that region are small holders, as a rule proprietors of the land they cultivate, and small size machinery is what they want. Large ploughing tractors or steam-engine ploughing sets are in considerable use, and are needed, but only large landowners can afford to buy them, and those who can often prefer a small set of machines. A small ploughing machine for instance, with cultivating tools operated direct from the engine instead of being hauled by a tractor, is in demand, more particularly if it is suitable for use between trees in orchards and vineyards, and between rows of root and ground crops in market garden plantations, as well as in the stubble of the open field. Such a contrivance would appeal to every farmer, small or large, in the Near East. Machines of this type have recently been successfully employed in England. Their light weight is a great advantage, and their cost small; those made in England cost before the war £100, and even less than that amount against the £100 to £140 that had then to be paid for the American product. American firms have sent representatives already to the principal Near Eastern markets, and have booked orders for these and other small machines, promising quick delivery, but, except for harvesters, Oriental farmers, as a rule, are not anxious to buy American machinery.

Peat Powder as Fuel.

It will interest many railway companies and steam users in the East to hear that a new kind of fuel of considerable importance is being introduced on the Swedish State railways. A factory is now under construction for the production of peat powder, and as soon as a sufficient quantity of powder is available a railway line will commence using this peat powder. In previous notes reference was made to the large quantities of peat that occur in certain districts of the Near East, and to the possibilities of its use as a substitute for coal when prepared for this purpose. The method of preparation was mentioned in the notes.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

The tone of the market continues uncertain, and no particular development in the amount of business passing can be recorded. In certain directions buying has been fairly extensive, but buyers and sellers have experienced much difficulty in getting to close quarters for lots of any weight. Fixed prices continue to be maintained in Egyptian cotton. Diverse opinions are being expressed as to the probable acreage in Egypt next season. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton remain slow of sale. Certain of the lower numbers are distinctly cheaper than a week or two ago. Now and again stocks can be found in first hands. In cloth for Egypt a little more inquiry has been experienced and there continues more activity for Persia and Turkey. There are still difficulties in arranging shipments and financial facilities. A few more offers have been mentioned in piece goods for India. Of the several outlets Madras seems to be the most encouraging. Further buying has occurred for China in bleaching descriptions and grey shirtings. The position of most manufacturers continues wretched, and there is a tendency in some weaving districts to stop more looms than ever. No particular activity can be recorded in home trade fabrics. Prices in American yarns continue very irregular. The offtake in all counts and qualities has been unimportant, and users are still disposed to purchase from hand to mouth. Inquiry has been about in export yarns for European and Near Eastern outlets but not much has been done.

On the occasion of his recent visit to the Tata Steel Works the Viceroy announced that to commemorate the name of the founder of the works Sakchi would henceforth be called Jamshadpur. It has now been decided to change the name of Kalimati, the railway station for Jamshadpur, to Tatanagar.

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TRADE WITH GREECE.

Openings for Machinery.—II.

One of the most promising openings for machinery in Greece should be in connection with agriculture, but it is necessary to point out that the demand for ploughs, threshing machines, reapers, etc., must depend on the extent to which it is found possible to develop the country's staple industry. It has been one of the outstanding weaknesses of Greece's position that so far agriculture has been to some degree neglected with the result that nothing like the possible yield has been obtained from the country's rich and prolific soil. An improvement was evident in this respect before the war, but much remains to be done, and it is an open question how far it is possible to overcome the numerous difficulties in the way of an extension of cultivation. One of the most real obstacles to progress has been the attitude of the peasant class to innovations. The Greek peasant is an exceedingly conservative person, and needs a great deal of convincing as to the utility of modern methods in agriculture. Rural depopulation, which was growing in recent years as a result of an increasing dislike for rural life, presents another problem, and education would be of little immediate avail if the rural population was insufficient in number to till the land on the most approved methods. There is also the question of communications, which are insufficient in rural areas, and the improvement of which must precede a comprehensive scheme to increase cultivation. The lack of capital has also had a retarding effect, and this is, perhaps, the one direction in which difficulty should not be met with owing to the increased wealth of Greece through the war. The other problems are all capable of solution, and as the authorities are making a determined effort to promote the welfare of agriculture it will probably not be long before the market for agricultural machinery in Greece has developed out of all recognition.

Agricultural Machinery.

These considerations only affect the probable growth of the market, and do not concern the question of the immediate need for agricultural machinery, which all accounts agree is likely to be on a very considerable scale. On this point the report in question has much to say that is of interest. In 1915 the area under cultivation in Old and New Greece in hectares (one hectare = 2.47 acres) amounted to 1,372,838 hectares, 929,928 of which were given over to cereal cultivation, and of the remainder raisins were grown on 133,584 hectares, vegetables on 83,412, plants for industrial purposes on 70,586, and currants on 65,885. The country then possessed only 160 threshers, 1,200 reapers, and 100,000 ploughs, figures which, in view of the acreage devoted to cereal cultivation, show the totally inadequate supply of agricultural machinery. In order to safeguard the food supply of the country by cultivation on an intensive scale it is estimated that at the very least 20 to 30 per cent. more machines would be required than would be necessary under normal conditions. For the present year the needs of the country are put at 10,000 ploughs, 200,000 ploughshares, 500 harrows, 200 reapers, 25 threshers, 100 presses, 500 sulphur spreaders, and 500 copper sulphate sprayers for grapevines. These figures are not a private estimate, it must be remembered, but on the contrary represent the deliberate view of the authorities, and as such should go far to convince even the most sceptical among British merchants and manufacturers as to the prospects in the Balkan markets. There is, in short, at the moment a very great opening in Greece for agricultural machinery, but this, promising as it is, is only the foretaste of the market that should exist there when agriculture at a not far distant date has been properly developed. In this connection British agricultural machinery makers who intend to cultivate the market must see to it that their trade is accompanied by the establishment of repair shops in the country. At present such things do not exist, and no step is more likely to develop a temporary trade into a permanent market.

Market for Motors.

The growing market for motor cars in Greece was emphasised in these columns before the war, and it is of interest to note that the view is expressed in the report that the imports of motor vehicles in the future will be on a large scale, but that their coming into universal use will depend on the prices of gasoline and rubber. The use of the motor-car in Greece dates back to 1894, when a solitary vehicle made its appearance, but as late as 1907 there were only seven cars in Greece, four of which belonged to the royal family. From that year onwards, however, the motor car came rapidly into use, and in 1912 120 cars were utilised during the war. Their utility on war service led to a marked increase in their number, and while in 1914 there were 294 motor vehicles in the country, including 105 lorries, 82 motor cabs and cars in private use, 85 motor cabs and cars for hire, 10 motor cars owned by the royal family, and 8 motor cars owned by the Red Cross, by 1916 the number had increased to 487. The development of motor transport facilities will unquestionably do much to develop the market for motor cars, and the success attending experiments in this direction before the war as, for instance, the service of four motor cars between Preveza and Janina, which shortened the journey from 24 hours to between three and a half and four hours, and the services between Salonika and the interior will supply the encouragement needed for the development of this class of transport on extensive lines. At the moment the conditions of the country roads in Old Greece will present an obstacle to progress in this direction, but in much of Macedonia this handicap will not be encountered owing to the road construction that has been accomplished by the troops, and as regards the roads elsewhere it may be taken for granted that it will be one of the great tasks of the authorities to make them fit for ordinary traffic.

Cranes, Elevators, etc.

Among other classes of machinery for which there is a more or less immediate need cranes may be mentioned. The means of unloading at the ports of the Piraeus, Patras, Volo, and Syra, are not up to date, and there is an opening for steam or electric cranes capable of lifting up to 100 tons. There is also a growing opening for lifts for factories, hotels, and the houses with many stories, which are being built in increasing numbers at Athens and the Piraeus.

A further need is for machinery for bakers, also machinery for making boxes and metal goods and condensers. In regard to the first-mentioned class of goods it is pointed out that there is not a single bakery in Greece with a proper equipment for mixing or baking. The ovens in use obtain only 15 per cent. of the heat produced by the fuel consumed, instead of the 65 per cent. obtained in the case of properly conducted ovens.

It is stated that there is further a great need for machinery for making tin containers, and generally for machinery for producing various articles of tin and other substances. In Greece there are 16 factories for tinned goods, all of them small, and with two exceptions not adequately equipped. Between them they produce goods worth 844,000 francs, an amount which, it is pointed out, is too small in view of the trade which is possible in a country so well off for fruits and vegetables as Greece. Reference may be made finally to the opening for condensers for currant juice, and, in particular for tanning and dyeing extracts. There are at present 108 tanneries in the country, and it is believed that the production of tanning extracts is bound in the course of time to assume large proportions.

ROUMANIAN OIL COMMISSION.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, replying to a question by Mr. Cory about the Mission to Roumania to estimate the damage caused to the oil mines, said:—The Commission will be under the charge of the hon. and gallant member for Wandsworth Central (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir J. Norton-Griffiths), who will be accompanied by Mr. A. C. Hearn, representative of the Admiralty; Mr. J. G. Robins, representing the Treasury; Mr. E. Houghton-Fry, representative of the Petroleum Executive and Secretary to the Commission; and Messrs. Andrew Campbell, W. L. Mackenzie, and H. M. J. McCann, technical advisers on oil-drilling, refining, and petroleum chemistry. In addition, there will be two members nominated by the French Government. The terms of reference to the Roumanian Oil Commission, except in regard to matters of detail, are as follows:—"The Commission is charged to visit Roumania and the sites of all damage done under the authority of the Roumanian Government in November-December, 1916, and January, 1917, whether to the oil-fields, oil-works, or refineries, pipelines, pumping stations, or storages, or to corn and other grain stocks or machinery and buildings; to inquire as to the present condition of such properties, and as to how far additional damage was occasioned by enemy action or accident, and as to how far the damage done in November-December, 1916, and January, 1917, was restored or made good by the enemy, and to report on such conditions with a view to advising as to the assessment of any compensation payable by the Roumanian Government." The amount of the claims will depend on the report of the Commission. The number of claimants is forty-nine.

INDIA'S ABSORPTION OF SILVER.

In their latest bullion circular Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. remark that the Indian Financial Statement "reveals the inconvenience—to use no stronger word—caused by an insistence upon metallic money. We use advisedly the word money—and not currency—because the bulk of the silver coin is required for hoarding (notes being perishable), rather than currency. The circulation of one-rupee notes has risen to Rs.90,000,000, but this amount, though encouraging, is slight compared with the heavy absorption of coin recorded by the Indian Currency Returns, notwithstanding extremely large remittances of silver from America. Obviously the hoarding habit is still in full swing."

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the ten days ended February 10 were £E11,847, making the total from the commencement of the year £E320,494. The figures for the corresponding period of the previous twelve months were £E3,502 and £E243,095.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, for the week ended February 20 were:—Cattle markets, £1,499; general markets, £583; total, £2,082; total for year, £14,531. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended February 21 were:—Cattle markets, £779; general markets, £448; total, £1,227; total for year, £9,479.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

The Sudan Trade in Gum—

The February issue of the *Sudan Chamber of Commerce Journal* contains the following review of the trade in gum in the past season:—

The 1917-18 crop has been a good one, and although official figures are not yet available, there is every reason to believe it exceeds that of the previous year by at least 1,000 tons, totalling about 16,000 tons. A noticeable feature of the season was the abnormal arrivals in El Obeid in July, August, and September, when as a general rule only small quantities are expected to come into the market. This was probably due to the fact that the natives delayed bringing their gum in in anticipation of a similar rise in price to that which took place at the end of the previous season. Transport facilities from the interior were more satisfactory than formerly owing to an adequate supply of camels being available, and this, coupled with the fact that no gum cargoes were lost at sea by enemy action, doubtless accounted for the steadiness of prices throughout the season. Owing to shipping difficulties merchants have been more or less restricted to the United Kingdom as a market, with the result that large stocks accumulated there, in addition to a considerable quantity awaiting shipment in Port Sudan and Egyptian ports.

—and Ivory.

The export of this article between January 1 and September 30, 1918, amounted to £E32,373, as compared with £E37,320 for the same period in 1917. For the year 1913 the export value was £E113,000. The decrease in arrivals is probably due not so much to a falling-off in supplies as to a reluctance on the part of the native to bring in ivory when he can only sell it at a much lower price than formerly. It is also reported that in the Wau district (Bahr El Ghazal) the natives have been cutting up many tusks for bangles.

There has been considerable development in the ivory cutting trade in Omdurman, where there has been a good demand for bangles, which shows that the natives are prosperous. It may be that owing to the high price of silver the natives have preferred to buy ivory bangles and bracelets. All ivory which has come to hand has been readily disposed of, the bulk being for London and New York. There has been little fluctuation in prices, which have been firm at £E32 to £E40 per kantar, according to size and quality of tusks.

Bombay Groundnut Crop.

A final memorandum on the groundnut crop of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind and Native States, for the Season 1918-19 states that the latest reports show the total area under the crops as: British Districts, 95,000 acres; Native States, 21,000 acres: total, 116,000; 57.2 per cent. below the area of the previous year and 47 per cent. under the average of the preceding 10 years. Panch Mahals and East Khandesh show some extension of area due in the latter district to high prices fetched by the foreign variety which has recently become popular there. Elsewhere sowings were curtailed throughout the Presidency owing to want of timely and sufficient rain.

Serbia has adopted the Gregorian Calendar as from January 28.

The India Office has issued the following statement showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on February 28:—In India, nil; in England, cash placed by the Secretary for India at short notice, £6,014,430; British and Colonial Government securities (value as on September 30, 1918), £18,857,102; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £10,649,168; total, £35,520,700.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

An English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

The report of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway for the half-year ended September 30 last states that the balance of net earnings, after providing for debenture interest, estimated payment due to the Government and other charges, amounts to Rs.2,26,701. Unclaimed dividends for the half-year September 30, 1915, amounted to Rs.195, and Rs.2,02,597 was brought forward, making Rs.4,29,493. The directors recommend a dividend of rupees six per share on the ordinary shares, amounting to Rs.1,05,000. also a dividend of rupees two and annas eight per share on the preference shares, requiring Rs.1,09,375, to set aside as a contribution to the provident fund Rs.2,779, and to carry forward Rs.2,12,339.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Extensions.

The report of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Extensions Company for the half-year ended September 30 last states that both the lines were worked by the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Company on the terms laid down in the contract with that company, namely, at 50 per cent. of the gross earnings of the Extensions. Rebate for the half-year's working has been claimed from Government according to agreement. The net earnings of the Extensions, supplemented by the rebate from Government, yields a balance of Rs.1.24,878. The directors recommend a dividend of two rupees and eight annas per share, amounting to Rs.1,09,375, and to carry forward Rs.15,503.

Southern Punjab Railway.

The report of the Southern Punjab Railway for the year to September 30 last states that the total expenditure on capital account to the end of the year was £4,223,504, leaving a balance of capital in hand of £76,496. Expenditure during the year amounted to £11,704. The net earnings at exchange of 1s. 4d. were: Main Line and Kaithal Branch, £291,400, against £210,577; Ludhiana Extension, £41,282, against £43,087; Sutlej Valley Railway, £45,927, against £45,869, Jullundur Doab Railway and rebate, £39,752, against £39,730. The net revenue was £410,577, of which £146,209 is payable to the Secretary of State for India as the share of surplus profits due to the Government, and £20,000 is transferred to contingencies account, leaving £244,368; £103,847 was brought forward, making £348,215. Final dividend on the ordinary stock of £7 per cent. and a further bonus of £1 per cent., making a total distribution of £14 per cent. for the year, from which English income-tax at 4s. 9.24d. will be deducted, leaving £116,215 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

The directors of the Mysore Gold Mining Company have declared a balance dividend for the year 1918 of 2s. per share, less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in £, payable on April 2 to holders registered 6th instant. The distribution for the year is at the rate of 45 per cent. on the nominal capital of the company.

The directors of the National Bank of Egypt recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. The annual general meeting of the bank will be held in Cairo on March 24.

The directors of Peacock and Nilambe (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates have declared a dividend of 6s., less income-tax, at 5s. 9d. in £, payable 15th inst.

The directors of the Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea Company have declared a final dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year ending 31st instant on the preference shares, payable, less tax, on that date.

The report of the Central Bank of India for 1918 states that the net profit was Rs.5,22,747, making with amount brought forward a total of Rs.5,53.242. From this an ad-interim dividend at 8 per cent. per annum, free of tax, was paid for the six months ended June 30, 1918, and the directors have transferred to reserve fund Rs.3,00,000. Dividend declared at rate of 9 per cent. per annum, free of tax, for half-year ended December 31, 1918; carry forward, Rs.40,742.

The extraordinary general meeting of the Khedivial Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Limited, held on March 11, was adjourned to April 28.

NEW COMPANIES.

The Gavatenne Estate Company has been formed in Ceylon to acquire the Gavatenne estate in Madulkela. The company has a nominal capital of Rs.200,000, divided into Rs.10 shares, and the first directors are Mr. Andrew Young, Mr. C. A. Hutson, and Mr. C. C. Stephen.

International and Balkan Co.

The International and Balkan Trading Co., Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £10,000 in 10s. shares, as importers, exporters, bankers, capitalists, etc., in Great Britain, the U.S.A., the Levant, or elsewhere; also as dealers in and refiners, cutters, and manipulators of ores, marble, minerals, oils, timber, etc. The first directors are:—J. MacKechnie, banker; W. R. Smith, quarry master; and L. W. Farrow, C.A., all of 53, New Broad Street, E.C.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON FEBRUARY 22.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	22½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	110
" Div.	Frs.	160
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	13½
" priv.	L.E.	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	240
Bons de Panama	Frs.	178
Casas di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	1 1½
" Priv.	Frs.	112
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	103⅛
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6
Bonded Stores	L.E.	12½
Unifiée	L.E.	91⅝
Privilégiée		79
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7
" Fond.	£	46
Nungovich Hotels	£	7
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6
" " Priv.	£	8
" " Fond.	£	520
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4⅜
" Ord		96/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	14
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	115
" Jouissance	Frs.	189
Egyptian Markets		25/9
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	405xd
Div.	Frs.	360xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	322
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5½
Egyptian Salt and Soda		48/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	769
" Fondateur	Frs.	1100
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	416
" 1903 "	Frs.	310
" 1911 "	Frs.	285xd
United Lands	P.T.	14
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		13 3/4

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has again been a fairly active market in Egyptian descriptions, and here and there there is a further appreciation in prices. But telegraphic communication with Egypt has been worse than ever, telegrams now taking as long as letters. This, of course, is very seriously interfering with business between the two markets.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have put on a further ½ at 92½, but business has been very restricted, as sellers are few and far between. Egypt 3½ per cent. Prefs. have likewise risen ½ to 78½.

In Bank shares there has been a sharp rise in National Banks of 7-16 to 22⅝ on the increased dividend announced for last year—namely, 10 per cent., against 8 per cent. for the previous year. The profits, when published, are expected to make an excellent showing. Agriculturals have firmed up 1-16 to 6 29-32. Anglo-Egyptian banks have been exceptionally a dull spot, and are ½ down at 15¾.

In Land shares a very active business has been going on, particularly in New Egyptians and Sudan Plantations. The former, after rising to 28s. 3d., are finishing 4½d. higher at 27s. 9d. Sudan Plantations had a sensational rise to 5 7-16, and are closing 1 1-16 higher at 5¼. Allotments have improved ⅛ to 4⅜, but shares are scarce. Union Foncières have risen 3s. to 75s. 6d., with a certain amount of business passing, but sellers are scarce. United Egyptian Lands, on the reconstruction proposals, have weakened 3d. to 2s. 3d., after being down to 2s.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Salts and Sodas, after being down to 2⅞, close 1-16 firmer at 3. Khedivial Mail Ordinaries are fractionally quieter at 5⅝.

In Greek securities there is a demand for the 1881, 1884, and 1890 Loans round the current level. Monopolies are ½ firmer at 53½. Rentes have appreciated a point to 56½, and the other loans are unchanged.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians "B" close at 82s. 6d., Anglo-Persian Prefs. are 25s. 7d., and Burmahs are 8 5-16. Anglo-Roumanians are 11s. 1½d. and Roumanian Consols are 17s. 1½d. Other prices are Bakus, 4s. 6d., and North Caucasians, 23s. 3d.

GREEK OPIUM.

The Greek opium crop has been mediocre as to quantity, says an American Consular report. The cloudy and cool weather during March caused considerable damage to the growing poppy, and consequently the Macedonian regions of Salonika, Kilkich, Langaza, and Chalcidice produced only about 40 cases of opium, weighing approximately 4,230 lb. The quality has been good, yielding an average of 13 per cent. of morphine, according to the English test. The sowing for the coming crop took place under fairly favourable circumstances, and therefore the prospects at present seem good for a profitable yield in 1919. Prices during the course of the 1917-18 season have been strongly fluctuating.

Mr. H. V. Lanchester, the well-known town-planning expert, is visiting the United Provinces, where his advice is being sought in connection with the Cawnpore town-planning scheme.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Mar. 4	Mar. 11
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	93	84	84
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	92	92½
Do. Pref. 5% 1890	88	78	78½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	71	71
Do. 5%, 1884	56	71	58½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	58	56½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	55½	71
Do. 5%, 1890	56	71	64
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	64	64	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	63
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	81xd
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	81xd	97
Do. 5% Currant	—	97	—
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	71
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	82
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	75½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16½	15½
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅛	7⅛
British Trade Corporation	—	11½	11½
Chartered Bank of India	65	71	72
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	9¼	9¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7	7
London County and Westminster	—	16⅞	17⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22⅞	22⅞
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8½	8½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	28/9	28/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	13⅜	13⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝xd	4⅝xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/-	16/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/-	16/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	27/3½	27/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	4⅞	5½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	72/6	75/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2,6	2/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	28/3	28/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	2⅛	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Fascher, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Anwas, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiras, Sultanabad, Tabris and Yezd.
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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Remittances to Belgrade, Uskub and Monastir can now be effected through

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Telephone: 1110 London Wall.

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Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.52,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Beswada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,61,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 25,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Narainguage, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. Fixed Deposits received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and Remittances made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. Discount Accounts opened and approved. Mercantile Bills discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000 | Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | Reserve - - - - - £237,500

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER · LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. MANCHESTER. NEW YORK.
EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.
MOROCCO:—
CASABLANCA, FEZ MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, SAFFI, TANGIER.
CANARY ISLANDS:—
LAS PALMAS.
WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL .. .. £2,000,000 | Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) £1,000,000
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. £2,000,000 | Reserve Fund £1,350,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq. SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, Esq. J. N. STUART, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

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

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

BRANCHES.

Calcutta	Cawnpore	Tuticorin	Mandalay	Kandy	Mombasa	British East Africa	Entebbe
Bombay	Lahore	Cochin (S. India)	Aden	Nowera Eliya	Nairobi		Kampala
Madras	Amritsar	Chittagong	Aden, Steamer Point	Zanzibar	Nakuru		Jinja
Karachi	Delhi	Rangoon	Colombo		Kisumu		

Uganda

OCCUPIED TERRITORY GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

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

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 411.—Vol. XV. THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The necessity for speeding up the Paris deliberations having been recognised, in order that the world may wait no longer for peace than is actually unavoidable, the work of the Council of Ten during the last week has been connected mainly with the terms to be imposed upon Germany. It is understood that the committees engaged on territorial adjustments have found their task just as difficult as was anticipated, with the result that reports are apt to be behindhand. The Italo-Yugoslav controversy has been reserved for the Council of Ten, and for this reason would seem to be regarded in Italy as still susceptible to propaganda. This at least is one explanation offered of the publication in Rome of an official memorandum giving a summary of Italy's territorial claims. It is more likely that the step has been taken to safeguard the Government before Italian public opinion. Other Governments—not among the Great Powers, it is true—have adopted the same course, which, although not without its drawbacks, has the merit of being strictly in accord with the principles of democracy.

Unexpected opposition to the claims of Greece to Smyrna and the west coast of Asia Minor has revealed itself on the part of the American representatives on the Committee dealing with Greek affairs. Their contention is said to be that Smyrna is essential to the future Ottoman State as a port of exit and entrance on the Ægean Sea, and for this reason they would override the obvious claims of nationality. If a compromise has to be effected on this point, it should be rendered the more easily attainable by the fact that the bulk of the trade with the interior of Asia Minor is likely to be in Greek hands, and it will be to the advantage of the merchants not to have to pay double duties on goods entering Turkey by this route. In regard to the Dodecanese, the Committee, as was foreseen, was unanimous in recognising the Greek civilisation of the islands. The American delegates desired that this decision should be carried to its logical conclusion by a recommendation for the incorporation of the islands in Greece; but in view of the provisions of the secret Treaty of London the British, French, and Italian Delegates withheld their approval until the subject could be diplomatically adjusted with Italy.

Italy, however, so far as is known, is showing no alacrity to waive her claims to a variety of pounds of flesh to the surrender of which the British and French Governments gave their consent in 1915 under pressure of an impelling necessity. But a definite decision on this point cannot be deferred much longer. It is natural that Great Britain and France should feel their hands tied in the matter; but the United States Government has a free hand, and has let it be clearly known through its delegates to the Conference that it refuses to take any account of the London Treaty or to sanction any peace settlement based on it. In claiming Fiume Italy has herself gone outside the Treaty, and this step may have been prompted by a desire to peg out a fresh claim as compensation for the renunciation of the London Treaty.

In Egypt three incidents have followed in quick succession, the acceptance of the resignation of the Prime Minister, the deportation of four prominent Nationalists, and the outbreak of riots. The Nationalists deported were Zaghlul Pasha, Ismail Pasha Sidky, Mohammed Pasha Mahmoud, and Hamed Pasha Bassel, all of whom are mentioned in the article which we publish in this issue from our Cairo Correspondent. They had previously been warned that their conduct had come under the disapproval of the British authorities, and it has to be inferred from their subsequent arrest that they made no attempt to mend their ways. *Prima facie* evidence against them is afforded by the outbreak of riots following upon their deportation. The extremist doctrines of nationalism must have been inculcated among the student class and the lower orders to a sufficient extent to provide the nucleus for disturbances. In this particular trial of strength with the forces of order the Nationalists can hardly have found much encouragement. The disturbances were at first confined to Cairo, and in their collisions with the military the rioters suffered a number of casualties. A subsequent outbreak occurred at Tantah in the Delta, which has rather a bad reputation in regard to riots, and this time eleven rioters were killed, and the total number of casualties was sixty-two, as compared with thirty-seven in Cairo. Order in both places has been restored. The disturbances are to be regretted; but there is no need to exaggerate their importance, and it will be noted that General Allenby has not been prevented from leaving Egypt.

Although the urgency of the Preliminary Peace Treaty is admitted, it is to be hoped that, if it has to omit a number of questions which cannot claim the priority of the settlement of Germany, no long interval will be allowed to elapse before the Final Treaty is signed. A large number of interests are concerned in the future of the lands that formed the Turkish Empire, and the welfare, if not the actual existence, of thousands of people is dependent on an early return to settled conditions. It is now believed in Paris that what was formerly Ottoman territory will be split up

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into eight or nine units, and *The Times* correspondent suggests that while the Turkish homelands alone will be left under Turkish rule, Kurdistan, Armenia, Constantinople and the Straits with adjacent strips of territory, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and Cilicia will be allotted to mandatory States. The enumeration is interesting. As the number of possible mandatory Powers is limited, it will be important to group the different units under a single Power in a way that will facilitate trade relations. Turkey, however, is not the only country in this part of the world for which provision has to be made. If Transcaucasia is to be permanently separated from Russia, it is evident that it will be long before the component parts are in a position to govern themselves and to keep the peace between one another. There will be even less alacrity, it will be imagined, on the part of any Power to look after this territory than to become responsible for portions of Turkey.

The question of the succession to the throne of Afghanistan has been settled in favour of Aman Ullah Khan, the third son of the late Ameer Habib Ullah. The readiness of the eldest son, Inayat Ullah, to waive his claim before the pretensions of his uncle, Nasr Ullah, and the apparent intention of the latter to profit by the murder of his brother without taking steps to avenge it are said to have led to a general desire that the Government should be placed in strong hands. Aman Ullah was accordingly proclaimed Ameer in Kabul, and Nasr Ullah has renounced his claims and sworn allegiance. One of the first acts of the new ruler has been to send a letter to the Government of India announcing his succession and giving assurances that he will continue the policy of friendly relations with the British Government so steadily maintained by his father. Further, he expressed profound grief and indignation with regard to the murder of the Ameer Habib Ullah.

Reference was made last week in these columns to the rival claims to the attention of the scientific excavator of Egypt on the one hand and of Assyria and Babylonia on the other. One extremely important point was not, however, touched upon. Whereas the rainless climate of Egypt and the dryness of the Egyptian desert favour the preservation of any relics of the past that still await excavation in that region, the winter rains, the floods, and the salt-impregnated soil of Lower Mesopotamia—the Babylonia of the Old Testament—render it imperative to rescue such relics of the civilisation of that country as may yet be left to the world. The still vivid colouring and the marvellous air of having been made but yesterday that mark many Egyptian antiquities serve to show that sites in the Nile Valley may safely be left to await exploration, if necessary, for a century or two longer. In Mesopotamia conditions are very different. We have not, and in all probability never shall have from that field, any antiquity to equal in freshness of appearance the statues of Rykos and Nefert, or in wonderful preservation the well-known wooden "Sheikh el-Beled" of the Cairo Museum. But Assyrian and Babylonian relics are often of great artistic merit, and in any case they are at least as valuable as those of Ancient Egypt. Therefore, as they are in much greater danger of being lost to the world, it would seem that they should naturally claim first the attention of the archæological digger.

In his statement in Parliament last week General Seely made it clear that the transport of the Indian mails by air has passed well beyond the stage of amateur discussion. Apparently there are still difficulties in the European section of the journey, but between Egypt and India the road is so far clear that the question of agency is now "a matter for consideration though not for long delay." Careful estimates give a prospect of profit, the enthusiasm of the Postmaster-General has been aroused, and the Air Ministry intends to concentrate its efforts on this service as the pioneer of future developments. The prospect of accelerated communication will undoubtedly be welcomed in this country as well as in India; it is particularly attractive just now, with the cable service going apparently from bad to worse, and we trust that General Seely's aspirations will be quickly realised.

An excellent illustration of the need for improved means of communication may be seen in the anxiety which is finding expression in this country regarding the economic position in India. There is a disposition to hope that "the situation is well in hand," but we cannot recall any occasion on which the lack of confidence was more manifest, and the main reason undoubtedly is that so little information reaches the public—and reaches it so late—that conjecture has a practically undisputed field, and ordinary people are tempted to suspect that something is being concealed. It is now more than a fortnight since this anxiety was voiced by *The Times;* in the interval a question in Parliament has elicited a not very enlightening reply, but the full official statement which was demanded has not yet appeared, and, speaking for ourselves, we consider that in such a matter no official statement can wholly take the place of a prompt and regular supply of news which members of the public can weigh and interpret for themselves.

The demand for news is, however, intensified in this instance by uncertainty regarding the policy of the Government of India. Men of experience in this country recognised that the exceptional circumstances which prevailed last autumn might justify the sudden decision to abandon old maxims and establish State-control over the distribution of supplies of food, but they doubted whether control could be made effective. It has since been substantially relaxed, while Sir Claude Hill has now admitted that his heroic attempt to estimate food-stocks has completely broken down, and consequently the basis for scientific control has not been in existence. If, as these changes of policy suggest, the Supreme Government has been groping in the dark, the difficulties of the provincial administrations must have been greatly increased, and the alarmist statements which are reaching this country through unofficial sources cannot be discounted in the way which was possible when the old and tried system was working with the regularity of a machine.

We believe, however, that these anxieties could in great measure be dispelled if the India Office could find the time to place the facts clearly before the public. The last mail brings us the information that on February 8 there were fewer than 33,000 people receiving relief in the affected districts of the United Provinces; the numbers on the same date in 1908 were about 780,000, and since distress usually reaches the maximum during March, we are justified in concluding that in the North at least the situation gives no reason for alarm. Corresponding figures have not reached us for Bombay or Central India, but we take it that they could be discovered somewhere in Whitehall, and a clear statement of the comparative intensity of distress in these parts of the country would go a long way towards filling the void created by the dislocation of the ordinary system of intelligence.

Speaking of famines, the Indian weather authorities would be well-advised to prepare for a renewal of the demand for a comprehensive formula indicating the years when the rains are likely to fail. Enthusiasts on this topic have in the past made much play with the mystic numbers 11 and 19. Now the last three serious droughts in the North were 1896, 1907, and 1918, giving an 11-year period, while the West was dry in 1899 and 1918, or an interval of nineteen years, and the double coincidence cannot fail to whet the appetites of those who maintain that it is the duty of Science to predict. Should the North fill its granaries against a lean year in 1929, and may the West think of pleasanter things till 1937? Perhaps the question is unnecessary, for by that time responsible government may be in force, and the politicians who assure us that famine is bred by bureaucracy will have had time to bring the weather under popular control.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 25.

The Question of Leave.

Difficulty still seems to be experienced to a certain extent in obtaining passages on homeward bound steamers, and the Government has not yet been able to complete its arrangements for the provision of accommodation for British officials and residents. Inquiry at the various passenger agents has elicited the amazing fact that there are several thousand names down for berths to Europe and England this summer. Allowing for the tendency of some of the more eager folk to put their names down at more than one agency, in the hopes of thereby standing a better chance of securing a berth, this is considerably more than the normal number of European residents who might wish to go away this year. There is, indeed, reason to believe that in this total are quite a number of Egyptians and local people who in pre-war years were accustomed to proceed to Europe every summer in order to enjoy themselves. Whilst one quite sympathises with these people at their having been forced to remain in their own country for four years without being able to obtain their customary change of air and diversion; yet the fact remains that, if accommodation on homeward-bound steamers is going to be restricted, the European element that requires to get away for purely health reasons should have first consideration and should in every instance have precedence. There is no reason why the pleasure-seeking local element should take up the accommodation so badly needed by the European community, and it is to be hoped that the authorities will take steps to prevent this.

The Censorship.

It has been with great pleasure that we noted in the New Year's Honours, and more recently in General Allenby's list of mentions, the names of Anglo-Egyptians who have been identified with the censorship. Few people realise what a burdensome and ungrateful task theirs has been and how well they have carried it out during the last four and a-half years. With the Press Censorship I have personally not come into contact, and the task of appreciating its work must be left to my colleagues in Egypt. But of the Cable and Postal Censorship I can speak from experience, and to them, if they will allow me, I should like to express what I believe is the opinion of everyone who has had anything to do with them, an appreciation of the courtesy, tact, and impartiality with which they have carried out what must at times have been a very distasteful and thankless job. The Postal Censors especially deserve more than passing praise. They may not have been in the public eye to anything like the same extent as their colleagues of the telegraph, etc., but theirs has been an even more exacting and uninteresting task; which has, however, been of infinite value to the authorities, and which they have carried out to the complete satisfaction of the latter. From the public point of view the results have also been satisfactory. There have indeed at no time been any complaints of unnecessary delay in the delivery of the mails, etc.; and considering the erratic nature of the arrivals of mail steamers and the almost inconceivable number of languages and dialects in which correspondence in and with this country is carried on, this is an achievement that speaks volumes for the conscientiousness and industry with which the Postal Censors have fulfilled their duties.

Cairo, March 3.

The Financial Adviserships.

The most important item of news this week is the appointment of Sir Richard Crawford, late adviser to the Turkish Customs, to the Financial Adviserships. Although the late Lord Edward Cecil had been compelled by ill-health to give up his duties as far back as the autumn of 1917, the post did not fall vacant until his death, about three months ago. The work was meanwhile carried on by Sir William Brunyate, the Judicial Adviser, who moved over from the Ministry of Justice, where Mr. Sheldon Amos has since acted for him. With the duties of Financial Adviser Sir William Brunyate has combined the task of reporter to the Capitulations Committee. The work attaching to the Financial Adviserships (never by any means a sinecure) has been considerably increased since the war, and, the task of Reporter to the Capitulations Committee being itself by its very nature an extremely onerous one, it has become apparent that the two posts could not possibly continue indefinitely to be concentrated in the hands of one man. Obviously at the present moment the most important and the most urgent question before the country is the administrative and judicial reorganisation necessitated by the projected abolition of the Capitulations. Such being the case, and Sir William Brunyate having already done much of the hard work of the Capitulations Committee, and being, in fact, the one man indicated for the post of Reporter to that body, the British Government has decided that it will be in the general interest that a new man be appointed to the Financial Adviserships; and that Sir William Brunyate should revert to the Judicial Adviserships, where he will be able to give his whole attention to the work of the Capitulations Committee.

It is stated—and I have every reason to believe that the information is substantially correct—that in recognition of the work he has done since he assumed the duties of Acting Financial Adviser, the status of the Judicial Adviserships is to be raised during the time Sir William Brunyate remains at the Ministry of Justice. Hitherto the Adviserships of Justice, the Interior, Education, and Public Works have been of equal rank, the Financial Adviserships taking precedence by reason of its higher salary and of the fact that the holder has a seat on the Council of Ministers. It is stated that Sir William Brunyate as Judicial Adviser will draw the same salary as and rank equally with the Financial Adviser, and it is further rumoured that he may also be given a seat on the Council of Ministers.

I understand that as soon as Sir Richard Crawford has taken up his duties, which is expected to be very shortly, Sir William Brunyate will proceed on leave for a well-earned rest. The Hon. R. Lindsay, who is Under-Secretary for Finance, will vacate that post on his appointment to Washington in the very near future, and will be replaced by Mr. E. M. Dowson, Director-General of Survey, who has carried out the duties of Under-Secretary during Mr. Lindsay's absence on leave and more recently since the latter's appointment as chairman of the Cotton Control Commission in Alexandria.

Army Sports.

This week there took place at Gezira a three-day athletic meeting, the first of the series organised for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force Championships in connection with the Imperial Army Sports Meeting, which is to be held in England about the middle of April. The greatest interest is being taken in these meetings by the men for whose benefit they are primarily being organised, and for weeks past the various units have been hard at work training and carrying out eliminating competitions. Exceedingly large entries had been received for this week's meeting, which took place on the grounds of the Sporting Club, and included, in addition to the usual races and athletic competitions, a five-mile cross-country race—the first, it is said, ever to have been organised in Egypt.

The finals attracted a very large gathering, which included a considerable sprinkling of civilians. The last day was attended by His Highness the Sultan, who drove over in State and was very much interested in the day's entertainment; and by General and Lady Allenby, both of whom had come up specially from Palestine. The Acting High Commissioner, Sir Milne Cheetham, and Lady Cheetham were also present. Some of the finals were very hotly disputed. The Australians gained the honours of the day by the number of events they won; but it is only fair to say that in many of them they only secured first place by the narrowest margin. The British representatives did exceedingly well, so also did the Indians, one of whom won one of the group cross-country races and shortly afterwards won

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the quarter-mile race. At the close of the meeting the prizes were presented by Lady Allenby.

Further events have been organised, and will take place during the next three weeks, and teams will be selected to represent the E.E.F. in Rugby football, Association football, the cross-country race, and boxing. The teams which eventually go to England to compete with teams from other fronts should be able worthily to uphold the honour of the E.E.F., if one may judge by the form shown at the meeting held here this week.

The Racing Season.

Racing is continuing very successfully here in Cairo. In addition to the weekly meetings held alternatively at Gezira and at Heliopolis, which are attracting enormous crowds, the Cairo Command has been organising military meetings, three of which have already been held and have provided excellent sport. At the last Gezira race meeting a novelty was afforded us by the spectacle of a coach and four, fully charged with a military passenger cargo, driving up on the far side of the course opposite the grand stand to the "toot-toot" of the familiar coach-horn (supplied in this instance by the regimental cornet). In many of us this spectacle awakened reminiscences of old pre-war days, when the cavalry regiment stationed out at Abbassia always attended the fortnightly race meetings in this manner. A novel feature was contributed later on in the afternoon by the appearance of two highwaymen with masks and revolvers, who held up the coach, the passengers of which gravely handed over their field-glasses and other impedimenta amid the intense amusement of the spectators, and not least of the Egyptian element, which thoroughly entered into the fun of the proceedings.

The Mixed Courts.

The appointment is announced of Mr. W. W. Thorne as Judge of the Mixed Courts of First Instance at Alexandria. Strictly speaking, this is a reappointment, as Mr. Thorne was appointed a Judge in the Mixed Courts about two years ago, but was almost immediately nominated by the British Government as British Delegate on the Greek Indemnities Commission, and thus had to relinquish his Egyptian appointment. The work of that Commission having terminated, Mr. Thorne has now been able to take up once more his appointment in the Mixed Courts. I understand that his collaboration proved most valuable to his colleagues on the Commission and to the British and Greek Governments, and that had the Egyptian Government been prepared to spare his services, he would have been appointed to other Commissions about to sit on Balkan questions.

The Ministerial Crisis.

Just as I close this letter the announcement is made that His Highness the Sultan has accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister, His Excellency Hussein Rushdi Pasha. This entails the resignation of the whole Cabinet, and the formation of a new one is now in progress. Pending the constitution of a new Ministry, Rushdi Pasha and his colleagues have been asked to carry on.

JOINING THE WINNING SIDE.

Of the keen desire of the average Persian to be on the winning side, the following extract from some "Persian Pictures" in the "C.M.S. Gleaner" for April gives a very good idea:—"One day we saw coming towards us over the desert a party of about twenty men. They were very poorly clad, unkempt, and wild, with sun-browned faces and long straggling hair; and each one carried over his shoulder a rough stick or native spade, to which was tied a small bundle of provisions and a water-pot. As is the custom with those who meet or pass in the desert, my fellow-traveller called out to them the favourite Persian greeting: 'O slaves of God, salaam!' (Peace be to you.) They drew near and talked, ready enough to ask our business and to tell us theirs.

"They were a group of labourers from some small village near the southern coast, and they had heard that, very far away, up in the northern desert, there was war. Their food was dear and scarce, and money very hard to earn. So they were marching north that they might fight, and, maybe, if they joined the winning side, some of the riches that a victory brings might fall into their hands.

"'Are you our friends or enemies?' we asked. 'We do not know; at present we are friends, but till we reach the place where nations fight we cannot tell on which side we shall help.'"

LETTER FROM PORT SAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, March 6.

The first real excitement since the signing of the Armistice was occasioned this week by the arrival of H.M.S. New Zealand, carrying Admiral and Lady Jellicoe. At daylight those who were watching observed her two tripod masts emerging from the morning mist, and before 8 a.m. she was safely berthed in the harbour, opposite the Queen Victoria Jubilee memorial. It had been proposed that Admiral Jellicoe should have an official welcome from the British residents, but circumstances prevented this. However, committees had arranged a welcome for the officers and men. For the former a cricket match against Port Said was arranged, and lunch was served on the Sports' Ground for the visitors' eleven, and tea at the same place for all the officers. The game resulted in a win for the visitors, though the home team put up a remarkably good fight.

Admiral Jellicoe left Port Said for Cairo by the mid-day train, but on his way to the station he watched the progress of the cricket match for a few minutes, and chatted to some of the residents. He rejoined the New Zealand at Suez.

The petty officers and men came ashore at 4 p.m., and, headed by the ship's band of bagpipes and drums, marched up to the Rest Camp, Y.M.C.A., where tea was provided for them. After tea each man was given a packet of cigarettes and oranges. The size of the latter astonished some of the visitors, and they were with difficulty persuaded that the size was due to natural growth and not to boiling, and that less than three days previously those same oranges had been growing in the gardens at Jaffa.

After the tables were cleared a party of children, known locally as the "Fairies," gave a fine entertainment, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present; and after that a good cinema show took place in a specially constructed hut adjoining. At 9 p.m. the visitors marched back to their ship, and, judging by the songs and cheering, were thoroughly pleased with their reception at Port Said.

The New Zealand left the following morning for Suez, but was somewhat delayed in her passage through the Canal, owing to the bad weather which prevented the movements of light ships.

We have been reminded of some of the effects of the war by the appearance in the outer harbour yesterday of a large floating dock, which was brought from Aden to Mudros in the early days of the war. It is now being taken back there. Owing to the bad weather it could not be brought into the harbour, but was anchored in the outer roadstead attended by the tugs which towed it here. It will have to await very favourable weather for its passage through the Canal, as the railway bridge which crosses the Canal, and which has been constructed since it passed through, leaves no room for zig-zagging, however slight.

THE CHURCH OF KADIKEUI.

(From a Correspondent.)

Constantinople, March 1.

A few weeks ago the death of Rev. F. R. Elliot, formerly chaplain of Kadikeui, Constantinople, was recorded in The Near East. This chaplaincy is still in existence, the present occupant being Rev. W. S. Langston Day, M.A., who carried on services regularly during the war, and also for the last fifteen months conducted services in the Crimean Memorial Church, Pera, the *locum tenens*, Dr. Wigram, having been deported. The church at Kadikeui experienced hard usage during the last four years, the stained-glass windows in memory of the late Sir William Whittall being broken with stones, and on another occasion the altar cross and other objects of value being stolen by burglars who entered the church one night. Services, however, continued as usual, and the faithful few who formed the congregation during this trying period now have the joy of seeing their numbers largely increased by the detachment of the King's Royal Rifles, who march to church from their quarters at Haidar Pasha every Sunday.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Official Changes.

Considerable changes are pending in the public services. Retirements will include those of Sir Charles Tyser, Chief Justice; Mr. J. R. Holmes, President of the District Court of Nicosia; and Mr. Hore, island Postmaster. Mr. G. Jeffrey, Curator of Public Monuments, also retires. The death of Mr. Baxendale, Commissioner of Larnaca, creates another vacancy.

A number of officials desire to go on leave, but great difficulties unfortunately exist as regards communications with Europe. Mr. E. McDonald, Commissioner of Kyrenia, who got as far as Egypt, met with obstacles in proceeding further, and may even have to return to Cyprus.

Mr. Malcolm Stevenson, who has administered the government since the death of Sir John Clauson, carries on to the satisfaction of all, and is ably helped in all social matters by Mrs. Stevenson.

The Nicosia Municipality.

Nicosia has lately shown a sorry example as regards municipal work and supervision. The insanitary state of the meat market, the slaughter-house, and many streets and public places has given rise to universal complaint, and reflects grave discredit on the municipal body. Refuse from the houses is thrown into the great moat which surrounds the city wall, and sheep and goats are kept in filthy premises. An Order in Council has been published requiring the municipal council—which, on inquiry, has been shown to have "made default in the performance of its duty"—to abate the nuisances (which are "a source of danger to the public health") by a fixed date. The state of things is not what one would expect in the capital after a British occupation of forty years, but rather characteristic of a neglected Levantine town still under Turkish rule. Much wider powers have been given to municipal councils under British administration, but unfortunately in too many instances the corresponding duties are ignored. British officials have no *locus standi* or control over them, as they had in the early days, and a European is rarely elected to a seat. The need of a guiding hand would seem to be as great as ever in some of the most important spheres of municipal work.

The opening of the Legislative Council should take place in March, but no date has yet been fixed. The absence of the Greek members, excepting one, now in London, should affect but little the course of legislation. There will be many less speeches, a fact which may bring its compensations. The work awaiting the Council is, moreover, not heavy. During the war the island has been none the worse for the subsidence of "nomo-mania," as the Greeks have nicknamed the previous super-thirst for legislation and rhetoric.

Future of Cyprus.

The Greek Press is very optimistic as to the political outlook, and is now quite convinced that a favourable reply will be given by the Imperial Government, or as an outcome of the Peace Conference, to the petition for union with Greece. The work of the deputation in London is reported regularly in a series of letters published by the leading Greek paper at Nicosia (the "Voice of Cyprus"), which records the progress made step by step. Accounts are given of interviews with leading Phil-Hellenes and partisans of the Hellenic cause in England. A "favourable atmosphere" is said to have been created in liberty-loving Britain. Translations of all articles and letters in the British Press bearing upon the Cyprus question in a favourable spirit are printed in most of the papers, and the views of Mr. Pember Reeves, Professor Ronald Burrows, and others are given prominence. The Greeks also follow with great interest the progress of Greek claims elsewhere; the course of which is not regarded as so promising. It is urged that Cypriots must not be behind other Greeks in helping M. Venizelos to push forward the consolidation of national interests.

First O.B.E. for Cyprus.

The Acting High Commissioner, Mr. M. Stevenson, during a visit of several days to Limassol, presented to Mr. Vrasidas Laniti, chief secretary to the Commissioner, the medal of the O.B.E., recently conferred upon him. The principal law court in which the presentation took place was densely crowded. Mr. Laniti is greatly esteemed in Cyprus, and the honour—the first conferred on a Cypriot—marks, as Mr. Stevenson stated, the high appreciation of the British Government of Mr. Laniti's zealous services.

The state of the roads, after the late heavy rains, prevented Mr. Stevenson from proceeding to Papho, as intended. He hopes to go there early in March.

General Sir Edmund ALLENBY writes:

General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force,
January, 1919.

My dear Bishop MacInnes,

I have been looking into various problems in connection with the relief of distress in the areas which are now under my administration in Palestine and Syria, and I wish to support very heartily your appeal to the generosity of the British public, through the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, for funds to carry on this work.

The next few months, until the new harvest is reaped, **will be a critical period.** War and sickness have taken heavy toll of the manhood of these countries; stocks of food and clothing are almost entirely depleted, and it must be long before we can repair the damages done by four years of war following centuries of misrule.

You will, I think, be well advised largely to concentrate your efforts on raising and also on spending during the coming six months as much money as possible for **the need now is urgent,** while I trust that a little later on it will not be so acute.

The work already accomplished by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund in Jerusalem and Southern Palestine **has been admirable.** I am particularly impressed by the endeavours of your staff of workers personally to investigate the cases of all those who apply for relief, and thus to minimise the danger of pauperising the people.

I regard it as important that you should not just yet relax your efforts in Jerusalem, but at the same time the work now covers a much wider area than ever. **All possible help is required.** The Syria and Palestine Relief Fund already has the necessary organisation and experience. Its agents mostly know the country well and are working in close touch with my administrators in each place. I hope that the efforts to obtain continued support for the work will be highly successful.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) EDMUND H. H. ALLENBY.

SYRIA & PALESTINE RELIEF FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

IN THE NORTH. Clothing situation desperate. Thousands of children orphaned and uncared for. Destitution everywhere. New Relief Unit being dispatched at once, at General Allenby's request. **Money most urgently needed.**

Cheques payable to the Secretary, 110, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Transylvania.

The Roumanian Executive Council, under the presidency of Dr. Julius Maniu, is making every effort to reorganise Transylvania. Magyar propagandists, however, are trying to stir up trouble and to incite the non-Roumanian population to revolt. The latest attempt of this propaganda was made in the domain of religion; the Magyar agents denouncing the Roumanians as the most intolerant people, who intend to interfere with the religious liberty of the non-Orthodox peoples of Transylvania. The Roumanian Executive Council has declared—from the first days of its coming into power—that the policy of Roumania is absolute respect for religious and political rights of the non-Roumanian minorities. This declaration has not remained a dead letter, but has been the guiding principle of the policy of the Roumanian National Council. They have respected the school organisation of the minorities, their religious institutions, their local organisations; and even in the purely Roumanian districts they have maintained the Magyar officials if they would take the oath of allegiance to the Roumanian Council. The only Magyar officials removed from their posts were those who refused to recognise the Roumanian authority, and were found to be *agents provocateurs* of the Magyar propaganda. It is quite natural that a population subjected to a brutal policy of denationalisation, as was the case with the Roumanians of Transylvania, should be inclined to take revenge upon its former oppressor; but the Roumanian Council, in accord with the Government of Bucharest, entrusted Roumanians from the Kingdom with the work of keeping order in some of the localities where the situation was most delicate.

Concerning the accusation of religious intolerance, it may be interesting to note that Transylvania, during its period of independent existence, provided the first striking instance of religious toleration in Europe, by establishing all religions on a footing of absolute equality before the law (1571). In order to understand the peculiar political position of Transylvania, as well as the mentality of its inhabitants, it is necessary to glance briefly at the history of that province. Transylvania always enjoyed a certain autonomy under the Hungarian Crown, at the beginning under her own governors or *voivodes*. The Szekels, who inhabit the northern corner of Transylvania, and who are the true descendants of the real Huns, first settled in Transylvania in the second half of the eleventh century. The Saxons were brought in as colonists by successive Hungarian kings, and their privileges are granted by the "Golden Charter," dated in the year 1224. Until the year 1437 there were in Transylvania only three privileged nations: the Magyars, Szekels, and Saxons; and their privileges were supported by the Hungarian State as well as by the Austrian Empire against the Roumanians, considered as "heretics" because of their Orthodox religion. After that date, however, the Roumanians, revolting on various occasions, succeeded in gaining a position equal to that of the three other nations. This sort of league became in 1542 the real basis of the Transylvanian Constitution. After the conquest of Central Hungary by the Turks, Transylvania became a principality under the rule of Magyar princes, but paying tribute to the Sultan. In 1691 Transylvania recognised the suzerainty of the House of Habsburg, and continued to enjoy autonomy until April, 1848, when the Hungarian Diet at Pressburg voted the annexation of Transylvania to Hungary. The Roumanians, supported by the Saxons, protested with the utmost vigour against this annexation, and revolted. When the disaster of the Italian war came the Diet of Transylvania began to sit again, and continued to do so until 1867, when Transylvania ceased to exist as an autonomous province; and thereafter the non-Magyar nationalities were completely subjected to the oppression of the Magyar oligarchy until the days of the great war.

The Agrarian Reforms.

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to deal in a very short time with the Roumanian landed estates. The Government was pressed to keep its promise at once by distributing the land to the peasants, according to the Agrarian Law voted in January, 1917. To effect a fair division of the land is, however, a very difficult operation, and might delay the application of the law for a long time; but the peasants were anxious to begin their work now during the month of March. The Government therefore found a transitory solution by placing all the lands to be divided at the disposal of the Administration of the popular banks. The land is not to be divided for the present, but is to be taken on lease by the peasants, who are to constitute an association and to be supported by a popular bank. This kind of peasant association for the purpose of leasing land was very prosperous before the war.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Omar Khayyam.

For some few weeks past the Indian papers that the mail has brought us have been devoting space to accounts of "Moplah risings" and "Moplah outbreaks." Now I am free to confess that until quite recently I had not the faintest idea who or what a "Moplah" was; but the word fascinated me, and I made inquiries among friends whose knowledge of India and Indian affairs is as great as my own ignorance. For the benefit of any reader who shares that ignorance I will explain that the Moplahs are a people scattered about Southern India, mostly on the coast. They are descended from the old Arab traders; and have a well-earned reputation for fanaticism. Indeed, it is their fanaticism that you hear of from anyone to whom you turn for information; and it makes them a thorn in the side of the authorities, as I gather. They have a habit—it really seems to amount to that!—of going on the warpath suddenly, and very often without any justification at all; and when they are on it they "see red" in a very thorough way. The result is that very often a good many harmless people lose their lives; and, naturally, the Moplahs have a distinctly unenviable reputation amongst their neighbours.

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In the latest case, in Malabar, a band of them, consisting largely of youths, and led by an ex-policeman, did to death a number of people; and then barricaded themselves in a barn, where for a while they defied the authorities, quite in the Sidney Street style. The authorities, however, acted promptly and effectively, and as a result the particular gang in question will give no more trouble in this world. In this case it seems to me the Moplahs hardly lived up to—or, perhaps, I ought to write "down to"—their reputation. For the ringleader's son gave warning at the magistrate's court of the coming outbreak; and "large numbers of Moplahs were among those who helped" in the siege of the barn. Moreover, the leader of the gang "is understood to have left a letter explaining that he intended to kill his Nambadiri landlord for evicting him from his homestead and obstructing his daughter's marriage. The letter explains that the Nambadiri who were killed were the innocent victims of wrong identification." That is hard luck on the victims; but the letter does not seem to me to suggest a very rabid fanatic. And when I read that the "landlord is believed to have admitted the eviction and the obstruction of the marriage," I find it difficult, in view of the importance attached in India to the marriage ceremonials, to withhold sympathy entirely from the angry father. And in these delightfully democratic and Bolshevistic days it is surely exasperating to think of any landlord daring to evict any tenant under any circumstances. So, upon the whole, I am left wondering whether the Moplahs are not, after all, martyrs rather than nuisances—though, to be sure, it seems quite possible for people to be both at the same time!

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We have not heard much about the future of Cyprus this week. How the subject was ever allowed to become a "Question" I cannot imagine; and it strikes me as a piece of gross impertinence for anyone to suggest that it should be "discussed" at the Paris Conference. However, that is doubtless due to my own crass stupidity and my failure to realise the beauties of much talking as a substitute for deeds. At any rate, if any question there be, it seems to me that it is one for Great Britain, Greece and Cyprus to settle between them—amicably if possible. But may I respectfully offer to our Great Ones a suggestion which is, I believe, quite original? If, in ultra-generous mood, Great Britain should decide to go as far as possible towards meeting the views of the Cyprus "delegates," why not divide the island, giving the West portion to the Greeks and retaining the Eastern portion for the Moslems, under our protection. Just where the boundary should be drawn could be settled by arrangement. I would suggest a line drawn from Mazoto due north. This would include Larnaca and Famagusta, and would enable us to keep an eye comfortably on a good many points that may be of much interest to us in the future. In common decency Greece could hardly look such a gift horse in the mouth! And the Moslems could, if they so desired, all concentrate in the British-governed portion of the island.

Corsair.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Situation in Egypt. March 18.

The MARQUESS OF CREWE asked for information regarding the situation in Egypt.

Earl CURZON said that in November last a deputation of Egyptian Nationalists called at the British Residency to advocate a programme of complete autonomy in Egypt, which would leave to the British only the right of supervision in regard to the public debt and shipping in the Suez Canal. They demanded that they should be allowed to proceed to London at once to put forward their views. At the same time, the Nationalists elected a committee of fourteen leaders, who commenced an agitation throughout the country, collecting signatures to a petition and subscriptions in support of their programme. Shortly afterwards the Prime Minister of Egypt suggested that he and the Minister of Education should visit London in the immediate future to discuss Egyptian affairs. He further urged that Nationalist leaders should also be allowed to go to London. His Majesty's Government, in reply, while sympathising with the idea that the Egyptians should be allowed an increasing share in the government of Egypt, said they could not abandon the responsibilities for order and good conduct in Egypt, and of safeguarding the rights and interests of the native and foreign populations, and that therefore no useful purpose would be served by the leaders coming to London. As regards the two Ministers, they said their visit would be very welcome, but it would be better in the interests of their own dignity that it should not coincide with the first weeks of the Peace Conference, as Mr. Balfour would be absent in Paris. The two Ministers then tendered their resignations to the Sultan, and the British High Commissioner was summoned to London at the beginning of January to report on the situation. An invitation was addressed to the two Ministers to come here in the middle of February, but they declined to come unless the Nationalist leaders also proceeded to London. The Government could not accept such a condition, and the resignation of the two Ministers, which had remained in suspense, was accepted by the Sultan. Steps were taken for the formation of a new Ministry, and the Nationalists tried to prevent a new Ministry being formed. The Sultan appealed for protection against further insults and intimidation, and authority was given for arrest and deportation to Malta of four Nationalist leaders. There had since been some demonstrations, chiefly organised by students in Cairo and other provincial centres, and collisions had occurred between the Nationalists and British troops. There had been some casualties, and a few looters had been shot. These manifestations were not approved by the more sober element of the population. There was every reason to believe from the latest information that the situation was well in hand.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mediterranean Squadron. March 12.

Viscount CURZON asked the First Lord of the Admiralty what has been decided as to the composition of the Mediterranean Squadron?

Dr. MACNAMARA: The provisional composition of the Mediterranean Squadron is six battleships, six light cruisers, a destroyer flotilla, and a submarine flotilla.

The Ipek-Jakovo District. March 13.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to Lieut.-Colonel W. Guinness, said that the reports received by the Government with regard to the serious situation in the districts of Ipek and Jakovo were now engaging the attention of the Allied Governments and Peace Delegates in Paris. He understood that no attempt had been made by Montenegro to occupy the district, which was allotted to it in 1913. He did not think the public interest would be served by saying anything further now.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report.

India: Southborough Committee.—Rowlatt Committee.—Indian Army (British Officers).—Famine Conditions. Afghanistan. India: Influenza and cholera. (March 10.)

Church of St. Sofia. Demobilisation: Troops in India.—Egypt. Aziz Ahmed. General Townshend. (March 11.)

India: Steamer fares.—Defence force.—Relief codes. Demobilisation: Khartoum Garrison. "Goeben" and "Breslau." Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force (Transport). (March 12.)

SUDAN.

¶ All interested in the commercial development of the Sudan are invited to communicate with the offices of the

Sudan Government Railways & Steamers,

5, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. 2,

where information regarding the produce of the country, facilities for transport, etc., may be obtained.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

RHODES AND THE ENDECANESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The intemperate tone of the two letters on this theme which appear in THE NEAR EAST of March 13 suggests to me not to embark on controversy. Let me merely mention that on March 3 a question regarding the much-valued Hospitaller buildings in Rhodes was addressed in the House of Commons to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and in reply to it an assurance was given that the subject "would be borne in mind by the British delegates at the Peace." After the action taken by M. Bompard and General Etier on behalf of France, Italy, and Spain, as related in my first letter, we can hardly suppose that the French and Italian delegates will not support the British in this matter. The tone in which your Greek correspondents write proves that some safeguard for the Hospitaller buildings in Rhodes is necessary, should that island revert to Greece. The knights holding Rhodes held also Smyrna until Taimur Lang's hordes descended upon them. Later they long held Budrum (Halicarnassus), and made it a great refuge for escaped Christian slaves in Asia Minor. Their galleys at the same time swept the Moslem corsair off the seas. You will judge the veracity of those who apply the term "brigand" and "pirate" to these staunch defenders of Christendom. Islam, surely, is more tolerant.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE.

The Athenæum, Pall Mall, March 17, 1919.

AFGHAN REPRESENTATION AT PARIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In one of your contemporaries I have noticed a letter from Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate urging the necessity of an Afghan Representation at the Peace Conference. That the Afghans were not represented seems to me nothing but an omission. The Afghanistan of to-day is vitally different from that of Durani days, socially, economically, and politically. Great Britain has taken a great interest in the welfare of the buffer State ever since its historical birth. The Afghans are conscious of this fact. On their part the late Ameer and his people have given abundant proof that Afghanistan was a zone wherein war could not enter. The Afghan wars against Russia, Persia, Borderland, or the British were in almost all cases fanned by religious misgivings. And be it borne in mind that never before in Afghan history was such a severe test imposed upon the Afghan temperament as in this war. But Habib Ullah Khan—I cannot but term him the "Worthy Ameer"—stuck to the British to his last days. And are the British people going to remain silent while the just claims of their most faithful ally are passed unheard at the Council of Nations? If this should happen, then it would be the first incident of its kind in the characteristic history of British statesmanship. It will severely ignore the birthright of the Independent State of Afghanistan. But my mind is optimistically inclined, for I have known the British public, which has always respected the right, and there is every hope that the cause of my motherland will not lie unheeded.

Things at Kabul are at present in some degree unsettled, and it would be extremely difficult for any delegates or even nominations to arrive at Paris in time. Why, then, should not Colonel Yate's most excellent suggestion be considered? That useful body "The Central Asian Society" possesses some members of rare ability.—I am, etc.,

IKBAL ALI SHAH.

University Union,
Edinburgh, March 12, 1919.

ITALY AND THE YUGOSLAVS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In "Notes of the Week," published in your issue of March 7, THE NEAR EAST justly calls attention to the seriousness of the friction that exists between the Italians and Yugoslavs.

Will you kindly permit an Italian writer to explain the Italian point of view? That explanation must be given somewhat in detail because the question is one of those that touch upon general and important problems, little known to the general public.

The Italian refusal to accept arbitration was due to respect for principle and also a recognition of two main facts that concern the case. If it be admitted that the Peace Conference is the competent authority for the solution of questions arising

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out of the war, it must also be accepted as the competent authority for the solution of the Italo-Yugoslav problem; because this problem is essentially one with the many others which nobody would think of placing outside the jurisdiction of the Conference. The steadfast recognition of this principle is necessary in order to prevent enemies and rebels from resuming their intrigues behind the back of the Peace Conference.

If the precedent of arbitration were to be adopted, it would have to be applied in all cases of this kind wherever it might be demanded by one or other of the parties interested. In other words, if justice is to be meted out to all there is no reason why others, as well as the Yugoslavs, may not claim the right of withdrawing their case from the Conference and submitting it to outside arbitration. For instance, the Greeks of Cyprus would have the right to demand neutral arbitration on the question of their claim to be united to Greece, on the plea that, while England is represented therein, and is one of the parties interested in the Cyprus question, the Council of Ten is not competent to deal with it. In the same way the Italians of Malta and Tunisia, and even the Germans of Austria, might put forward similar demands. The new arbitration tribunal would thus give rise to contentions on problems that are at present causing no trouble, because they await the decision of the Peace Conference.

The Italian refusal saves the principle of unity in the authority that is entrusted with the task of settling the questions arising out of the war. This is obviously a most essential element for the definiteness and security of the peace settlement. Therefore, here the interests of all countries are concerned.

As regards the recognition of facts, which is responsible for the Italian refusal, one must first of all point out that the Treaty of London represents a promise of the minimum compensation made by the Allies to Italy, in exchange for the unforeseen sacrifices which Italy undertook to make for the success of the Entente cause. Three facts go to prove that these sacrifices have reached a maximum of measure, expressed in the following figures:—500,000 dead, 60 milliards of money spent, and a year of war against the *whole* armed force of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. We have here, so to speak, a compact. It has become effective and inviolable, since one of the contracting parties has faithfully fulfilled its obligations with its own blood and treasure. If it was desired to change the terms of the contract, if it was desired to lessen the amount of compensation due to Italy, justice demands that the request should have been made before Italy entered the war, and before the Italian people had made its colossal sacrifices. It cannot be said that the terms of the contract were not known. It is true that the text of the official document signed by the Governments was not published; but it is also true that the treaty concerned only claims which, during ten months of neutrality, were put forth by the Italian Press and commented upon and accepted by the Press—i.e., the public opinion—of France and Great Britain.

The second consideration of fact in the matter is this: Italian claims in the Adriatic do not concern territories owned or peopled by the friendly and Allied Serbian nation, but Austrian territories inhabited by Slovenes and Croatians. Therefore, it is enemy territory, inhabited by people who for four years of war faithfully followed *en bloc* the banners of the enemy, fighting against Italy, Serbia, and the Entente. If today the Croats in Dalmatia and Croatia demand their independence as a result of the downfall of Austria, it has yet to be proved that the masses of them really desire to become part of Serbia, against whom, until yesterday, they fought strenuously, both on the battlefield and in the sphere of politics. The fact that some respectable Croatian agitators have during the war carried on a very noisy Yugoslav propaganda in the capitals of the Entente does not in the least alter these two fundamental truths.

The original conflict arising out of the Dalmatian and Adriatic problem is, therefore, a conflict between Italians and Austro-Croats. It exactly corresponds to that which exists between the French and Germans in regard to the Alsace-Lorraine question. In this class of problem the suggestion of arbitration is *prima facie* excluded.

A different kind of conflict exists between Italy and Serbia, inasmuch as Serbia, just as Italy, has plans of expansion in the Adriatic. I fully recognise, as every Italian does, the right of Serbia to ample and free access to the sea. As an Italian I should, however, wish that Serbia would remember that Italy alone has fought the final war against Austria, which brought about the liberation of the Serbian territories. She should also remember that in 1859, after the war which gave Lombardy to Italy, Italy paid France for the French help she had received by giving her the two whole provinces of Nice and Savoy.

I am, etc.,

VIRGINIO GAYDA.

AUTONOMY FOR MACEDONIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of February 7 a correspondent in Salonika—in all probability a serious neutral resident—in saying that "If the Macedonians are not filling the newspapers with cries for autonomy it is because under present circumstances *they dare not speak. Fear is the great ruler here*," is giving vent to a truth but half told. The present condition of things in our unhappy land is terrible. Terror reigns supreme. As was the case in 1913, we are completely cut off from our kindred, whose fate is uncertain.

It has been exceedingly painful to all of us, children of unhappy Macedonia, to observe how in Paris, while the Peace Conference has been discussing and deciding the fate of such provinces as Bukovina, the Banat, Transylvania, Dalmatia, etc., no word has been said about Macedonia, which, since the fatal Berlin Treaty, has sacrificed the flower of its manhood in an incessant and bloody struggle for human rights and freedom. Nor are the Macedonians allowed to plead their cause in Paris against their oppressors. Yet in what manner does Macedonia differ from Alsace and Lorraine? Is it simple because France is now on the victorious side? Why should Macedonia be compelled to pay for the mistakes of this or that Bulgarian Government? It cannot be denied that Macedonia to-day is held by *conquest*, not in accordance with the principles enunciated by President Wilson, for the realisation of which he threw America's power on the side of the Entente.

In order to see the principles of President Wilson applied to Macedonia also, a General Macedonian Council was recently organised in Switzerland. This Council sent to the American President and to the Premiers of the other Entente Powers a note of protest saying:

"Sir,—In view of the recent declarations made at Zagreb by certain political leaders, in which it was stated that Yougoslavia is "extending to Vardar," and even the Ægean Sea, and in view of reiterated intimations of an official character emanating from the capitals of other Balkan States, to the effect that Macedonia is to be dismembered to suit their imperialistic designs, we, the General Council of the Macedonian Societies in Switzerland, as true interpreters of the feelings and aspirations of the Macedonian people, consider it our sacred duty to raise our voice before the civilised world against such encroachments, which are contrary to the noble principles enunciated by you and approved by your faithful Allies, according to which all small and down-trodden peoples are to be guaranteed the privilege of deciding their own fate.

"While many nations are to-day recovering their lost liberty and independence . . . the unhappy Macedonian people, which has made far greater sacrifices in its struggle for human rights and freedom, is still groaning under an alien and cruel yoke. This people, for centuries the victim of persecutions, discriminations, and massacres, which to-day is still filled with anxiety and dread about its future destiny, turns to you, fearless defender of the oppressed, and unreservedly entrusts its fate in your hands, firmly confident that the principle of self-determination will be accorded to it also.

"In inviting your kind attention to these facts, we, the General Council of the Macedonian Societies in Switzerland, are fully convinced that the proper, just, and lasting solution of the Macedonian question may be found by giving the Macedonian people, too, the opportunity to freely declare its will as to its form of Government, which may be effected: (1) By the occupation of the country only by American, French, English, and Italian troops. (2) By permitting all Macedonian refugees abroad, without distinction of race and religion, to return to their homes unmolested, and to be allowed to participate in the organisation and management of their country's State affairs. (3) By entrusting the local administrations of Macedonia in the hands of the native inhabitants, under the control of the Army of Occupation."

The above document speaks for itself. Its contents can be opposed by neither of the interested parties if they desire the real welfare of Macedonia. All who are versed in Near Eastern affairs know that it was the wrong solution of the Macedonian Question that actually brought about the Balkan-Turkish war in 1912, the second Balkan conflict in 1913, and the third Balkan war in 1915.

Let us hope the new order of things which is being established will not deprive the Macedonians of the principle of nationality and self-determination, the *sine qua non* for a rational settlement of the Macedonian problem and Balkan security.—I am, etc.,

CONSTANTINE STEPHANOVE
(Secretary, General Council of the Macedonian Societies in Switzerland).

Langganstr 27, Berne, Feb. 28, 1919.

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

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

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

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PALESTINE OF THE JEWS.*

In spite of the flood of literature on "Zionism" which is now deluging Europe and America, this little book stands out as one of the most interesting recent publications on Palestine. In the early chapters the author gives a rapid survey of the past relation of the Jews to the Holy Land, their undying love for it, and their unquenchable hope of a return. He sketches the beginning of that remarkable modern Zionist movement of which Herzl was the leader; and describes in sober language, not without criticism of mistakes, the planting of those colonies all over Palestine which are to-day so important an asset in the presentation of the Jewish claims. It is no mere arid enumeration of dates and figures, but a narrative of the personal experiences of one who is saturated with love of his own race. The two chapters on "Jerusalem" and the "Sea of Galilee" give an excellent account of the inhabitants of those regions, and are fair to interests other than the Jewish. The author's criticism of the pauperisation of the Jews by the mistaken system of *Chaluka* echo the feelings of all progressive Zionists. The future of Palestine with respect to outside control is still a political secret, but all the world now accepts the idea of a "Jewish Palestine"—that is, one where the predominant element is Jewish, and where the material development of the land will be along the main lines of the Zionist programme. When the author writes of "millions" settling in Palestine we think he steps beyond the language of sober prose; nor do we think that outside of agriculture there is much wealth in the land to support great numbers of such a progressive people. But all who read this book will better understand the spirit which moves the Zionists to-day.

It may be added that by no means the least interesting chapters of the book are the little sketches of the author's own experiences while with the British forces, which are collected in an appendix entitled "The Redemption of Judæa."

* "Palestine of the Jews—Past, Present, and Future." By Norman Bentwich. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Limited. 6s. net.)

LOVE, WAR AND MASSACRE.*

This is the story of the love of a Russo-Armenian girl and a Frenchman. Of course it—the love, not the story—does not run smooth: a German Consul of the most Prussian type and a Turkish Pasha, whose character is very sketchy, provide a good many bumps in the young people's path, and the war and the (latest) Armenian massacres provide some more. The Prussian and the Pasha both try their hands at abducting the heroine, and her lover has to thank the Turks for free, if not very desirable, lodging in a tomb converted into a prison. Mrs. Inchbold knows her ground well, and the "local colour" is skilfully applied. The plot, too, has the merit of being quite feasible, and most readers will doubtless find the book enjoyable; but the author is to some extent handicapped by the fact that she is dealing with scenes and incidents that are more or less known already, thanks to the widespread publicity given to Turkey's shortcomings during the war. Perhaps a few critical readers will wonder whether the light and shade, the villainy and the virtue, are not overdone. One captious person finds it hard to sympathise unreservedly with a hero whose professions seem to be far in advance of his practice. When a man protests: "If I had known, neither stones nor mortar could have held me back," etc., one wonders how it was that he did not, in fact, escape.

That Deir-el-Zor should be spelt in one place Deir-el-Zur and in another Der-el-Zor seems strange. Nor do we like such expressions as: "These features were forgotten by the beauty of her eyes" (p. 92), or "he had looked blindly for acquiescence" (p. 35), instead of "for blind acquiescence." But, as a rule, the "bumps" are only in the path of the hero and heroine and their friends—until the end of the book, when the Prussian Consul gets a bad one—and we commend the story to our readers' notice.

* "Love and the Crescent." By A. C. Inchbold. (London: Hutchinson and Co.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Hayat-I-Qudsi: Life of the Nawab Gauhar Begum *alias* The Nawab Begum Qudsia of Bhopal." By Her Highness Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.I. Translated by W. S. Davis. (London; Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd.)

"L'Opinion Syrienne à l'Etranger pendant la Guerre." (Paris: Comité Central Syrien.)

WHY SERBIA WEEPS

¶ In Serbia there is weeping. Everywhere there is desolation. The whole country is despoiled. Thousands are living on the border-line of starvation.

¶ No people in proportion to size contributed more to Victory than the Serbians. No people suffered so much as they endured uncomplainingly in the Great Cause.

¶ Will you not help to relieve them NOW? The Serbian Relief Fund is working night and day to provide clothing and medical aid for the stricken people of Serbia. Your donation to this splendid work is urgently needed. It will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, the Right Hon. the Earl of Plymouth, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W. 7.

Parcels of Clothing to be addressed to Mrs. CARRINGTON WILDE, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. March	1919. March.		1337. Jumada II.	5679. Adar II.
21	8	Friday	19	19
22	9	Saturday.....	20	20
23	10	Sunday	21	21
24	11	Monday	22	22
25	12	Tuesday	23	23
26	13	Wednesday	24	24
27	14	Thursday	25	25

Major and Mrs. Godfrey Heseltine have left England for Ootacamund, India

General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng arrived on Sunday evening in London from France.

General Allenby arrived at Marseilles on March 17, and left the same evening for Paris and London.

M. Robert Naville, Director-General of the Banque Franco-Serbe, has arrived in Paris on a visit.

Madame Yovanovitch, the wife of the Serbian Minister, returned to London last Friday from Paris.

After visiting the Allied armies on the Rhine, the Emir Faisal has arrived in Brussels, to meet King Albert.

His Highness the Aga Khan had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen on March 12.

General Sir Reginald Wingate arrived last Thursday (March 13), at Knockenhair, Dunbar, his East Lothian residence.

Dr. A. Trecitch Pavitchitch, a member of the National Council of the Yugoslavs, has arrived in London from Paris.

The Territorial Decoration has been conferred on Major Prince Frederick V. Duleep Singh, M.V.O., Norfolk Yeomanry.

Colonel A. H. Tubby, having relinquished the post of consulting surgeon to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, has returned to 68, Harley Street.

King Alexander of Greece, who was present at a luncheon in his honour in the flagship Superb, decorated Admiral Calthorpe with the Insignia of the Order of the Grand Cross of the Saviour.

Sir Frederick Alexander Robertson, K.B.E., LL.D., of Eaton Terrace, S.W., formerly Judge of the Chief Court, Punjab, Lecturer on Mohammedan Law at the Imperial Institute, left property valued at £6,316.

The engagement is announced of Captain Ivan Cobbold, Scots Guards, son of Mr. John Cobbold and Lady Evelyn Cobbold, of Holywells, Ipswich, to Lady Blanche Cavendish, second daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, returned from Paris on Monday night for the funeral of his mother, the Dowager Lady Swaythling. Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Assistant Under-Secretary for India, has also arrived from Paris.

Lord Inchcape has left London for a cruise in the Mediterranean, to recuperate after his illness. He is accompanied by Lady Inchcape and their daughter, the Hon. Effie Mackay, and they hope to be able to be away until after Easter.

The engagement is announced of Captain R. E. H. Crosbie, O.E.T.A., Palestine, only son of the late Rev. H. A. Crosbie and of Mrs. Crosbie, of Hurstbury, Lindfield, Sussex, to Elsa, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Muller, of Duncroft, Kenley, Surrey.

On January 14, at Poona, India, the marriage took place of Charles Sydney Forster Witts, Captain, Indian Army, elder son of Mrs. F. S. Witts, of Ramsgate, to Ida Margaret, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Fox, of Warwick House, South Canterbury.

The marriage of Captain John Maitland Salusbury-Trelawny, M.C., I.A.R.O., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. John Salusbury-Trelawny, and Miss Freda Mainwaring, youngest daughter of the late Captain Guy Mainwaring, R.N., and Mrs. Mainwaring, of 18, Iverna Court, Kensington, took place at Christ Church, Chelsea, on Tuesday, March 18. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. Harcourt Williams, and Captain Reginald Salusbury-Trelawny, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

The engagement is announced between Hector Russell Wilkinson, I.C.S., eldest son of the Rev. G. G. Wilkinson, Knossington Rectory, Oakham, and Mrs. Wilkinson, and Theodora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daintree, Swan Wood, Horeham Road, Sussex.

An engagement is announced between Dennis Whitehorn Reid, D.S.O., M.C., Seaforth Highlanders, attached I.A., younger son of the late Rev. John Reid, M.A., of Inverness, and Alicia Betty, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Wooldridge, 126th Baluchistan Infantry.

An engagement is announced between Henry Francis Ayres, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, eldest son of H. B. Ayres, of Harold Wood, Essex, and Mrs. Ayres, and Evelyn d'Arblay, second daughter of the late Rev. E. M. Burney and Mrs. Burney, Winforton House, Herefordshire.

A marriage is arranged, and will take place in April, leave permitting, between Major-General A. P. Blenkinsop, C.B., C.M.G., D.M.S., Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, and Ada Mary, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Moore, and daughter of the late Colonel P. W. Bannerman.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major E. B. Morris, R.G.A., son of the Rev. Canon Morris, J.P., and Mrs. Morris, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, and Madeline Ida, youngest daughter of Mr. Edward Bedford, C.E., and Mrs. Bedford, of Delbrook, Belvedere, Kent, late of India.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Penang, between Major H. D. Jensen, M.C., R.A.F., son of the late Mr. H. P. F. Jensen and Mrs. Jensen, of Broadwater, Worthing, and Aline Hutchinson, younger daughter of Colonel T. H. Haughton (Indian Army, (retired) and Mrs. Haughton, of Chisbeach, West Worthing.

On March 17, at the Kensington Parish Church, Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Richard Aubrey De Burgh Rose, C.M.G., D.S.O., the Worcestershire Regiment, only surviving son of the late Surgeon-General H. J. Rose, was married to Vera Burnaby, only daughter of Dr. J. A. Turner, C.I.E., of Bombay, and Mrs. Turner, 34a, Pembroke Square, W.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Browne, D.S.O., late Central India Horse, younger son of the late General Sir Samuel Browne, V.C., G.C.B., K.C.S.I., late of The Wood, Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Winifred Marie, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Rhodes, late K.R.R., and Mrs. J. E. Rhodes, of Apley Rise, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

M. Jean Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, arrived in London on Saturday evening from Paris. At the station were the Roumanian Minister and the personnel of the Legation. On Sunday M. Bratiano was received by the Queen of Roumania, and in the morning he was visited by M. Misu. On Monday he had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace.

Lord Willingdon and Lady Willingdon left London on Tuesday en route for Madras. They are expected to arrive on or about April 10, when Lord Willingdon will assume charge as Governor of the Presidency. The staff will comprise Major K. O. Goldie, 10th Lancers, Military Secretary, and Captain Parbury, 17th Lancers, Captain Powell, 30th Punjabis, Lieutenant H. Brand, R.N., and Lieutenant Howard Vincent, 60th K.R.R., as A.D.C.'s.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Castle Smith, 12th Foot (Suffolk Regiment), attached Egyptian Army, A.D.C. to his Highness the Sultan of Egypt, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Castle Smith, late of Netherhall Gardens, N.W., and Maude Ellefred, only daughter of Sir Frederick Evans, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, and Lady Evans, 57, Wetherby Mansions, S.W.

THE QUEEN OF ROUMANIA.

The Queen of Roumania, accompanied by Princess Marie and Princess Ileana, arrived in London on Wednesday evening last week, on a visit to the King and Queen. She was met at Charing Cross Station by the King and Queen and the Prince of Wales, with whom she drove to Buckingham Palace.

Captain Sir Charles Cust, R.N. (Equerry to the King), who has been specially attached to Queen Marie's suite, was in attendance from Folkestone.

On Thursday Queen Marie and her daughters, accompanied by Princess Mary and attended by Captain Sir Charles Cust, Bart., R.N., paid a visit to Eton College, where Prince Nicolas of Roumania is a pupil. The Royal party motored from London, and on arrival at Eton were received by Dr. C. A. Alington and Prince Nicolas. After luncheon with the Headmaster and the Hon. Mrs. Alington, the Royal visitors proceeded to the College Library, where they were received by the Provost, Dr. M. R. James, who conducted them through the various rooms. The Royal party afterwards proceeded to Warre House, which is Prince Nicolas's house, where they were received by Mr. Brinton. They afterwards took tea with Prince Nicolas before motoring back to London.

On Friday Queen Marie received visitors, and in the evening dined with Major the Hon. Waldorf Astor and Mrs. Astor. She afterwards visited the Palace Theatre. On Tuesday her Majesty visited the King George Hospital, Stamford Street.

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The engagement is announced between Lieutenant F. J. Bridges, M.C., 15th ("The King's") Hussars, son of Mr. J. E. Bridges, I.C.S. ((retired), and Mrs. Bridges, of 71, Westbourne Terrace, and Veronica, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Macdonell Anderson, of 96, Elm Park Gardens.

A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place in India, between Sir Berkeley Pigott, Bart., 21st Lancers, son of the late Lieut.-Colonel C. B. Pigott, C.B., D.S.O., 21st Lancers, and Mrs. Pigott, The Weirs Cottage, Brockenhurst, and Christabel, younger daughter of the late Rev. F. H. Bowden-Smith and Mrs. Bowden-Smith, of Careys, Brockenhurst.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The appointment of Colonel P. Carr-White, Indian Medical Service, as honorary physician to the King is gazetted.

Dr. Koyitch, who has been acting as secretary to the Serbian Delegation attending the Peace Conference, has been appointed Counsellor to the Serbian Legation in London.

Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, Maharajadhirija Bahadur of Burdwan, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, in succession to Lord Sinha of Raipur.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of General Sir Herbert C. O. Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C., as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta, in succession to Field-Marshal the Right Honourable Lord Methuen, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.M.G., who has resigned that post.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Keith Vivian Gurney, late of the Sudan Civil Service, died at Meopham, Kent, on Sunday, March 16, of pneumonia, following on influenza. He was thirty-three years old.

Mr. John Dyson, late Judicial Commissioner at Oudh, India, died on Saturday, at Merriott, Somerset, aged eighty-three. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1858 and retired in 1891.

Colonel W. V. Jacob, late Bengal Staff Corps, died on March 14, at 45, Sinclair Road, Kensington, W. Colonel Jacob, who was an Indian Mutiny veteran, was in his eighty-second year.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir George L. Eyles, K.C.M.G., died at East Grinstead on March 12, aged sixty-nine. He was consulting engineer for Government Railways in Ceylon, and to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

A cabled message from India announces the death, at Cachar, of Colonel J. G. Knowles, C.I.E. He was engaged as a tea-planter, and was Commandant of the Surma Valley Light Horse. Colonel Knowles was an honorary aide-de-camp to the Viceroy and Governor-General.

Colonel W. B. Wilson, late 12th Bengal Cavalry, died at Minehead on March 17, aged 71. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, and had the medal with three clasps. Eight years later he was engaged in the Burmese Expedition, was mentioned in despatches, and received the brevet of major and the medal with clasp.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Stuart-Wortley, whose death is announced, at one time served with the 11th Sudanese Regiment, and later as a Civil Administrator in the Sudan until 1912. He received the Order of the Mejidieh for his valuable services in the Bahr-el-Ghazal, and the Sudan Medal with one bar. In 1912 he joined the Reserve of Officers. He had previously served in the South African War, and in the late war he had greatly distinguished himself in France.

Mrs. Amy Woodforde-Finden, the well-known musical composer, died suddenly on March 13 at her residence in Cork Street, W. She was the widow of Colonel Woodforde-Finden, of the Indian Army. Among her best known and most popular compositions were "Stars of the Desert," "On the Jhelum River," and "The Pagoda of Flowers."

Lieutenant-Colonel Brackley Herbert Barrington-Kennett, of the Royal Body Guard, died on Wednesday of last week at his residence in Cheyne Gardens, Chelsea, from heart failure, at the age of seventy-two. He took part in the Jowaki Afridi Expedition in 1877, for which he had the medal with clasp, and he also fought in the Afghan War of 1878-80, when he received a "mention" and the medal.

Colonel Henry Wood, C.B., late of the Rifle Brigade, died on March 17, at Norwich, aged 84. He served in the Crimean Campaign of 1855-6, and in the campaign on the North-West Frontier of India in 1864. During the Afghan War he served with the Peshawar Valley Field Force, and in 1881 was engaged in the Mahsud Wuzeerce Expedition, when he was mentioned in despatches.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Allied subjects interned in Bulgaria have been released.

45,000 tons of British coal for Yugoslav towns have arrived at Fiume.

The preliminary reduction of Indian combatants in the Army up to January 31, 1919, amounted to 70,000 men.

Turkish defences at Gallipoli in 1915 are shortly to be investigated on the spot by a mixed Naval and Military Commission.

In India the designation Director of Aeronautics is abolished, and will be superseded by General Officer Commanding Royal Air Force in India.

General Liman von Sanders, the German supervisor of Turkish operations, was recently disembarked at Malta from Constantinople.

Dr. G. Diouritch, Assistant Professor of Political Economy at Belgrade University, read a paper on "The Development of the Serbian (Southern Slav) Race" before the Royal Statistical Society on Tuesday evening.

Influenza, which had lately been diminishing, is again raging furiously in Malta, fatal cases, says Reuter, being many and frequent. The recrudescence of the epidemic is attributed to the overcrowding during the Carnival festivities.

At Chittagong, India, General Borton and Captain Ross-Smith, engaged in surveying the coast for suitable stations for the Calcutta-Rangoon air route, lost their boat and records through an explosion, which injured six men, though they were unhurt.

A dispatch from General Sir Charles Monro, Commander-in-Chief in India, dealing with military operations in South and East Persia, Bushire, and Aden between March 31, 1917, and May 31, 1918, was published on Monday as a supplement to the *London Gazette*.

The Rev. B. G. Chandler, formerly at St. George's College, Jerusalem, lectured on Tuesday at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, on Jerusalem. Under Turkish rule, he said, Jerusalem was indescribably filthy, but he was told that since the British had cleaned it out he would not know it.

The New Ameer, Aman Ullah Khan, has (says Reuter's Agency) sent to the Government of India a letter formally announcing his accession to the Afghan Throne, and expressing his desire for a continuance of the friendly relations between his country and Great Britain. The message contains other expressions of friendship.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF PERSIA.

The presence of a Persian delegation in Paris is evidence that the Teheran Government looks to the Conference to come to some decision regarding the future of Persia. Two main points, it is to be expected, will be raised by the delegates, if they are accorded an opportunity of submitting their claims in person, the status of the country in the family of nations and its frontier line with Transcaucasia. Whether the Persians can make out a case for a Persia Irredenta north of the Araxes, which will be strong enough to allow them to dispense with that natural boundary remains to be seen; but there can be no doubt that they can claim a formal charter of national independence from the Paris Conference, if they set store on a document of that nature. Their anxiety on this subject, however, is easily understood. They have lived for decades under the shadow of Russian aggression, and now that it has passed they want the most effective guarantees against its recurrence that they can secure. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that Persia is inclined at this juncture to pin her faith to the League of Nations. She must bear in mind, however, that the Paris Conference has to be guided by actual realities, and not merely by sentiment. It has already placed in a separate category the territories "inhabited by peoples not yet able to stand by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world," and it may have to decide whether Persia comes under this or some other special category. Thus an appeal to the Conference might have the effect of attaching to Persia a label that would be correct enough for the moment, but which would not do justice to any latent capacity of which she may be conscious. For this reason the Teheran Government might be well advised to pause before admitting the inability of Persia to determine her own status, apart from the decision of the Allied Conference. For what are the facts? The Conference might draft the most satisfactory charter of absolute independence, but the document would not enable Persia to stand alone for a single day. The independence that the Conference or the League of Nations will desire to confirm implies stable government, law and order, and an established financial system. All these are lacking in Persia. Two alternatives, therefore, present themselves to the Persian authorities. They can submit themselves, cap in hand, at the door of the Conference, to which they have not been invited, and wait to be told what they will have to do to qualify themselves for national independence; or they can say, in effect, "The Russian nightmare has gone for ever; we are a free people, but it leaves us temporarily crippled. We recognise our own limitations, and that for the present we need help in the administration of the country. We will seek that help, where we know that it can be found, of our own accord, and not at the dictation of others."

An attitude such as this would reflect a spirit of true independence, and is calculated to impress the Allied nations represented in Paris far more than a weak imitation of more virile claimants. It is true that Transcaucasia has been thrown into the melting-pot and that there may be some pickings to be had for anybody who pushes and talks hard enough; it is also a fact that Persia has had the war brought within her borders, and has suffered accordingly. But the reverse of the shield is equally apparent: Persia allowed full play to pro-German elements, and not a little of the ravages of war of which she complains was the handiwork of her own lawless tribesmen, who not many months ago did their best to wipe out the only force that Persia can rely upon for the maintenance of law and order in the country—the gendarmerie under British officers. If, therefore, the Persians try to turn the war in part to their benefit, they must expect to have their attitude during the struggle subjected to a critical investigation. We are convinced, however, that the nation, as a whole, if it could express its views, would have nothing to do with the policy of bargaining and make-believe in Paris. It has grasped the essentials of the situation, which are that the Russians have gone and that the country wants security and settled government. The feeling towards the British is, on the whole, favourable, for among those who are capable of forming a judgment it is recognised that Great Britain alone averted a worse fate at the hands of Imperialist Russia. What may not be so generally understood is the altruism of the British attitude. Our interests call for an independent Persia strong enough to resist aggression from without and to maintain order and some measure of progress within. In the past Persia has failed so signally to live up to this standard that it requires with some people the exercise of considerable faith to believe her capable of ever making a success of self-government. This pessimistic view, however, does not take sufficiently into account the paralysing effect of the Russian incubus. In any case, there can be no question that Great Britain is in honour bound to give Persia a fair and full chance to rehabilitate herself, if only as amends for the failure to hold Russia in check. Some allowance must also be made for Persian misunderstanding and lack of initiative. It is conceivable that both parties might stand aloof from one another indefinitely, each expecting the other to make the first move. If this should happen, it would argue something amiss in British representation at Teheran, where friendly co-operation must be a *sine qua non*.

At the root of the failure of Great Britain's handling of the Persian question in the past lies the absence of any definite policy. Apart from the anxiety to prevent Russia from absorbing the whole country, no attempt was made to formulate a constructive policy and to compel its adoption by the Russians for Persia's benefit. The international situation in Europe was largely responsible for this negative attitude. To-day, however, this obstacle no longer exists, and it will be a long step towards the satisfactory settlement of the Persian problem when the British Government draws up an unequivocal statement of the lines on which it is prepared to help the Teheran Government to come again into its own. Persia herself is ready to admit that she cannot stand alone, if only for the reason that she has an empty Exchequer and has no means of filling it except by means of borrowed money. It is not necessary that Great Britain should supply all the advisers required for the reform of the Persian administration; but the Persians will, no doubt, have their own opinions as to the advisability of multiplying the nationalities called in to help them. The British Government on its part, in spite of the elimination for the time being of the Russian menace, has a special interest in expediting the establishment of ordered government in Persia. Great Britain now stands committed along the whole western border of Persia by her occupation of Mesopotamia, and to the north by the presence of British troops in Transcaucasia and Transcaspia. While no permanency is claimed for the latter phenomenon, it is an indication that Great Britain cannot be indifferent to the course of events in these regions, if they threaten to assume a definitely hostile character. In these circumstances an added incentive is found to place Persia on her feet again; and if she has no constructive policy already mapped out, it is for Great Britain to help her to prepare one and to indicate the extent to which British advisers can be loaned for the assistance of Persian officials.

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"NATIONALISM" IN EGYPT.*

A SELF-INTERESTED CLIQUE.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

It was perhaps to be expected that the new political ideas brought into being by the war should be reflected in Egypt. It was also to be expected, in view of the declaration made by the Anglo-French Governments to the peoples of Syria and Mesopotamia, that certain hopes might be aroused in the Egyptians. But no reasonable person ever dreamed that the principles enunciated by President Wilson, and since admitted by most of the Allied Powers, in regard to small nations would be regarded in the sense in which a certain political element in Egypt has taken them.

A clique—I decline to call it a party, although its members give themselves that name—has seized upon the statements of the President of the United States as a pretext for agitation for the application to Egypt of the principles of self-determination which are to be applied to peoples rescued by the war from the domination of alien races. They started their activities in the late summer of 1918, and they have carried it on ever since. No kindly hints of the absurdity of their demands, or of the serious position in which their words and actions were placing them, have had any effect. The tolerant treatment—too tolerant in the opinion of many—which they have received at the hands of the Anglo-Egyptian authorities has merely served to make them more active in their attempts to stir up an agitation, and more insistent in their demands. Their courage and persistence are certainly worthy of a better cause; and if they were not so blind to the practical side of the question, and to the true requirements of Egypt, they could have put the qualities which they now display to better use, and so have had reasonable hope of benefiting the country which they pretend to serve.

The composition of this clique throws an interesting light on the inward motive of its creation. First and foremost comes Said Zaghlul Pasha, ex-Minister of Education and Justice, and elected Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly, who disappointed even his warmest well-wishers by his undignified attitude during the one and only session which that representative body has so far been able to hold. From the early time when he received severe punishment from Tewfik Pasha for his refractory attitude he has displayed qualities that have caused him to fall foul of every high-minded Egyptian with whom he has at one time or another had to work. Next comes Ismail Sidky Pasha, ex-Minister of Wakfs, admittedly an able man, who had to resign his post owing to a private scandal. Whilst doing some quite useful economic work since his eclipse from the Ministerial firmament, he has not belied his reputation as a political intriguer.

With him are Mohammed Mahmud Pasha, an ex-Mudir and a young Egyptian educated and trained at an English University, for whom a brilliant future was at one time predicted. Unfortunately, however, he had to be removed from the governorship of the Behera Province owing to his having countenanced methods of crime repression and detection which savoured more of Ismailian times than of the present day. Other members of the clique are: Sufani Bey, a rabid Extremist Nationalist, who has always been a thorn in the side of the Egyptian Government on account of his reactionary ideas, and who had to be warned at the beginning of the war to cease his activities and remain quiet in his village if he did not wish to be sent to Malta; Sharawi Pasha, an Egyptian landowner of great wealth, who has always inclined to Nationalist politics, and has probably been included in the clique owing to his being in a position to provide the much-needed sinews of war; Hamed El Bassel Pasha, a Bedawi of the Fayoum, and said to be a relative of sorts of Enver Pasha; Abdel Aziz Fahmy Bey, leader of the Native Bar, and a much-respected lawyer, whose impetuosity has undoubtedly led him into the fold, from which he would find it difficult to extricate himself with dignity; and one or two younger members of the Legislative Assembly who have political ambitions, and have been attracted by the specious arguments of the older leaders of the movement. There are also two Coptic members, whom the clique recruited late in the day, when they realised that without some Coptic element they could not appear before the world as representing the Egyptian nation. These two Copts are mere figureheads, even so far as concerns their own community, who disapprove of their adhesion to a movement the success of which could not in the long run benefit the non-Moslem element in Egypt.

The foregoing are the principal members of the clique. As can be seen, they are by no means representative of the best elements of the Egyptian nation. They are, in fact, men who have either lost their public positions or whose political ambitions have so far not been satisfied, and who, realising that probably they stand no chance of coming into political prominence so long as the present regime lasts, desire to bring about a complete change, which will, they hope, bring them personal advancement in the shape of a prominent share in the government of the country.

It may be asked what are the demands which these gentry are putting forward with so much insistence, and which are looked upon with such disapproval, even ridicule, by the rest of their social class. They are nothing less than the complete political independence of Egypt without any control from any foreign Power. So rabid is their desire to obtain what they call "complete autonomy for Egypt," that they would be prepared to allow the Capitulations to remain in force, if by so doing they could assure the "liberty" which they claim for their fellow-countrymen. Those of our readers who have followed Egyptian affairs during the past ten years or so will remember that one of the great grievances of the Egyptians has always been the existence of the Capitulations, which have made it difficult—in many instances impossible—to introduce the social and other reforms which the country so much requires. It is generally admitted by the more intelligent and rational Egyptians that the time has come for the abolition of these Capitulations and the substitution of some formula which will satisfy the Powers interested and at the same time enable Egypt to carry out whatever reforms she considers necessary. Yet these "patriots," who profess to have the interests of Egypt so much at heart, are prepared to bind these international fetters for all time on their country, merely to obtain what they are pleased to call "autonomy."

The unreasonable nature of their demands is not lost on the rest of the intellectual element of Egypt, from whom they receive no support whatever, and who condemn their action as likely to prejudice the country at the very time when there is reason to believe that some greater share in its government is contemplated for the Egyptians by the Protecting Power as the outcome of the judicial and administrative reforms at present under consideration.

Moreover, the majority of the Egyptian population for whom the clique makes out it is speaking, and for whose benefit it declares the proposed change will be, have by no means subscribed to their programme. Generally speaking, the masses do not interest themselves in politics, and as long as their village affairs go well and they are prosperous they are content to let things political alone—and in this who can say that they are not well advised? In any event, any chances of success that such an agitation might have had with the masses, say, four years ago have now entirely vanished. To-day the fellaheen, who constitute 90 per cent. of the indigenous population, are enjoying a prosperity which they have never known before. Most, if not all, of their indebtedness has been paid off—the remission of their debts to foreigners was one of the specious arguments used by political agitators in pre-war days in favour of the overthrow of the British Occupation—and they are quite contented with the present regime, and happy at the prospects which it holds out.

Again, those of them who remember the old days or recollect the tales told them by their parents and older relatives are not so sure that an "Egypt for the Egyptians" without any foreign control would be all for their benefit. In fact, they realise quite well that any such change in status would inevitably mean an Egypt for the more intellectual and more powerful classes to the detriment of the relatively voiceless masses, whose interests would go by the board whenever they came in conflict with those of the element which is now trying to get rid of the one guarantee for fair government, viz., British control.

* This article was written and received by us before the arrest of the "Nationalist" leaders.—Ed.


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

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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In short, an autonomous and independent Egypt such as Zaghlul and Co. depict would merely mean a return to the state of affairs which existed prior to the Occupation, when the Pasha element was all-powerful and the mass of the fellaheen were downtrodden and oppressed for the benefit of the former.

To sum up, neither the constitution of the self-appointed Nationalist "party" nor its demands commend themselves to the consideration of any reasonable member of the Egyptian nation, since they afford no guarantee that liberty and fairplay, such as are now enjoyed by all classes and all sects, would exist under the proposed new regime; and the more one studies its demands and watches its actions the more convinced does one become that the whole movement, such as it is, is coloured by the personal bias of its leaders, viz., disappointment at their present exclusion from participation in the government of the country, due in most cases to their own behaviour, and a hope that out of the agitation, even if it does not succeed, may come some satisfaction of their own personal ambitions.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Break-Up of Turkey.

Sir Edwin Pears contributes to *Everyman* (March 15) an article entitled "The Liquidation of Turkey," in which he discusses the future of various portions of "the old Empire that will cease to be under Turkish rule." Everyone (he writes) agrees that Turkey has been seen at her worst in the government of subject races; but he adds what many people either forget or ignore, that "her misgovernment has not been a question either of religion or of race." Then follows a passage which certainly makes painful reading for all but the most rabid of Turcophobes:

The dream of a regenerated Turkey in which the Moslem minority was to extend a fraternal greeting to Christian and Jew has vanished into space. An honest movement in that direction was made in 1908 and 1909 by a brave minority of Moslems and Christians alike. To us who were in Constantinople it was hopeful because the men who were at the head of the movement were manifestly sincere. It was pleasant also to Englishmen to recognise that the persons favouring it, who carried with them the majority of the population, looked to Great Britain as the example in government which they would willingly imitate. Constantinople had been sickened with stories of bakhshish and general corruption. Every railway concession granted to Germany had been obtained by bribes in which most of the officials in power shared. The result was that the revolution of 1908 sent German influence down to zero and British influence up to boiling point. When, in the following year, a deputation of Young Turks came to London, they went to our Foreign Office with high hopes. They came out of it chastened men. The truth is that neither the French Foreign Office nor the British had any use for enthusiasts.

Gradually Young Turkey followed in the wake of Old Turkey, and when the honest men in the party recognised that their more ardent colleagues cared nothing about liberty, irrespective of race and religion, a steady movement began which left the extremists of Young Turkey free to do what they liked. The result need not be traced here. It ended by the extremists in question going over to the side of Germany, and, in spite of the warnings of men who knew something of the history of Turkey, the Sublime Porte abandoned the traditional friendship to which it had been faithful for nearly a century.

Another very interesting passage is that in which Sir Edwin Pears gives his views on the future of Constantinople:—

Probably the favourite solution would make of Constantinople a district which should not belong to any state, but should be under the sovereignty of the League of Nations. Its boundaries might be practically those which were agreed upon by the Balkan States in 1913. A line from Enos to Midia on the Black Sea would cut off a section of the peninsula, while to the south of the Straits there would be an artificial line running between the Black Sea and probably as far as the northern boundaries of the Vilayet of Aidin. In any arrangement by which Constantinople is dealt with there must necessarily be a considerable population included. Within the boundaries here suggested there would be about one and a-half millions. The crucial question is whether the Powers will compel this population to remain under Turkish rule, or whether they will grant the district of Constantinople, with the boundaries already suggested, a separate national existence. It may safely be said that all Powers, and especially Conferences, tend to take the line of least resistance, and the fact that in Constantinople there exist already an International Sanitary Commission, another dealing with the Public Debt, and various law courts, which, though bad, may seem easier to knock into shape than to replace, will urge members to let as many things alone as they possibly can.

The Intrigues in Egypt.

The "Nationalist" intrigues in Egypt have not attracted much attention in this country, where the tendency is to treat them with contempt. The *Spectator* (March 15) expressed the general feeling very well when it remarked, in a note, that General Watson had "had to give the Egyptian Nationalists a sharp reminder that there are limits to British patience," and concluded its note:—

The High Commissioner has been very tolerant towards the Nationalists, in accordance with our traditions, but Zaghlul and his colleagues must of late have overstepped the bounds of prudence. It is well for the Egyptians to know that the British Protectorate, which has conferred untold blessings on them, is not to be undermined by intriguing Pashas. After defending Egypt at great cost against the Turks and Germans, we shall not let the Nationalists throw the country into confusion.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* (March 17) is of opinion that—

The Government is greatly to blame for permitting agitations to continue until spectacular arrests have to be made. The deportation of offenders as they offend is the better way of meeting these troubles.

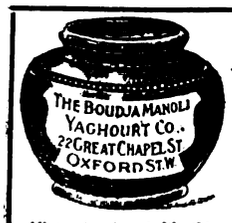
Sympathy with the agitators is conspicuous by its absence.

INDIAN CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

We have received for review some further instalments of the stream of pamphlets which flows steadily from the headquarters of the Extremist party in India. We need not describe their character in detail, since they resemble those which we reviewed at length some months ago, and it is sufficient to say that they take a fairly high rank in this particular department of literature, putting their own case well forward, and evading its weak points with no little dexterity. The most interesting document in the batch is the annual report of the "Home Rule for India League," with its wealth of tabular appendices, which bear testimony to the insatiable appetite of the country for such pabulum. We notice that (excluding cross entries) the League had an income of about Rs.60,000, out of which Rs.53,000 were spent; the fact that over 30 per cent. of this sum is charged to general expenses, including a large item for telegrams and a smaller one for commission on collection of subscriptions, is further evidence of the bureaucratic tendencies of the movement.

The League has been busy in the villages, and claims to have secured 15,000 members in eleven months; the rates of subscription charged are, unfortunately, not stated, but we are assured that "the staunchest Home Rulers are to be found in the villages, where the hardships inflicted by the present system of administration are most felt," and it is claimed that as a result of this activity the tyranny of the petty village officials has considerably diminished. We could wish that this statement had been illustrated by statistics; Englishmen have not yet succeeded in curing Indians of the vice of tyranny, but we should like to know in how many cases the diminution followed on a threat to complain to the Englishman at headquarters. This particular feature apart, the movement in the villages is undoubtedly interesting, but its full significance will not become apparent until other parties take a hand.

We have received the first issue of the "*Bulletin* of the Russian Society at King's College" (University of London). Its contents are partly in English and partly in Russian, and it contains contributions by Professor Miliukov (the well-known Russian critic and writer), Dioneo, and others. Copies of this number (price 1s.) can be obtained from the Editor, at the School of Slavonic, King's College, Strand, W.C. 2, or from Mr. A. A. Raffi, 153, Regent Street, W. 1.



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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The announcement was made last week that the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) and the Association of British Motor and Allied Manufacturers are to despatch an investigator to the Eastern markets to ascertain the conditions and prospects for the sale of British motor vehicles, their parts and accessories. Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon, Ceylon, and other places will be visited, and among the subjects to be covered in the investigation will be technical specifications of the cars most in demand, facilities for obtaining fuel, road systems, Customs duties, legislative restrictions, importers, trade organisations, methods of competitors, and transport facilities. The scheme is excellent, and has everything to commend it, and I can only hope that in due course this precedent will be applied to other trades and other markets.

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The suggestion to utilise Royal Indian Marine vessels as passenger ships, in view of the great shortage of shipping accommodation, for Anglo-Indians and their wives and families who wish to come home this year, has given rise to the demand in some quarters that British war vessels should be utilised for this purpose. I have heard the same idea mooted over here in conversation; but so far as I know there has been no attempt to bring influence to bear on the authorities in this direction. If it is possible to use warships—cruisers, for instance—for passengers, and I fail to see why it should be impossible, perhaps evidence of strong feeling on the subject in the Anglo-Indian Press will bring about the innovation.

***

I hope my readers read General Seely's remarks on the value of the aeroplane in the East, in the course of his speech on the Air Force Estimates. I have constantly emphasised the point that it is in the establishment of communications in the East that the aeroplane is likely to be of the greatest immediate value, and on this aspect General Seely laid particular stress. "It is there," he said, referring to Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Near East, "where air development will very likely have its greatest future, as it has its greatest present." He illustrated this by saying that the Political Officer at Baghdad could do the same inspections in two days as he could before in two months. Turning to the question of mails, General Seely said that the possibilities of carrying the mail from Cairo to India were extremely favourable. "How best to do it," he added, "whether by carrying it by members of the Royal Air Force or by putting it up to public tender, or by means of a chartered company, is a matter for consideration, though not for long delay.

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This week's development in regard to the French exchange is not likely to render any easier the task of developing British trade with Morocco. Another effect will be to make it more difficult to re-export the surplus stocks there, the disposal of which presents one of the pressing problems of the moment.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the year ended March last shows an expansion in business that can only be described as remarkable. The net profits have risen to £1,308,558 from £344,110 in the previous year. The company again places £100,000 to general reserve, while the allocation to preference share reserve remains at £50,000, but, besides this, £175,547 is now repaid to the Burmah Oil Company in respect of dividends on the preference shares guaranteed by the company, £100,000 is placed to amortisation reserve, and £80,000 to debenture stock redemption reserve. The preference dividend of 8 per cent. accounts for £40,000 more than in the previous year owing to the larger capital, while the ordinary dividend, raised from 6 to 8 per cent., absorbs £204,986. The balance carried forward is now £454,723, against £19,537, but this large sum is subject to excess profits duty. It remains to mention that the claim against the Persian Government for damage to the pipe line is still unsettled, but a friendly settlement is anticipated.

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As to the future, it can only be said that the indications point to a further increase in the profits of the company. When the refinery extensions at Abadan are completed its capacity will be about two and a-half times greater than in the year under review. Another refinery which will further considerably increase the company's throughput is being erected near Swansea. The field maintains its productive character, and in a reserve field an additional large area of productive territory has been proved, while a number of other fields of a most promising character have been reported on by the company's geologists. This, in brief, summarises the company's position, which must even make those who opposed the scheme willing to admit that a British Government never did a shrewder stroke of business than when it acquired two-thirds of the ordinary shares of the company.

***

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the National Bank of Egypt. The gross profits have risen to £964,600 from £764,100 in 1918, while the expenses were £270,700, as against £214,200, and the net profit amounted to £693,900, as against £519,200. The balance brought forward was £49,500, making the available balance £743,400, and this sum has been utilised to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., as against 8 per cent. in 1917, which takes £300,000, and to place to the statutory and special reserves £336,700, as against £251,900 for the previous year, leaving £106,600 to be carried forward.

In the near future it is thought that there should be an excellent opening in Persia for machinery for brick-making. The war has had the same effect on building operations in Persia as in other countries, and for some time building is reported to have been practically at a standstill. The result must be that when economic conditions improve there will be a great demand for building in the country, and brick-makers will only be able to keep pace with it by installing machinery on a considerable scale. The market in this commodity is certainly one which should be worth the attention of British manufacturers.

***

An industrial development of importance in the Sudan is the coming establishment at Mekwar of a cement factory, the foundation stone of which was laid on February 24 by Mrs. McCrae and Madame Buccianti. It has long been recognised that a great saving would be effected in the comprehensive scheme of constructional work in the Sudan if it was possible to manufacture Portland cement locally, and the favourable result of experiments by Mr. Alessandrini with various materials obtainable in the Sudan, which proved that a suitable cement could be produced there, led to the present project. There is no doubt that the public works now being carried out will require the entire output of this factory for some time, and the possibility of developing an export trade in cement must be a matter of a very distant future.

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At the extraordinary general meeting of the Cyprus Oil Trust the chairman stated that the directors understood that it had been decided that oil deposits in the Empire should be absolutely under the control of the Imperial Government, and that an arrangement had been entered into with the largest group of the British oil companies to send oil experts to different parts of the Empire for the purpose of making thorough examinations. The directors considered it inadvisable, he added, to proceed with further exploratory work in Cyprus, and they had approached a company who owned a concession for petroleum in the Near East, and had been granted the right to prospect over 500 acres for a year from the signing of peace. The property was situated, he stated, seven miles from Dedeagatch, and the railway from Salonika to Constantinople ran through the property.

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INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Influence on British Trade.

Speaking before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, on March 13, on the report of the Indian Industrial Commission, Mr. D. T. Chadwick, I.C.S., Indian Trade Commissioner, said that they were all living in days of change. Movements which before the war were gathering force were rapidly taking form and demanding decisions—decisions profoundly affecting alike both the individual and State policy. India had not been exempt therefrom. Steamships, education, newspapers, telegraphs, and Japan have all combined to render no longer applicable to India the epithet of the "unchanging East."

Amongst other movements, the last twenty years there had shown the existence of a belief, widespread through the different classes, and often seeking vague, partial and hesitating expression, that industrial development and change in India were both possible and necessary for the general welfare of the country. In competent business circles there had been a breaking away from traditional lines of Indian industrial effort, viz., textiles, leather and mining. New ventures had been successfully inaugurated, such as steel and cement works, the application of electricity to industry, whilst at the other end of the scale were to be found some agriculturists who used internal-combustion engines to raise water, or who had invested money in rice-hulling plant, or joined together to erect a co-operative bone-crushing factory.

There had also been many failures and partial successes, due at times to insufficient preliminary inquiries or deficient management, or to any of the hundred and one difficulties which beset the path of the over-confident pioneer; but all these were efforts to broaden the field of industrial activity. Local governments, responding to the spirit of the times, had also felt the need of a wider basis of employment, and had endeavoured to help the movement by constantly revising the syllabus of studies at technical schools, by occasionally engaging experts, and even at times by actually pioneering, testing, and founding new industries. There were, however, no settled broad lines of general policy, and the Orders of the Secretary of State in 1910 and 1912, while restricting these official feelers after industrial development, seemed to leave local governments in doubt as to what extent and in what form they could give direct assistance to industrial effort. Moreover, they had neither the organisation nor equipment to give expression to their desire to help.

Thus in 1916 there was a large body of public and official opinion in India not content with existing industrial conditions, and looking to Government for a declaration of its policy, and for an ordered scheme of action. They had to remember to-day that the events of the last two years had brought in glaring relief many of India's industrial deficiencies, had called forth more varied industrial efforts, and had greatly intensified the belief in, and the need of, Indian industrial development. Such development was not necessarily antagonistic to British industries and commerce. Increased productive power would mean increasing needs and increased purchasing power. If India was to be the Asiatic pillar of the British Empire, sound in its foundations, shapely in its form, and durable in its structure, it was necessary that the basis of employment of her people be widened, her economic efforts better balanced, and her ability to meet her most urgent needs in years of stress increased.

Mr. Chadwick proceeded to give a very able and comprehensive analysis of the Commission's recommendations, and pointed out that it was clear that they forecasted great changes of method. 1. On the part of Government, a much more intimate association with commercial and industrial development, a smoothing away of some of the administrative annoyances in the working of certain acts, the more complete collection of information, and its presentation in forms more useful commercially, a marked increase in the amount of Government stores purchased locally, the provision of facilities for research, advice, and education, the fostering of cottage and small industries by demonstration, advice, organisation, and occasionally with finance, and aid to large ones where necessary in national interests. 2. On the part of the people a willingness to submit to the hard practical work of the factory, a readiness to understand and ameliorate the conditions of labour, and the adoption in many cases of more business-like methods. The co-operation and sustained effort of both sections are needed to achieve the far-reaching aims of the Commission.

Sir Charles McLeod, chairman of the East India Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, who presided, said that the report laid a great responsibility on the shoulders of the Government. Its acceptance would be to the great benefit of India. India would become prosperous and strong, and England would be more prosperous and stronger.

Sir Charles Armstrong proposed a resolution requesting the Council of the Society "To convey to the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India the opinion of the meeting of the desirability of prompt action, and of the necessity for appointing a special officer with an adequate staff to give early effect to such recommendations of the Commission as are approved by the Government of India." He said that there should be no delay in giving effect to the recommendations of the report. There had been some tendency to belittle the work of English people in India. The Englishman had done and was doing a splendid work in developing Indian industries, and there was every reason to encourage joint British and Indian enterprise. The resolution was adopted.

COMPETITION FOR INDIAN MARKET.

All interested in British trade with India are watching with absorbing interest the attitude of British labour, says the Delhi correspondent of *The Times* in a message dated March 4 (delayed). The present position is still that, whilst India is hungry for British goods, particularly machinery, and has money to pay for them, few are coming forward, ships arriving half empty.

A sign of the times is that whilst the embargo on motor-cars is removed, the first shipment of the new cars promised hails from America.

Most significant is the Prime Minister's statement that the concession of the miners' demands would raise the pit-mouth price of coal from 18s. to 26s. a ton. Whilst the sea route has been interrupted owing to shortage of freight, coal can be railed from the Bengal coalfields and delivered in Bombay at 16 rupees (£1) a ton. In addition, hundreds of thousands of hydro-electric horse-power will shortly be generated in the Western Ghats and cheaply delivered to Bombay industries.

The increase in wages, present and prospective, in India will do nothing appreciable to redress the balance. Nor can British labour hope to compete with Indian on the basis of higher technical skill. Indian manufacturers have learnt their lesson, and, putting aside the former practice of relying on an abundance of cheap labour, are installing the best automatic machinery that the world can supply. I know of many new industries being actively promoted, all founded on the installation of the finest plant that money can buy. Experience shows that with a modicum of skilled supervision Indian labour is capable of working such plant at a tithe of the wages that English mechanics would demand.

The question of price is vital in the Indian market. If the present attitude of British labour induces a large increase in the cost of production, whether actual or relative, British industry can say good-bye to the Indian market, where it is now supreme, but is faced with a daily increasing competition from the United States and Japan, whilst traders are eagerly awaiting the reopening of the market for cheap Continental goods.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended March 6 were :—Cattle markets £1,337, general markets £564, total £1,901; total for year £18,530. For the corresponding week in 1918, ended March 7, the figures were :—Cattle markets £759, general markets £464, total £1,223; total for year £11,872.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

Although in some quarters of the market during the past week the tone has been slightly better than recently, no particular development in the turnover can be recorded. Traders are somewhat nervous as to the outcome of the Peace Conference in Paris, and, of course, the strained situation with regard to labour questions has had its effect upon business. A most artificial situation continues to exist with regard to Egyptian cotton prices. It is believed that if the Government control is released and free buying and selling allowed values might drop a 1s. a pound. In the circumstances users cannot be expected to buy at the moment. This factor is also adversely affecting trade in yarns made from Egyptian cotton. Spinners are quite unable to compete against producers of American descriptions. Order-lists for firms in Bolton and district are steadily running down, and now and again producers accept very low figures, there being considerable irregularity in quotations. Merchants who trade with Egypt have been somewhat concerned at the reports of the disturbances in Cairo. Business in cloth has been very quiet. Rather more inquiry, however, continues to be met with for the outlets of the Levant, and shipping facilities to certain ports in the Near East are now increasing. India has provided a few more offers in grey shirtings and lighter fabrics, chiefly for Calcutta, but only occasional sales have been arranged. A steady business continues to be done, chiefly in bleaching descriptions, for China. Reports from manufacturers as a body remain discouraging. American yarns have again moved off slowly. There is no possibility of spinners improving their position until stocks at the mills are reduced. Only a sorting up trade has been mentioned in export yarns.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Tobacco Factory for Cyprus.

Most of the tobacco grown last year is still in the island, owing to failure to obtain good prices. At a meeting of cultivators and merchants it was decided to form a company for the establishment of a tobacco factory, and to promote the development of the industry, with a capital of £10,000 (shares at £2). A provisional committee has been elected of seven well-known Limasol citizens, chiefly merchants. The planting of this year's crop should be completed by February 28; but District Commissioners have power to extend the time to the end of March. A hopeful view is taken as to island possibilities by growers, who hold that tobacco culture, under improved organisation and more expert knowledge, should prove an important addition to island industries. The formation of the company may be regarded as a welcome example of enterprise, the absence of which has been so marked in the past. Agriculturists are now busy over tobacco planting and other operations, and the outlook is excellent. The winter has been exceptionally mild, but there has been a fall of snow which has covered the heights of Troodos, and more would be welcome, as the rainfall, though good, has hardly been sufficient to supply the springs on which the summer supplies depend.

Madras Rice and Groundnut Estimates.

The total area under groundnut in the Madras presidency is estimated at 952,300 acres, which is 32.7 per cent. below the area finally reported last year.

The final report of the Madras rice crop for 1918-19 states that the total area under the crop is estimated at 9,711,000 acres, which is less by 194,000 acres than the area finally reported for the previous year. The yield is estimated at 77,514,000 cwt. against last year's final estimate of 20,044,000 cwt., a decrease of 35 per cent.

Burma's rice crop available for export is estimated at 2,250,000 tons of cargo rice, equivalent to 1,900,000 tons of cleaned rice. This is a serious decline compared with former years.

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BRITISH COMMERCE IN THE BALKANS.

The Problem of the Ports.

(From a Correspondent.)

The prospects of British and, indeed, all sea-borne commerce in the Balkan Peninsula are seriously threatened by the efforts of two Powers to control the seaports which serve as distributing centres for the interior. Italy claims the great majority of the ports on the Adriatic coast, while Greece desires to appropriate the entire Ægean coast from Salonika to the Dardanelles. If these claims are conceded a formidable barrier against British trade with the interior of the peninsula will be created. Neither Italy nor Greece can hope to possess the back countries which are served by the ports to which they respectively lay claim; these Powers can only instal themselves in a fringe of territory along the sea-coast, but their tenure of this territory will involve the formation of a twofold customs barrier against sea-borne commerce destined for the interior.

Italy now lays claim to Trieste, Pola, Zara, Sebenico, and Avlona (Valona). The last-named port is the only important outlet which Albania possesses. The prosperity of Trieste, hitherto dependent on communication with an extensive hinterland, seems seriously threatened. Under the secret arrangement of 1915, Italy waived her claim to Fiume, but her recent occupation of the town with considerable forces has now been followed by Signor Orlando's declaration that it must be Italian. Fiume is a necessary outlet, not only for Croatia-Slavonica, but for Hungary; and British and Western interests, as well as local interests, require that commercial intercourse between the port and those countries should not be obstructed.

The question of the Ægean ports is still more important, and is now raised in an acute form by the demand of M. Venizelos for the assignment of the entire European coast of the Ægean to Greece. The proposal seriously affects the prospects of Western trade with a large portion of the Balkan Peninsula. The ports of Salonika and Kavalla form distributing centres for the whole of Macedonia and for the greater part of Bulgaria and Thrace. The other ports—Dedeagatch, the only outlet allowed to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Bucharest in 1913, which M. Venizelos now proposes to take from her, and Enos, at the mouth of the Maritza—are of minor importance. But the transference of all these ports to Greece, entailing the exclusion of the Macedonian, Bulgarian, and Thracian hinterlands from the sea and the bestowal of a complete monopoly of the maritime regions on Greece, is a matter which affects many interests besides those of the States immediately concerned. The wide regions of the interior possess great mineral and agricultural wealth, and will offer a splendid field for the employment of foreign capital—once a just settlement, satisfying legitimate claims, has been carried out—and a great demand for foreign industrial products will arise. The competition between Austro-German and British commerce, which in the years before the war was all to the advantage of the former, will revive, and British commerce, being entirely sea-borne, will be hopelessly handicapped unless it obtains unrestricted access to the interior.

On more than one occasion M. Venizelos, recognising the necessity for a maritime outlet to Macedonia and Bulgaria, declared his readiness to cede Kavalla to Bulgaria, provided Greece was allowed to retain Salonika. In the winter of 1912 he distinctly stated that he admitted the possession of an Ægean port by Bulgaria as a commercial necessity. He now couples his claim to the entire Ægean coast with an offer to afford transit facilities for merchandise to and from the interior similar to those which may be arranged by the Congress for certain States situated in the heart of Europe. An arrangement of this kind cannot be regarded as satisfactory. "So long," writes Sir Thomas Holdich, "as a developing country, growing in agricultural wealth and in physical manpower, is under the necessity of appealing to some other country for a right of commercial highway which can only be obtained by grace or favour, there is little chance of that permanent peace between the two countries which is the offspring of mutual independence." An arrangement of this nature may be inevitable in the case of states such as Czecho-Slovakia, which are situated at a great distance from the sea, but is inapplicable to Bulgaria, in view of the fact that the Bulgarian element, both Moslem and Christian, reaches the Ægean coast at various points. It is also more than doubtful whether the merchandise in transit to and from Bulgaria would pass unmolested through a town under Greek administration in view of the intense hostility of the Greeks to the Bulgarians. The interests of all countries that hope to have trade relations by sea with Bulgaria require that she should have her own outlet at Kavalla. Dedeagatch, which was assigned to her in 1913, is of little value as a port owing to the shallowness of the roadstead and to difficulty of access from the interior. Western commerce would be seriously penalised if compelled to take the circuitous route by Varna and Burgas, which in any case possess no importance as regards Macedonia.

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THE ATHENS BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Its Development and Future.

The first annual general meeting of the founders of the British Chamber of Commerce for Greece and British Club was held recently in the reading-room of the Association under the presidency of the British Minister, the Earl Granville, G.C.V.O. In opening the proceedings the president said that it was with regret he had to announce the resignation of the chairman, vice-chairman, and the secretary, who were all leaving Athens. Lord Granville paid a tribute to the valuable work they had done in starting the Association, and said that they would all agree that the Chamber would not have got on so well without the invaluable help and experience of Mr. Bilinski. He further announced that two other members of the original committee had also left, Mr. Waugh and Mr. Charlton Whittall.

Mr. Bilinski then addressed the meeting as follows:—A brief survey of the inception and work of the British Chamber of Commerce and British Club, I think, will not be considered out of place. Thanks to the initiative of Mr. Waugh, who was Commercial Attaché in Athens, to the wholehearted support of Lord Granville, and to the willing and generous aid of the members of the British communities in Greece the Chamber of Commerce and Club were founded on June 3 last. Owing to the state of war trade and commerce were at a standstill, but it had been felt that steps should be taken as soon as possible to establish closer relations with Greece and to lay the foundation for future activities. The British Chamber of Commerce was, therefore, established, and with a view to still further promoting the objects aimed at arrangements were made for a group of representative Greek business men to visit England as the guests of the Federation of British Industries. I understand that the visit was a great success, and there is every reason to hope that a considerable expansion of trade with Great Britain will follow.

Owing to unavoidable delays in connection with the registration of the Chamber of Commerce under Greek law it has not hitherto been possible to admit Greek members, but I am glad to say that the Chamber of Commerce has now been duly registered, and I have every hope that we shall have a very large membership. Before saying anything of the future activities of the Chamber of Commerce I should like to make a few remarks about the British Club. As you are aware the club was formed not only for social purposes but also as an indirect means of furthering British influence and interests by creating a common meeting place for British subjects, where they could exchange views on matters affecting the British community itself, and on the wider subject of knitting closer still the social, commercial, and other relations between Great Britain and Greece.

This is one of the principal reasons why it was decided to pool the resources of the British Chamber of Commerce and Club, although the two institutions are distinct. As you will see by reference to the balance-sheet and income and expenditure account to December 31, which I will later submit for approval, the result of seven months' working has been most satisfactory. I think I may also say that the club has been a success in other respects, and has, in particular, been happy in being able to offer hospitality to a large number of naval and military officers on leave or temporarily in Athens. But I must strike a note of warning. The end of the war has necessarily brought many changes, and I regret to say that a considerable number of our members, including myself, are leaving Greece to take up again their various duties and avocations which the war had interrupted. Speaking for myself, and I feel sure I shall be expressing the feeling of others also, I shall follow the fortunes of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Club with the greatest interest, and will be glad to do anything I can to further the common cause we have at heart. The community will be greatly reduced, however, and it will be up to those members of it who remain to put even more enthusiasm and energy into the work than they have already done. Knowing each member personally I have no doubts in my mind on this point, but so far we have only been delving, the real hard work of digging foundations and building thereon is to come and we must all put our backs into it, co-ordinating our individual efforts so as to form them into one harmonious national purpose, even though this may occasionally involve the sacrifice of personal interests.

I think most of you are aware of the fact that I am leaving Greece to take up new duties in the execution of which I hope I may be able to do something towards the furtherance of British interests, and I take this opportunity of wishing you farewell and thanking you again for the great honour you conferred on me by electing me your first chairman. I sincerely regret that I was not able to do as much work as I should have liked. As a matter of fact a good deal of delving, which I referred to above, has been done, but that has mainly been done by my colleagues on your committee. Without wishing to make any invidious distinctions since all have been so loyal and zealous, I should nevertheless like specially to thank Mr. Bates, the honorary treasurer, who has willingly devoted much time, thought, and energy in all times and seasons to the work of the club and to Mr. Mountain, the honorary secretary, whose equally willing efforts and whose experience and help in matters relating to the Chamber of Commerce have been invaluable. May I also thank you, my lord, for the invaluable courtesy, support and wise counsel you have favoured me personally with in addition to everything else you have done as president.

On the conclusion of Mr. Bilinski's address the following gentlemen were elected to form the committee for the current year: Captain Cottrell, R.N.V.R., C.M.G., chairman; the Commercial Attaché of H.M.'s Legation, vice-chairman; Mr. E. Bates, treasurer; Mr. W. Hillier, acting secretary; and Messrs. Butler, Calphoglu, Major Kennard, J. MacDowall, and Rowe. Mr. E. T. Agius, 12, Lime Street, London, has kindly undertaken to act as secretary for the Chamber in London, and Mr. Felix Cauchi has been appointed secretary for Salonika.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

White Star America—Egypt Service

The White Star Line has resumed its passenger and cargo service between New York and Boston and the Mediterranean after a considerable interval, owing to the war, the s.s. "Canopic," of 12,000 tons register, having left New York recently with over 1,000 passengers.

In the years before the war the White Star Line transferred each winter some of its finest and most popular units on the North Atlantic service to the New York, Mediterranean, and Orient route. The service proved extremely popular, some of the boats carrying as many as 400 first-class passengers from America to Egypt in January and February.

Sailings to Roumania.

According to advices received from Bucharest, it is advisable that all vessels proceeding to Roumanian ports should take sufficient provisions for the round voyage, including the period of their stay in such ports, as foodstuffs of all descriptions are very scarce throughout Roumania.

Cunard Developments.

Another freight service is being started to Near Eastern ports by the Cunard Steamship Co., Ltd. The first ship will sail this month for the Piræus, Salonika, and Constantinople.

A contract has been placed by this line with Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., of Wallsend-on-Tyne, for a large passenger steamer 600 ft. long. The vessel is to have a displacement of 25,000 tons and a deadweight carrying capacity of 12,500 tons.

Prince Line.

The offices of the Prince Steamship Company are to be removed from Newcastle to London on March 31. It is stated that the reason for the change is that with offices in London greater facilities will be given. The whole of the staff with the exception of juniors is being transferred.

VIA SUEZ OR THE CAPE.

Canal Dues v. Coal.

In an interesting article on the Suez Canal route in the *Egyptian Gazette* Mr. Victor L. Trumper points out that shipowners must see that his ships make as many voyages as they can to make the necessary earnings in their limited life, and in the Eastern trade this can only be done by using the Suez Canal. "It may be objected," he says, "that the heavy dues for Canal transit neutralise the saving effected; but except where the difference in distance is very small, the Suez Canal dues do not affect the main contention. Taking the voyage from London to Calcutta as a standard, the distance viâ the Cape route is 11,600 miles, whereas viâ the Canal it is 8,000 miles, a gain of 3,600 miles. Now taking only one item of cost incurred by this increased mileage, namely, coal: The extra amount of coal burnt would probably be 500 tons, and this at an average of £5 per ton is £2,500, or more than two and a-half times the Canal dues; and this coal expenditure is only one item amongst many others.

"Someone will say, What about the Australian ports, surely the difference in distance between the Cape and Canal routes is so small that the latter's dues balance the cost of the increase of mileage? Taking London to Adelaide as the standard, there is a saving of about 1,000 miles on the Canal route, which means an expenditure of about £700 on coal, or not far short of the Canal dues that she would pay; and if one takes her other expenses into account, it would probably more than balance matters. But there is another factor which enters into this case, and that is the distance between coaling stations. A ship carries two things, coal for consumption in her furnaces (generally known as bunkers), and cargo. If a ship is loaded down to her marks, it means that those in charge have decided how much bunkers they need, and the rest of the weight in the ship consists of the cargo, so that it does not need a deep student of mathematics to see that more bunkers mean less cargo in exact ratio. Now on the Canal route between Australia and London, the longest distance between coaling ports, namely, Fremantle and Colombo, is in round figures 3,000 miles. On the Cape route the longest run is between Adelaide and the Cape, a distance of nearly 6,000 miles, or if Albany is taken as the last coaling port it is a thousand miles less. Even with this smaller estimate a ship has to steam 2,000 more miles without rebunkering, and consequently the extra coal that it would be necessary to carry would be from two to three hundred tons. This means that that quantity less cargo can be carried, and with high freights that has to be seriously considered. A certain large company used to send their steamers out to Australia viâ the Cape, because freights were comparatively low and it paid to put bunkers in freight-earning space; but the ships were sent home viâ the Canal, for freights were high and space was more valuable for cargo than for bunkers.

"Recently a large 'standard' ship passed through the Canal. She was built in Japan less than a year ago, and cost over £650,000. She has already cost a good deal in repairs, and will probably not last more than ten years, so that for even a moderate return on the outlay she will have to make gross earnings of about a million pounds in ten years. Of course, this is an extreme case, but it serves to point the moral as to the necessity for quick returns, for if the ship can make four or five voyages more during her lifetime by using the Suez Canal it may make all the difference between profit or a big loss. Perhaps the most convincing example, however, of the value of the Canal route was shown during the war. At one time, owing to the danger from submarines of the passage through the Mediterranean, ships from ports east of Bombay were sent home viâ the Cape. However, after a few months the route was changed again to come through the Canal, as in spite of the increased losses of ships, which was serious, it was found that food got home in greater quantities, because owing to the length of the Cape route, ships were immobilised for such a long period, and this more than counterbalanced the losses involved by the Canal route."

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Markets for Water Lifts.

An agricultural engineer who has recently returned from the East lays great stress on the need for agricultural machinery there. Large landowners unable to obtain the required machines are compelled to leave the greater part of their land uncultivated; whilst small holders who form the majority of agriculturists are struggling with damaged implements and primitive devices to carry on the various works on their farms. Many orders, it is said, have been booked by representatives of foreign engineering firms, but none of them will undertake prompt delivery and no time is fixed. What really puzzled this agricultural engineer was why in such districts as Egypt, Syria, some districts in the Persian Gulf and in the Balkans, British firms do not avail themselves of the present opportunity to secure these markets by supplying the best buyers, the farmers, with what they urgently need before other competitors are thoroughly organised for this purpose. The question of irrigation is, of course, one of the most important for all Oriental agriculturists. Various devices for the purpose are in use, more or less of primitive design. The Persian wheel is still used on irrigated land which is 3 or 4 ft. above water level. Driven by an animal this wheel, on such a lift, will discharge less than a gallon per second. Another device is the Archimedian screw water lift which discharges nearly one gallon per second on a 2 ft. lift, and will water an acre an inch deep in an hour. It consists of a double spiral working in a tight masonry cylinder, and costs from £40 to £45.

The wooden Archimedian screw is a very common implement in Egypt, and when water is scarce or at a low level the fellaheen can be seen working it day and night. The centre is composed of a square iron shaft, and round this thin pieces of wood are strung. Each piece of wood has a square hole in the middle, the holes are made at a greater and greater angle, so the slips of wood form a double spiral. The edges of each piece of wood are bevelled to give a smooth passage for the water. Finally the implement is incased in a wood cylinder, and a handle is put at the end of the shaft. The bottom end is inserted into the water to be lifted. The out-turn of water is very good, and the implement can be made by any village carpenter. These and other "home made" water lifts are simple but not efficient, and some cost more than a modern water lift of British design and manufacture, simple as the Persian wheel or the Archimedian screw water lift, but stronger and capable of working on high or low lifts. Manufacturers of such water lifts should lose no time in approaching the Eastern Markets.

Openings for Threshers.

The primitive system of threshing throughout the East, by tying a number of horses or cattle together and making them walk or run round in a circle, has been mentioned in previous notes. In Egypt they use a machine called the "Norag," which consists of three axles, on each of which are fixed six to seven iron discs. The axles revolve in iron bearings, and the whole rests in an angle-iron frame. The machine is pulled by one pair of bullocks, and will thresh as much as five to six pairs of bullocks would tread out. The discs are kept sharp by the occasional use of the file. Beyond this the machine needs no attention, as the whole thing is very strong and practical. The price is from £2 15s. to £4. In working the grain is put in a heap on the threshing floor, and the Norag is driven round this over a thin layer of grain spread out round the circumference of the heap. The straw is carefully turned and fresh material is gradually taken from the heap, which gradually diminishes in size till the whole is threshed. This machine, however, often causes injury to the grain by bruising it between the ground and the iron discs. Users of this primitive device should be shown the small-size thresher, as made in Scotland and Ireland, which, driven by one-horse gear, or by hand-power or treadle, will give them better and cleaner results in comparatively much shorter time, while the price of the thresher is only £3 to £4 more than the device without the bullocks. The season is approaching, and if these threshers are introduced in time a number of orders should be obtained from Egypt, Syria, Macedonia, and Bulgaria.

Shipbuilding in Greece.

The great losses caused by submarines and mines during the war have given rise to a serious shortage of shipping throughout Europe, and especially in the Mediterranean and the adjacent seas, where the carrying and distribution of food and other necessities depend on shipping transport. An effect of this shortage was the employment of many sailing ships for long and short distances, and the successful installation of oil-engines in some of these vessels as an auxiliary power for propulsion. As a rule the engines in such cases are used when the vessel is becalmed, or to assist her during bad weather; but it will be readily understood that in a sailing ship with sails set and engines under way the speed with a fair wind could be equal to, if not greater than, that of the ordinary steam tramp. Scandinavian shipowners were the first to appreciate the value of these auxiliary ships, many of them being owners of sailing craft fitted with auxiliary power. France, also, has recently become interested, and a large number of these ships has been purchased by the French Government, which has also placed very extensive orders for further craft constructed on similar lines. It is interesting, therefore, to note that the construction of such auxiliary ships has been taken up by shipbuilders in Greece. According to recent reports, a 600-tons sailing ship fitted with auxiliary power was successfully launched from one of the shipyards at the Piræus three or four weeks ago. At present no other particulars of the ship, which was named "Venizelos the Liberator," are known, but it is stated that her lines and the construction generally have been admired by foreign experts. The launching and naming of the ship was telegraphed to M. Venizelos in Paris. The shipbuilding industry was flourishing in Greece in the early part of the nineteenth century, and up to the time that sailing ships were superseded by the steamships. In recent years shipbuilding yards of the most modern type and technical efficiency have been established at the Piræus and Syra, in which iron steamships and other craft are built and engined mostly for the Mediterranean and Black Sea trade. The high price of coal has probably encouraged the building of auxiliary ships, which, again, compared with sailing ships, have the advantage of more or less regular speed throughout the entire voyage, while higher freights are obtainable. Moreover, precedence is usually given to auxiliary vessels over ordinary sailing ships when docking, entering or leaving port, the ships being accorded steamer turns while towage expenses are entirely eliminated.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, dated March 13:—

Light rains in the west of the United Provinces and in parts of Bihar and Orissa and South Burma. Rain is still needed for unirrigated crops in the Punjab.

The forecast for rape and mustard seed is 2,939,000 acres, as compared with 3,942,000 acres at this time last year. Linseed is 1,841,000 acres as compared with 2,932,000.

Bombay cotton market is steadying, fully good broach being quoted April-May delivery 449 rupees 8 annas.

There is no improvement in the piece goods market.

Calcutta jute gunny market remains quiet. Rice market no change.

Dated March 7 (delayed).

Widespread rain in Bengal and Assam; light rain in Orissa, Chota Nagpur, in parts of Burma, the Central Provinces, and Punjab.

The Cambodia cotton crop of Madras is reported to be particularly good. Estimated yield, 250,000 bales of good quality.

The Bombay cotton market is depressed. Fully good broach April-May delivery is quoted Rs. 467. Piece goods dull. Jute and gunny prices are slightly easier. Rice market, no change.

The reconnaissance survey (ten miles) of the Ghum, Simana, Bustee Railway (Darjhiling line) has been sanctioned.

The following deferred telegraphic transfers on London have been applied for and allotted in India:—February 27, Calcutta £85,000, Bombay £20,000; March 6, £110,000.

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ROUMANIA'S COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES.

Outlook for British Trade.

M. George Boncescu, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, gave an interesting lecture on "The Commercial Possibilities of Roumania" to the members of the Bishopsgate Ward Club at the Great Eastern Hotel on March 12.

The real revenue of Roumania, the revenue that went to the country itself and not to the various enterprises worked with foreign capital, he pointed out, was derived from agriculture. The agricultural produce was responsible for nine-tenths of the total exports of Roumania. For this reason the general policy of the State tended towards the consolidation of the agricultural elements. This element had varied according to the evolution of the political and social life of the country during the last centuries. Before 1864, the peasants were little better than slaves; they owned only one-sixth of the land, and their property rights were very uncertain. The consequence was that the total production of the country (wheat, maize, barley, and oats) at that time only reached 13,000,000 to 14,000,000 bushels. After the land reforms enacted in 1864 by Prince Alexander Cuza, and also after the passing of the Land Property Act of 1907, the peasants had the possibility of getting gradually more land from the great landowners, so that now the peasants owned four-sixths of the land, and the production in 1912 had risen to over 83.000,000 bushels.

These reforms were considered insufficient, and in 1916 a new agrarian law was passed by the Roumanian Parliament. Owing to the German occupation this law could not be enforced, and it was only in December, 1918, that the King signed a decree making the law operative after ratification by a new Parliament to be elected by universal suffrage. In accordance with the stipulations of this law all the cultivable lands belonging to the Crown, agricultural bodies, public or private ecclesiastical foundations, and country estates belonging to absentee landlords, were to be expropriated and sold to peasants at a price to be determined by local distribution committees, taking as a basis of settlement the prices ruling in the locality during the five years prior to 1916. Under the provisions of this law no property could now exceed 500 ha (about 1,200 acres), except oil-bearing properties. The purchase price was to be paid to private owners in 50 year annuities yielding 5 per cent., or in perpetual annuities to ecclesiastical bodies. The law would release to small farmers about 2½ million ha (about 6½ million acres) of cultivable land in Roumania proper, and would also be applied to Bessarabia. It was interesting to note that in a country where large estates were prevalent this law had met with little or no opposition. There had, however, been critics who had predicted a marked fall in the output and quality of the crops as a result of too much parcelling out of property and owing to the lack of means of cultivation at the disposal of the farmer. Of course, *prima facie* the argument would seem convincing, and to a certain extent was right. But if it was true that at present the peasant lacked both material, means, and agricultural education; it was also true that, by changing the system and giving the peasant the possibility of bettering his situation and also the necessary education, he was very apt to become in a short time an intelligent and independent farmer. A vivid illustration of the capacity of economic development of the peasant farmer was to be found in the creation of Country Farming Associations, which, in 1903, numbered but eight. In 1910 they formed 275 associations, with a membership of 36.000, farming 500.000 acres, and paying £225.000 rent. Another powerful group of peasant institutions were the peasant banks. Their development was really remarkable. In 1901 there was only one bank, but in 1911 they found 2.056 banks, with 450.000 members, and nearly £2,500,000 capital.

Industries.

The Roumanian industry was, so far, in its infancy, he continued. Fifty or sixty years ago there was no such thing as Roumanian industry, because no industrial enterprise could start and flourish in a country which had no political independence and was always under the menace of becoming the battleground of her neighbours. In 1887 was passed the first law for the encouragement of national industry. This law was supplemented by two Acts of Parliament passed in 1906 and 1912, giving to every individual enterprise using at least 5 h.p. or employing twenty hands daily, the right to import free of duty for a period of from twenty-one to thirty years the raw materials used in certain industries. They also could obtain the use of land belonging to the State at a low rental for the purpose of putting up factories; reduction in the rate of freights on the State railways, exemption of taxes on the payment of a small tax if the profit of the enterprise exceeded 5½ per cent. The number of protected industrial enterprises was in 1912 769, representing a capital of £11,250.000, and employing 46.200 hands, of which 37,000 were males and 9,200 females. The manufacture of the following articles was protected:—Bricks, metallurgy, manufactured wood work, woollens, ribbons, leather, vegetable oils, sugar, breadstuffs, petroleum products, soap, candles, and chemicals.

The Oilfields.

Discussing the oil industry, M. Boncescu said that the existence of oil was noticed as far back as 1640 in the district of Bacau. The exploitation was, of course, at the time most primitive. The peasants used to dig a well up to 200 yards deep and extract the oil by hand devices. It was only in 1857 that the extraction attained anything approaching an appreciable figure. In that year 275 tons, valued at £6,000, were extracted. With the improvement of means of communication the output increased by leaps and bounds, and in 1912 the total production was 1,700.000 tons, valued at £2,500.000, out of a total world production of 47,000.000 tons. The number of borings in exploitation in 1912 was 946, and the pipe-lines for the transportation of crude oil then had a length of 1,094 k.m., of which 853 k.m. were in Prahova district alone. There were sixty-five refineries in 1912, but they had been destroyed together with all the plant before the Germans invaded Roumania. He believed there were now only two in working order. The borings had been restored to a great extent by the Germans during the occupation, and they retired in too great a hurry after the Armistice to be able to destroy them, so that the crude oil production at present was about 75 per cent. of the pre-war output. Unfortunately, the lack of means of transportation made it impossible to export any appreciable quantity at present.

The coal mines of Roumania proper only gave an inferior quality of lignite, and very little anthracite (about 2,520 tons). The total coal output reached 242,000 tons in 1912, valued at £100.000. It was estimated that the total quantity in Roumania did not exceed 36.000,000 tons, but with the incorporation of Transylvania new sources of supply would be available from existing mines, which would make Roumania practically self-supporting in this commodity. The quarries occupied a surface of 725 ha,, and the output reached 170,000 cubic metres in 1912. The extraction and sale of salt was a Government monopoly, yielding a revenue of about £350,000. The quantity extracted in 1912 was 115.000 tons. The sugar industry in Roumania was very prosperous, thanks to the protection granted by various Acts of Parliament. The consumption of beetroot in 1911 was over 12,000,000 tons, the quantity of sugar produced in the same year being 500,000 tons. The forest industry was far from being developed to its full capacity. There were before the war 75 sawmills provided with modern machinery, with an invested capital of about £2.000.000, and using 5.500 h.p. The metallurgical and textile industries were still undeveloped, but (especially the latter) could be greatly improved, as there was a good deal of raw material in the country, and more could be produced. The same could be said of the cement industry.

Commercial Progress.

The foreign trade of Roumania showed a remarkable development during the last forty or fifty years. Whilst in 1877 the total trade was only about £19,000,000, with a balance of £7,500,000 in favour of the imports, in 1912 it reached over £46,000,000, and the balance of trade was shifted to the exports to the extent of over £9,000,000. It was interesting to note that the total trade of Roumania exceeded the foreign trade of Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and Montenegro put together. Belgium was the biggest buyer of Roumanian grain (about £10,500,000), but most of the quantity imported was re-exported from Antwerp. Great Britain bought direct only to the extent of about £1,000,000, and about the same figure was reached by Germany.

With the exception of cotton yarn and cotton piece goods, the bulk of manufactured articles imported into Roumania came from Germany and Austria-Hungary. In 1913 Germany contributed 40 per cent. to the total of imports, Austria coming second with 23 per cent., and Great Britain third with 9.45 per cent. Some articles, like jute bags, cotton goods, etc., were shipped to Roumania via Hamburg, and were thus included in Germany's figures. Not many years ago Great Britain and France were the largest suppliers of woollen goods, but the Germans succeeded in imitating the British and French patterns, and by bringing down the price and by granting special credit facilities they increased their exports to Roumania to the detriment of British and French manufactures. What happened with the woollen goods happened with many other manufactured articles.

M. Boncescu went on to describe Germany's methods in accomplishing the economic domination of Roumania. Fortunately for Roumania, he said, this domination was now a thing of the past. The Germans themselves provided the undoing of their own creation. What Roumania had suffered under the German occupation no one who had not been an eye-witness could tell. On one thing every Roumanian was firmly decided: never to have any more intercourse, commercial or otherwise, with Germany.

The Future.

Roumania was undoubtedly destined to become one of the most important countries in Central Europe. Not being an industrial country the destruction wrought by the Germans would not paralyse the power of recuperation of the country. If Roumania was sufficiently and quickly provided with agricultural machinery, cattle and seed, and also with railway material she would soon be in a position to start the export of grain and oil, which would provide the means of paying the enormous debt contracted during the war. So far as trading relations were concerned, Roumania was at present a no-man's land, and the opportunity offered to British enterprise was undoubtedly unique. The Roumanians had always considered the British trader as most reliable, and the best to deal with. Roumania would be a most important market for British goods, and there was unlimited scope for British capital in participating in the development of the industrial life of the country.

Mr. H. Locke, Manager of the Bank of Roumania, said that he endorsed what had been said about the good prospects for business between this country and Roumania. The figures given by the lecturer referred principally to old Roumania, the addition of Transylvania, Bessarabia, and the Bukovina would make a great difference to the resources of the country. In Transylvania coal mining was an established industry, and, besides this, there were various metals; whilst Bessarabia was one of the most fertile spots in the world for the production of cereals. With regard to the present trade in grain, he believed that part of what was at present put down in the returns as going to Antwerp ultimately found its way to Scottish ports. He believed that the Consular representation of this country would shortly be improved. The British were extremely popular in Roumania. If we could find the means of doing the trade that the Roumanians seemed disposed to do with us, all their trade would come to this country. In the matter of payment there was a difficulty, because there was not much in the country, and prospects of exports this year were very slender apart from oil. If the railway system could be get into order, there was some prospect of oil being exported, and next year some quantity of cereals might be available.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Anglo-Persian Oil Co.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the year ended March 31 states that the profit for the year, after allowing for depreciation, debenture interest, home charges, and royalty amounts to £1,308,558, to which has to be added the balance brought forward from 1916, £19,537, making a total of £1,328,095; from which the following deductions and appropriations have been made :—Repayment to the Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., of amount advanced under preference share dividend guarantee, £175,547; expenses in connection with the new issue of capital and of debenture stock, £42.839; debenture stock redemption reserve, £80,000; preference share reserve, £50,000; general reserve, £100,000; amortisation reserve, £100,000; total, £548,386; leaving £779,708. From this the following dividends have been paid :—Preference shares : Dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. less income-tax for the half-year ended September 30, 1917, £30,000; do. do. for the half-year ended March 31, £60,000; participating dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, £30,000; total, £120,000; and the payment is now recommended of a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, £204,966; total, £324,986; leaving a balance of £454,722 to be carried forward subject to excess profits duty. During the year under review the further 1,000,000 participating preference shares referred to in the last report were issued at a premium of 2s 6d. per share, and further 5 per cent. debenture stock to the amount of £1,800,000 was issued for the purpose of providing additional capital for the company's subsidiary concerns. The claim against the Persian Government for the loss sustained in connection with the cutting of the company's pipe line in 1915 still remains unsettled, but proposals have been put forward which will, it is hoped, lead to a friendly settlement. The balance of the refinery extensions at Abadan for which capital was subscribed by his Majesty's Government is now coming into operation, but the full benefit of these will only be shown in the accounts for the financial year of 1919-20. The further extensions for which the preference share issue was made last year have been a good deal delayed by the difficulties in securing delivery of plant, but they are now well in hand. When these are completed, the refinery capacity at Abadan will be about two and a-half times greater than it was in the year for which accounts are now submitted. Another refinery which will further considerably increase the company's throughput is now being erected in the neighbourhood of Swansea. The present producing field still maintains its highly productive character, and a further well sunk in a reserve field has proved an additional large area of productive territory, the well in question being fully equal in capacity to the best of the wells hitherto struck. A number of other fields of a most promising character have been reported upon by our geologists. In several of these test wells are now being sunk. The undertakings of the British Petroleum Co., Limited; the Homelight Oil Co., Limited; and the Petroleum Steamship Co., Limited; which were acquired from the Public Trustee in 1917 have proved to be valuable acquisitions, and arrangements are now being made for largely extending their activities. The company, through its subsidiaries, now owns tankers and other vessels of an aggregate deadweight capacity of 162,000 tons, and contracts have been placed for further vessels to a capacity of about 150,000 tons deadweight. Since the last general meeting Sir Campbell K. Finlay has resigned his seat on the board, and Mr. Robert I. Watson has been elected to fill the vacancy. During the year Lord Southborough, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., has accepted the seat on the board rendered vacant by the death of the late Mr. W. K. D'Arcy. Under Clause 84 of the Articles of Association, both Mr. Watson and Lord Southborough now retire, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Mr. F. W. Lund, Mr. Frank C. Tiarks, and Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Mr. W. St.D. Jenkins, C.B.E., was appointed last year by his Majesty's Government as an *ex officio* member of the board to take the place of Admiral Sir

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
RAOUL MALLET,
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS :
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER :
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES :
38, Rue St. Ferreol.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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Edmond J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., who now holds the position of an ordinary director. Mr. Jenkins has recently retired, and Sir Frederick W. Black, K.C.B., has since been nominated by the Government as their second representative. Messrs. Brown, Fleming and Murray, C.A., retire from their position as auditors under Clause 115 of the Articles of Association, and, being eligible, offer themselves for reappointment.

Meeting, Britannia House, Great Winchester Street, E.C., 26th instant.

Eastern Bank.

The directors of the Eastern Bank announce that the net profits to December 31 last, after providing for contingencies and including the balance brought forward, amount to £84,806. An interim dividend at the rate of 3s. per share was paid on October 7 last, absorbing £22,500, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 3s. per share, less income-tax, making 7½ per cent. for the year, which will absorb £22,500, placing £20,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £110,000, and carying forward £19,806.

National Bank of Egypt.

The report of the directors for the year ended December 31 states that the gross profit for the year, after providing for depreciation on the bank's building and furniture, for rebate of discount and for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £964,595—after deducting from this sum—for directors' fees, £7,400; for current expenses, £255,343; for special bonus to staff, £8,000, £270,743, there remains a net profit of £693,851. In conformity with article 49 of the Bank's Statutes a dividend of 4 per cent. is payable on the share capital, £120,000, and 10 per cent. of the net profit must be passed to the statutory reserve fund, £69,385, £189,385. After these statutory reductions there remain £504,466, adding to this the balance carried forward last year, £49,505, the amount available is £553,972. The directors propose, in accordance with article 49, par. 2a, of the statutes:—1. To transfer from the special reserve fund (Fonds de Prévoyance) to the statutory reserve fund a sum of £47,336, to bring the statutory reserve fund up to £1,500,000; 2. To transfer from the available undivided profits of the year to the special reserve fund the sum of £267,336, to bring the special reserve fund up to £500,000, £267,336, which leaves £286,635. From this amount the directors recommend the payment of an additional dividend of 6 per cent. on the share capital, which will absorb £180,000, and leave a balance to be carried forward of £106,635. Each share will thus be entitled to a dividend of £1, equivalent to 10 per cent. on the share capital.

Ooregum Gold.

The directors of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India, Ltd., recommend a balance dividend for the year ended December 31 last of 1s. 6d. per share, less income-tax at the rate of 5s. 9d. in the £, on both preference and ordinary shares, payable on April 16 to holders registered 18th instant. This will make a total distribution for the year of 35 per cent. on the preference and 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Dividends, Payments, &c.

Baraoora (Sylhet) Tea.—Second interim dividend of 5 per cent. (10s. per share), less tax, on ordinary, payable 31st instant.

Greek Guaranteed £2 10s. per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898.—The Bank of England is prepared to receive coupons due 1st proximo on these bonds. Lists can be procured at the dividend pay office.

The net profits of the Bank of Mysore for 1918 amounted to Rs.2,28,294, making with Rs.24,158 brought down an available sum of Rs.2,52,453. At the meeting held on February 5, a further dividend of 5 per cent. was declared, making 9 per cent. for year, as compared with 8 per cent. for each of the two preceding years, and Rs.70,000 was added to reserve fund, leaving Rs.13,453 to be carried forward.

The directors of Venesta, Ltd., have declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (less income-tax at 6s. in the £) on the Preference shares for the six months ending 31st instant, payable on that date.

The report of the Uyakellie Tea Company of Ceylon for the year ended December 31 states that the profit was Rs.5,119; Rs.5,714 was brought forward, making Rs.10,833, which the directors propose to carry forward.

The directors of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company announce an interim dividend of 8 per cent. actual, less tax.

The report of the Central Bank of India for 1918 states that the net profit was Rs.5,22,747, making with amount brought forward Rs.5,53,242. From this an ad-interim dividend at 8 per cent. per annum, free of tax, was paid for six months ended June 30, 1918, and directors have transferred to reserve fund Rs.3,00,000. Dividend declared at rate of 9 per cent. per annum, free of tax, for half-year ended December 31, Rs.40,742 being carried forward. With a view to increased ability to take a more important part in the ever-growing requirements of Indian banking the directors think it advisable to increase the authorised and subscribed capital of the bank from rupees 50 lakhs to rupees one crore.

The Bank of England announces the numbers of 689 bonds of the Greek Guaranteed Two-and-a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898 which have been purchased for the sinking fund and cancelled.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.—Holders of preference share warrants to bearer should present coupon No. 41 for payment on 31st instant. Preference transfer books will be closed from March 24 to March 31 inclusive.

The directors of the Compagnie Algérienne of Paris, have declared a dividend of 57½ francs per share for 1918. The previous dividend was 54 francs.

The ordinary general meeting of the Produits Chimiques et Huileries d'Odessa will be held at Brussels on March 27.

The ordinary general meeting and an extraordinary general meeting of the Est-Asiatique Français will be held at Paris on March 28.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons announce the numbers of 4½ per cent. bonds of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway drawn for repayment at par on April 15.

Mr. Sidney Lamert presided at an extraordinary general meeting of the United Egyptian Lands on March 17, when a resolution was adopted making alterations in the articles of association in connection with the proposed reconstruction of the company.

According to a wireless message from Trieste, the Austrian-Lloyd Steamship Company has been renamed the Lloyd-Triestino Steamship Company.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Our market this week has been affected by the possibilities of coal and other strikes, and, also, to a certain extent, by the cables from Egypt regarding the recent political troubles there in connection with the Nationalist agitation.

Government stocks, however, have continued an exceedingly firm spot, and Unifieds are again a point up at 93½, with sellers still exceedingly scarce. Some business has been done in the 3½ per cent. Prefs. round the current level at 78½.

In Bank shares Agriculturals are 1-32 easier at 6⅞, and Nationals are ¼ lower at 22⅜. The report of the latter bank shows that although the dividend to be distributed is only 20s. per share, the profits earned have amounted to something like 45s. per share. Land Banks are a harder market; some business has been done at 7 1-16, a rise of 1-16.

Amongst Railways Delta Lights are somewhat quieter, and are closing 1-16 lower at 8 7-16.

In Land descriptions there has again been some profit-taking in progress. Aboukirs have receded 9d. to 28s., Delta Lands are 3d. down at 15s. 9d., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have dropped 6d. to 15s. 6d. New Egyptians have gone back a further 1s. 3d. to 26s. 6d.; but, on the other hand, Sidi Salems have improved ¼ to 2⅞, and Sudan Plantations have risen a like fraction to 5⅜, after being at one time as high as 5⅝. Union Foncières are a little quieter again, and show a loss of 6d. at 75s. In United Egyptian Lands there has been a fair amount going on, and the price is again 3d. easier at 2s.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters have come to business about the current price of 12⅛, and there has been a fair amount of business in Egyptian Markets without, however, altering the price. Salts and Sodas are ⅛ firmer at 3⅛, and there has been a renewal of demand for Khedivial Mails Ordinary, which are ¼ higher at 5⅝. On the other hand Khedivial Mail Prefs. have receded ¼ to 4¼.

Amongst Greek securities the 1889 Loan has improved ½ to 57, and the 1914 Loan is two points up at 83: but business is on only a small scale.

Oil Shares.

The Anglo-Persian report had an encouraging effect on the market. Anglo-Persian Prefs. were 26s. 6d., and Burmahs were in demand, the price varying from 8 11-16 to 8 19-32. British Burmahs were 17s. 10½d., and Anglo-Egyptians B 86s. 10½d., though subsequently easing a few pence. Roumanian Consols were firm and reached 17s. 9d. Traians were 12s. 10½d. North Caucasians were rather a feature at 24s.

The ordinary general meeting of the Société Franco-Hellénique d'Explosifs et de Produits Chimiques will be held at Paris on March 25.

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company will be held at Cairo on March 31.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Sucreries et Rafineries d'Egypte will be held at Cairo on March 22.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Mar. 11	Mar. 18
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	93	84	84
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	92½	93½
Do. Pref. 5% 1890	88	78½	78½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	71	71
Do. 5%, 1884	56	71	71
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	56½	57
Do. 5%, 1890	56	71	71
Do. 5% Frdg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	81xd	83
Do. 5% Currant	—	97	97
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	—
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 3/8	6¼
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¼	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15¾	15¾
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11½	11xd
Chartered Bank of India	65	72	74
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7	7 1/16
London County and Westminster	—	17½	17½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22⅝	22⅝
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8½	8 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	28/9	28/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	4¾	4¾
Béhéra Co.	8½	13⅞	13⅞
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Dalra Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/-	15/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/-	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	27/9	26/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	2⅜	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	—	5½	5⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	75/6	75/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/3	2/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord	1 1/16	28/3	28/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	3	3⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£85,000*

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£856,000**
RESERVE - - - - -	**£190,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.
Agencies at Busreh and Baghdad

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

REMITTANCES TO SERBIA

Remittances to Belgrade, Uskub and Monastir can now be effected through

THE BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Telephone: 1110 London Wall.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - **Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund - - - - **Rs.52,00,000**

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up **Rs.2,00,00,000**
Reserve Fund **Rs.1,51,00,000**
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments **Rs. 25,00,000**

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital -	**£2,000,000**	**Called-up Capital** - -	**£580,000**
Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER . LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. **MANCHESTER.** **NEW YORK.**

EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.

MOROCCO:—
CASABLANCA, FEZ MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, SAFFI, TANGIER.

CANARY ISLANDS:—
LAS PALMAS.

WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£2,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,000,000**
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) ..	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,350,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman.* ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq. SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 412.—Vol. XV. THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With the ostentatious conversion of Hungary to Bolshevism the Paris Conference is able to appreciate its mistake in allowing its proceedings to be unduly protracted. The responsibility, it is to be feared, is shared by all the States alike; by the Great Powers, for having left so many questions unsettled while the stress of the military situation provided the necessary incentive to an amicable arrangement, and by the minor Powers for having put forward extremist demands and having shown no disposition to meet rival claimants in a spirit of give-and-take. That there should have been a sudden speeding-up of the machinery of the Conference suggests that the procedure is recognised now as having been too leisurely in the past. Although no one is inclined to under-estimate the weight of the burden placed upon the Council of Ten, there is a general feeling that they could have lightened their own labours by showing a greater readiness to accept responsibility for final decisions.

The appointment of a Commission to visit Syria in order to report on conditions there, in Palestine, and in Armenia is a case in point. For the findings of such a Commission to have any real value the members ought to separate and move about incognito for a year or more. It is most unlikely that as a formal mission they will obtain any evidence of practical utility other than what is or ought to be available in Paris. But they will have caused serious delay in the settlement of Syria. According as they allow themselves to be shepherded by one or other of the different sections of opinion in the country, so the nature of the testimony given them will vary, but whether they will be able to form a more accurate judgment of the relation of the evidence supplied to the state of public opinion as a whole must be regarded as problematical. They cannot tour the country as free agents; they must be conducted by one authority or another, and, if we may judge by the attitude already taken up by the French Press, we may count upon being told, if they decide against the French in regard to Syria, that it was entirely owing to the presence of British troops; whereas, if they recommend the allocation of Palestine to France, it will be realised that they have sacrificed the wishes of Southern Syria to those of the more westernised Syrians in the north.

The only indication that the Conference may inadvertently have stumbled upon the right course in regard to the Syrian question is supplied by the violent protest of Chekri Ganem, President of the Syrian Central Committee. This very able spokesman of the Northern Syrians affords a striking illustration of the fact, well known to those with first-hand knowledge of Syria, that a section of his countrymen have assimilated their French training to such an extent that they are to-day a little less Syrian than French. They differ in many respects from the more numerous Syrians of the south, who, if allowed a free choice, would undoubtedly prefer to work out their political development under freer conditions than those which have satisfied the Northerners. From Chekri Ganem's protest it is to be inferred that he is afraid lest a Mission sent to Syria would learn of this division in the Syrian nation and discover the numerical preponderance of the Southerners. If such elementary facts have been withheld from the Conference, a very strong case is made out for the Commission in spite of the regrettable delay.

The symptoms of restlessness in Egypt which manifested themselves after the arrest of the four Pashas did not die out quite so quickly as was hoped. They spread in a rather disquieting way, and at the end of last week the situation was officially declared to be grave. In view of that gravity, and of the absence of Sir Reginald Wingate from Egypt, General Allenby has been appointed Special High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, and, abandoning his projected visit to this country, hastened back to Egypt. He has been "directed to exercise supreme authority in all matters, military and civil, to take all such measures as he considers necessary and expedient to restore law and order" in the two countries given into his charge, "and to order and administer in all matters as may be required by the necessity of maintaining the King's protectorate over Egypt on a secure and equable basis." There is about this phraseology a refreshingly vigorous ring that has been lacking in most official pronouncements of late, and Sir Edmund Allenby may be trusted to perform the task set him to the entire satisfaction of his King and his country. Happily for themselves, the Egyptians have almost certainly taken his measure correctly—for they are good judges of a man—and his presence in their midst will undoubtedly have a steadying effect at once.

The situation, as at present known to us, is dealt with elsewhere, but here we may put on record a few of the leading events reported during the past week.

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In the first place, the makers of trouble have succeeded in astonishing most people by the extent and comparative efficiency of their organisation. Tantah no longer stands alone as the only place outside Cairo that has distinguished itself by rioting. Galioub, Wasta, Rekka, Shebin el-Kom, and Zagazig must now share that doubtful honour; while Assiout appears to have been affected to some extent, and Alexandria has also figured in the telegrams. Railway and telegraphic communications have been cut, and in Cairo itself the rioters plucked up courage to fire on an armoured motor-car, which—probably to their surprise—returned the compliment. The capital has also had the excitement of a demonstration before the Sultan's Palace and the foreign Consulates. In this demonstration students and railway strikers supplied the bulk of the procession, which is reported to have consisted of some 10,000 people, but a few leading sheikhs and the Ulema also participated. That the manifestation was an orderly one is clear from the fact that the city Police Commandant rode in a car with one of the sheikhs. Unfortunately, demonstrations elsewhere were not so orderly. Egyptian officials were terrorised into ceasing work; other Egyptian officials and some police have been killed; at Galioub some British soldiers met a like fate; and at Wasta, it is reported, an English railway employee lost his life. Here the crowd, said to have numbered 2,000, stopped the train, smashed up the carriages, and threatened the European passengers. At Galioub a similar riot was only broken up by the timely arrival of an aeroplane. Air patrols have also proved very useful in preventing further damage being done to the railways.

Perhaps the most disquieting feature of the disturbance is the appearance on the scene of Bedouin from the western desert, who had the temerity to attack a detachment of British troops in the Fayoum and Australian troops in Sharkia. In both cases they were beaten off with loss to themselves. They have, however, been looting the Baharia oasis, and according to one report, quoted by Lord Curzon in the House of Lords on Monday, they have killed some British officers who were returning from leave at Luxor, in the express train from Upper Egypt. It is also reported that the Turkish flag has been hoisted in some of the villages. It would be interesting to know how close the connection between the "Nationalists" and the Young Turks is at the present time. In the past it was undoubtedly very close indeed. The native police have won praise for their tact and steadiness in trying circumstances. The Sudan remains unaffected, and it has been possible to send troops thence to occupy Assouan.

A notable memorandum concerning the future of the Turkish Empire has been presented to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by a number of Moslems, including the Aga Khan, the Right Hon. Ameer Ali, Sir Abbas Ali Baig, and Mr. M. H. Ispahani. It should not be necessary to point out in Great Britain that such a document is entitled to the most sympathetic consideration, and that, if there has to be any departure from its conclusions or recommendations, the decision should not be taken until the points at issue have been discussed with Moslems and an attempt has been made to convince them of the overruling urgency for running counter to their views. The signatories call attention to the fact that there is no Mohammedan representative in the Peace Conference, and by inference claim that their memorandum represents the opinions of the bulk of his Majesty's Mussulman subjects. At a round-table discussion they would, no doubt, recognise that Moslem opinion has had a very distinguished representative at the Conference in the person of the Emir Faisal, and it would be possible to clear up the confusion that evidently exists in the minds of the memorialists between the civil or political aspect of the question and the religious side. The Khalif's position, which will never be interfered with by Great Britain, can hardly be affected in the eyes of Islam by a change of domicile, say, from Constantinople to Konia, when Islam has maintained for centuries the utmost indifference to the individual fate of any number of Khalifs at the hands of Constantinople assassins.

The more important points of the Memorandum are thus set forth:—

We welcome the proposal to create self-governing institutions in the occupied provinces of Turkey and in Armenia, but we most strongly deprecate the suggestion to sever them absolutely from the Turkish Empire.

We have no hesitation in expressing our conviction that Turkey, under a Government such as she has now been fortunate enough to obtain, with her prestige among the Mussulmans of the world, would be an immense source of strength to England and the Allied Powers, who rule over large masses of Moslems.

We venture strongly to urge that these proposed new autonomous States should not be withdrawn from the spiritual suzerainty of the Ottoman Sovereign as Khalif.

If the Peace Conference were to decide to create Palestine into a self-governing State, the entire Mussulman world would resent its being placed under any but a Mussulman ruler, whatever other form the Government may take.

We appeal that the rights and interests, together with the religious institutions and places of worship of the large Mussulman population inhabiting Armenia, should be safeguarded and that they should be protected from persecution, and that they should be placed on an equal footing with the non-Moslem population in the enjoyment of all civil rights and privileges.

It would be of interest to know on what tangible evidence the signatories of this Memorandum base their eulogy of the present Turkish Government. There can be no doubt that the new Cabinet has made a good start in Constantinople by effecting arrests of prominent members of the Committee of Union and Progress, and it may be unfair in these early days to complain of its failure to exercise any authority over the provinces, where outrages are still being perpetrated on the non-Turkish population. But if it is too soon to expect the new Government to be able to exercise its authority throughout the present restricted limits of Turkey, it must also be too soon to decide that it is entitled to be hailed as the ideal Administration for which Turkey has had to wait so long. In regard to one point the signatories of the Memorandum are undoubtedly on sure ground, when they urge that Great Britain should loan to the Turkish Government the services of a distinguished Anglo-Indian administrator with a competent staff to take charge of the civil and revenue administration of Asia Minor.

In a letter published a fortnight ago our Morocco Correspondent reported the mooting of a proposal to establish a British school at Tangier, and referred to the steps taken by the British colony to ascertain what chances of success such a project would have. He reverts to the subject in a letter appearing in this issue, and though it is too early yet to feel any certainty in the matter the scheme seems to be in a fair way to develop satisfactorily. The local British community at Tangier is evidently ready to do its part, and though official utterances have thus far been marked by caution rather than by cordiality, we may reasonably hope that the new spirit will make its influence felt in this direction ere long. A school such as that proposed could hardly fail to prove beneficial to British interests throughout Morocco; but if it is to be of the maximum benefit it will require powerful and steady support, especially in its early stages. It is to be hoped that both the British Government and that section of the British public which is interested in Morocco will be ready to respond to the first appeal for help that may be made by those who originated the project.

The India Office has wisely decided to let the public in this country know how the famine is getting on, and the figures issued at the end of last week go far to meet the demand we have put forward for a clear statement of the intensity of distress. What is still more satisfactory, they show that there are no real grounds for the anxiety which the absence of information has produced; undoubtedly there is severe

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distress, but it is confined to relatively small areas, and the dread of a repetition of the widespread horrors of 1900 may be definitely put aside. May we hope that this somewhat tardy step towards publicity is an earnest of better things to come, and that in future we shall be allowed to know of important facts and momentous decisions as soon as they become common property in India?

The position in regard to the future management of the State railways is a case in point. The question is one which concerns a very large number of people in this country, and when a definite stage was reached in the discussion, the announcement should surely have been made simultaneously in England and in India. As a matter of fact India learned the position on March 7; England heard of it a fortnight afterwards through a belated Press telegram, corrected a day later by what a critic has described as a demi-semi-*dementi*, which has since been further elucidated by an anonymous but apparently authoritative statement. There would seem to be no reason why the text of Sir Arthur Anderson's statement should not have been made available in this country as soon as it was communicated to the Indian Legislative Council.

If we have learned the position regarding railway management, we are still without official information as to the bearing of the International Labour Office on the future of Indian industry. Perhaps in this case we are justified in accepting the published statement of a Labour correspondent, which has not been contradicted, and is in itself probable, as indicating that Utopia is not expected to materialise at once. We are told by this authority that "it is believed" that even in Oriental countries improvements in labour conditions may be brought about *pari passu* with those achieved in the West, so that the handicap on Europe may not be increased. That is a not unreasonable proposition, though there are obvious difficulties in its concrete application, but it is widely at variance with the aspirations of Labour as voiced by Mr. Barnes, and we have still to learn whether it is accepted by the men on whose behalf he spoke.

It has been left to the Bishop of London to suggest that the solution of the Labour difficulty may be reached through missionary activity. If it be permissible to view this suggestion for the moment from the strictly economic standpoint, we must take into account the fact, which is a commonplace of official reports, that in the case of the lower castes conversion is ordinarily followed by an immediate and progressive rise in the standard of life, and since all authorities are agreed that India's future depends on that very change, it is quite possible that the "mass-movements" towards Christianity, of the imminence of which we hear so much nowadays, may mark a turning-point in the industrial history of the country. It is, of course, also possible that the results may be entirely different, but the attempt to raise the standard of life is so exceedingly difficult that no potential influences should be overlooked by students of this group of questions.

The return to this country of Lord Southborough and some of his recent colleagues will probably be followed by a revival of interest in the question of Indian constitutional reform, which has fallen somewhat into the background during the last few weeks. Some forecasts of the Report of the Franchise Committee are, in fact, already in circulation, but they differ so widely from each other that no inference can be based on them unless it be that the secret has so far been carefully kept, and the public will probably be well advised to wait for the official announcement, which should not now be greatly delayed. When the Report is published, it will be possible for everyone to form his own opinion whether the foundations can bear the weight of the imposing constitutional structure designed by Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu, and then at last there will be scope for practical and useful discussion.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 10.

Admiral Jellicoe in Egypt.

Admiral and Lady Jellicoe this week paid a flying visit to Cairo on their way through the Canal. They stayed for two nights at the Continental Hotel, and were the guests at a dinner given in their honour by the Acting High Commissioner and Lady Cheetham. The Admiral also had a special audience of the Sultan at Abdin Palace, and the party found time to visit several of the sights, including the pyramids, rejoining the New Zealand at Suez, where Admiral Jellicoe had a most enthusiastic send-off.

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Sir Courtauld Thomson, Chief Commissioner in the Mediterranean of the Red Cross and the Order of St. John, is now in Egypt engaged in arranging for the gradual demobilisation of the organisation and equipment of the societies. This demobilisation will take some time, since it will be dependent in the first place on the speed with which the troops themselves are demobilised and, secondly, on the number of those retained in hospitals. Sir Courtauld has just returned from Palestine, where he was present at the re-opening of the Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order in Jerusalem, which, having been used as an ammunition dump by the Turks, was blown up by them before they evacuated Jerusalem. The hospital has been entirely rebuilt; and the inauguration of the new building by General Allenby was made a very festive ceremony, which was followed by the investing of General Storrs and Colonel Garner with the ribbon of the Knight of the Order and with the breaking by the Commander-in-Chief of the flag of the Order, which several months ago he had draped in the Chapel of St. John in the Anglican Cathedral in anticipation of this ceremony.

The Syrian Community.

The Syrian Community is very actively endeavouring to set up a united front in defence of its claims to an undivided Syria, and several meetings have been held in Cairo and in Alexandria with the object of bringing the various elements together. At each of these meetings, which have been attended by all the more prominent members of the community, speeches have been made by Dr. Faris Nimr, the editor of *Al Mokattam*, who is as well known in the political world for his wide outlook and great ability as he is in journalistic and Arabic-reading circles for his eloquent and virile style and his purity of diction. It is mainly thanks to his insistence and his masterly exposition of the facts of the Syrian case that a complete understanding between the various sections of the community is being reached. For, while



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united in their desire for the future independence of their native country, the Syrians have not been altogether unanimous as to the means to be adopted to attain that end. It is believed that matters have now progressed so satisfactorily that the whole community will be able to stand together in regard to every aspect of the question, and so bring its influence to bear on the Allies in the settlement of the future political status of Syria.

Interesting Medical Exhibition.

An interesting exhibition was held during the past week at Nasria School, where the Egyptian Expeditionary Force War Medical Exhibition was inaugurated by the Director of Medical Services. It contained a most instructive collection of exhibits, showing, amongst other things, the life history of the various insects, worms, bacteria, etc., which are responsible for the divers diseases from which our troops have suffered; and the extension of which has only been kept within reasonable bounds by the strenuous efforts of our R.A.M.C., the results of whose labours in this direction were evident from the exhibits. Several new devices for detecting diseases are shown, and the utility of the X-rays was also demonstrated. There was an interesting exhibit, showing the strides sanitation has made and what an important part it has played in maintaining the health of our troops. The exhibition was from start to finish replete with apparatus, data, photographs, sketches, coloured drawings, etc., which not only interested even the lay visitors, but also threw valuable light on the wonderful work which the R.A.M.C. has done, and is still doing, in this part of the world. There is, indeed, no doubt that, especially in regard to the many exhibits demonstrating medical and other features of the Desert Campaign, it will constitute one of the most interesting and important portions of the War Museum in England, of which it is intended eventually to form a part.

An Interesting Vegetable Show.

An excellent vegetable show was held in the Ezbekia Gardens this week by that active little society, the Sultania Horticultural Society. The vegetables and fruit shown were certainly above the average, and of special interest was the exhibit of the Cairo Sewage Farm, which comprised vegetables of every description as well as many varieties of delicious-looking fruit. In view of the difficulty of late years in procuring vegetables in Egypt the holding of these shows is very commendable, for in the long run they cannot fail to encourage production amongst cultivators, who have probably not realised what a gold-mine vegetable production can constitute if conducted on practical up-to-date lines.

The Political Situation.

Things politically have developed since my last week's letter. The clique headed by Zaghlul Pasha has been actively intimidating all Egyptians who were likely candidates for posts in the new Cabinet, and has written an insulting letter to his Highness the Sultan, blaming him very severely for his treachery to Egypt in accepting the resignation of Rushdi Pasha. In view of this attitude, the leaders were summoned on Thursday afternoon before Major-General H. D. Watson, Commanding the British Force in Egypt, who warned them that, if they continued to act in a manner calculated to interfere with the government of the country under the British Protectorate, they would make themselves liable to serious measures under martial law. The leaders protested at this, and as they persisted in their attitude the military authorities decided on Saturday that it would be expedient to take decisive action, and that evening Zaghlul Pasha, the head of the clique, and three of his chief abettors—Ismail Pasha Sidky, late Minister of Wakfs; Mohammed Pasha Mahmud, late Mudir of Behera; and Hamed Pasha El Bassel, a Bedawi notable of Fayoum—were arrested and taken to Kasr El Nil Barracks. Yesterday they were conveyed to Port Said en route for Malta, where they will be interned. This development has not unnaturally created some sensation in Egyptian circles, and the students of the various Government schools, who since time immemorial have always been ready to "down tools" and join in political demonstrations, have struck and demonstrated outside the principal Government offices, being joined by certain elements of the El Azhar University. Measures have been taken by the authorities to keep the demonstrators within reasonable bounds and prevent any spreading of the excitement, which has been fomented solely by adherents of the deported Pashas.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Among the many rumours now afloat is one, regarded as well founded, that an Indian force is to be sent to Cyprus, to the old quarters of the garrison at Polemidia, near Limassol. During the war Famagusta has been the military centre. It is not an ideal spot for British soldiers, as there is little to do beyond playing games, and the neighbourhood is far from attractive. Hopes are raised in Limassol that there will be a revival of social life, of increased trade, and of sport, which will include hunting—at least, a drag—polo, paper-chases, gymkhanas, racing, and all those local interests which for thirty-six years helped to make Limassol the most progressive district of the island. At Nicosia there is to be a renewal of racing, and it is anticipated that a Spring Meeting, which is to be held shortly, will be a great success, especially as the Acting High Commissioner is a keen upholder of sport.

The Annual Festival of the Schools, lately celebrated at Nicosia, was the occasion of a great gathering in the large hall of the Pan-Cypriot Gymnasium. This meeting is made the annual starting point of a movement, in conformity with the Greek spirit, to stimulate the teaching body to increased efforts in what is considered a most essential part of education—viz., laying the foundation of a life-long patriotism. The Press takes an energetic part in supporting the movement, and local papers publish strong appeals to all school teachers in the island not to lose sight of what is their highest and noblest duty. Those who fail in this respect show themselves, they are told, unmoved by the history of their country. Every endeavour has been made for years past to strengthen the idea that Cyprus is, like her sister Crete, in reality a detached portion of the Hellenic kingdom.

The retirements of officials are so numerous, and so many will be going on leave, that the Government, it is said, is asking that a steamer may be provided to convey them and their families to England.

Among those retired are Mr. C. Cade, Commissioner of Nicosia, and Mr. A. K. Bovill, Principal Forest Officer.

EGYPT.

At the Royal Victoria Hall, Southwark, on Tuesday, Mr. G. P. Gooch lectured on Egypt. He said that the people of that country had changed little in the course of their long history either in features or in habit. They were now and always had been the creatures of the Nile, living along the borders of the great river. They were an industrious and unwarlike people. It was sometimes said that they could have done very well without us, but they had not the science to enable them to get the full value out of the Nile. The only dam that was built under Ismail Pasha had had to be built over again. The modern European interest in Egypt had begun with Napoleon's invasion and conquest. After three years we turned him out, but not before French scholars had laid the foundations of scientific Egyptian archæology. Afterwards Mehemet Ali, an Albanian, had got himself recognised as Khedive by the Sultan of Turkey—the nominal ruler of the country—and Mehemet Ali's descendants were still on the Egyptian throne. His grandson, Ismail, brought the country nearly to bankruptcy, and this had been the occasion of our entering and taking over its administration. Under our rule Egypt had prospered, but we had not secured the confidence and gratitude of the people; and we could not expect them to enjoy being governed by men of an alien race and a religion different from their own. We had promised to clear out when there was a reasonable chance of an orderly government being formed; but when the world ranged itself into two camps we felt that we could not give up the country which held our line of communications to India. Now that the war was over, he believed we should endeavour to carry out a policy of conciliation and closer co-operation with the native people.

Letters received by the London Jews' Society foreshadow the probability of a system of electric lighting being installed in Jerusalem, following upon a good water supply, which is now being provided by the British authorities. The source of the power would be the River Jordan.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Danger of Bolshevism.

The Bolshevist advance in Southern Russia, and especially in Ukrainia, is regarded by the Roumanians as the greatest peril that has ever menaced their existence. The Roumanian peasants and soldiers have resisted the tremendous Bolshevist propaganda, and Roumania has been, until now, the only organised state left in Eastern Europe. Now, the great Bolshevist armies are ready to overwhelm the Roumanians and to advance into Central Europe, and the Magyar Bolshevists—who are nothing but the old Magyar Nationalists—have been encouraged by the advance of the armies of Lenin in Ukrainia and have begun to play the rôle of Bolshevists in order to alarm Western Europe. Lenin and Trotsky were perfectly aware that they could not maintain their power unless Ukrainia and Southern Russia were under their rule, and the food supply thus secured. It is absolutely certain that the greatest Bolshevist forces are concentrating on Ukrainian territory, and are ready to force the gate of Europe, taking the same route as did the Barbarians of the past. The resistance of the Roumanians could cope with the danger and perhaps overcome it, if help reached them from the Allies in time. But they have no food, no clothes, no means of transport, and no war material; and in such circumstances it is doubtful if their *moral* can endure much longer.

The Hungarian Bolshevism is a manœuvre, but it is indirectly dangerous, because in playing with it the Magyar chauvinists are playing with fire. It has now been proved by documentary evidence that the Karolyi Government has been trying to kindle Bolshevism amongst the Roumanians, the Czechs, and the Serbs, in order to preserve its domination over the subject peoples in Hungary. Agents of the Budapest Government were sent to all the Roumanian villages, not only in Transylvania, but even in Old Roumania, to provoke revolts and to spread Bolshevism, so as to paralyse the national movement of the Roumanians. The Roumanian authorities arrested a great number of such agents and seized their papers; which prove that they were supplied with money by the Karolyi Government. Furthermore, the Magyar propaganda accused the Roumanians of having the intention to destroy the religious life of the other nationalities in Transylvania, and engineered a movement in Allied countries against "the intolerant Roumanians." Now the Roumanians might, perhaps, be accused of many things, but not religious intolerance. Their past is an open book, and everyone can see that there is there not a single mark of religious intolerance. But the Magyars are determined to resist the restoration of Roumania and Bohemia, and it does not matter to them how they traduce their adversaries. However, the theatricalities of Budapest and the manœuvres of Count Karolyi will not impress the Allies. The Magyars have not the power to overcome the Roumanians, the Serbs, and the Czechs, if these peoples are helped in time. All the compliments exchanged with Lenin are nothing but so many clumsy tricks to impress Western Europe. The change of the Budapest Government has been effected, not by force, but by understanding and by collusion; and the denouncing of the Roumanian *boyars* and the "Czech *bourgeoisie*" shows clearly enough what kind of revolution is going on at Budapest. Still, the danger of Bolshevism is greater than ever. It is not, however, that of Hungary we fear, but the armies of Lenin in Ukrainia and the South of Russia.

Roumania and Poland.

There are these two countries in direct touch with the real Bolsheviks, and so long as they resist, the danger of the fire of revolution spreading all over Europe may be prevented. The Poles and the Roumanians are already discussing the organisation of their resistance against the anarchy of Bolshevism, and they are trying to become neighbours. The Poles claim that Galicia shall be annexed to their country, thus making them neighbours of the Roumanians in Bukovina, and the suggestion is regarded as very simple and as not doing violence to the rights of anybody.

Roumanian Elections.

The elections have been again postponed until May, and perhaps a further postponement will then be necessary, owing to the situation.

Additional details of the recent tour of an Allied Commission under General Franchet d'Esperey, through Montenegro, have been received by Reuter's Agency. Among the members were a British general, an Italian colonel, and an American officer. The Commission traversed the whole country, and everywhere had a most enthusiastic reception. Great celebrations were held in Cettinje to welcome the Allied delegation.

MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, March 14.

A Press Campaign.

The leading papers of the Protectorate have recently been publishing some very outspoken articles accusing European officials in the French zone of every possible kind of corruption. The articles are so circumstantially written that one feels bound to believe that the editors are quite sure of their ground and are in possession of convincing proofs. The series began by an open letter to the Resident-General, inviting him to make close inquiries into the characters and conduct of most of those in his immediate circle, who, according to the article, misled, thwarted, and dishonoured him. Succeeding articles attacked French officials generally, applied to them, I should think, all the opprobrious epithets to be found in the largest French dictionary, and accused them of all sorts of tricks to line their own pockets, such as giving to friends early information of proposed Government regulations, holding back patent documents until their unlawful demands were satisfied, and so on; in fact, a very terrible indictment of a body of officials who might have been expected to be specially selected for their high character and trustworthiness to administer a new country. Under the old regime corruption was naturally rampant and to be more or less anticipated, but one of the advantages expected with the change of Administration, and one that was, of course, taken for granted, was the honesty of the officials.

Red Cross Working Parties.

On the 11th instant a meeting of the subscribers to the local British Red Cross working party was held at the British Agency to pass the accounts and wind up the branch. Sir Herbert E. White, K.C.M.G., his Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, presided. In his remarks, after referring to the very large number of articles that had been made and sent to headquarters, both from Tangier and from the other branches in Morocco, he said that this was the more satisfactory from the fact that not only had such a large amount of work been done, but that all the material used had been supplied by the subscribers, and, after everything had been paid, there would remain a balance to be remitted to the head office. The accounts being passed, Sir Herbert White proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. David Macleod, to whose efforts in securing both subscribers and gifts of material the success was very largely due. Mr. Macleod, whilst thanking the chairman and the meeting for the hearty way in which the proposal was received, said that his work had been greatly facilitated by the very generous way in which he was met, both by donors of material and by subscribers, to whom he thought thanks were more justly due than to himself. A vote of thanks was then proposed to Lady White, who had devoted so very much time and trouble to the work not only of the sewing parties, but also to the Tombola which had been highly successful. The vote was carried by acclamation.

The Proposed School.

After the Red Cross business was concluded, Mr. G. F. Moore said that he had Sir Herbert White's permission to refer to the proposal to establish a British school in Tangier. A sub-committee of the Chamber of Commerce was drawing up a report on the subject at the request of the Government, who, it must be distinctly understood, in asking for the report, in no way engaged themselves to do anything in the matter. There were several French schools, and an additional new Spanish school and an Italian school had recently been opened. The sub-committee thought that this meeting for winding up the British Red Cross working party would give an excellent opportunity for an appeal to subscribers to the Red Cross working party to transfer their subscriptions to a British school. Though the meeting was not very largely attended, annual subscriptions for over £100 were promised.

"Britons Overseas."

The annual meeting of the Tangier Branch of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas was held in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce after the above-mentioned meeting.

On the invitation of Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, president of the branch, Sir Herbert E. White took the chair. The treasurer, Mr. L. Biddulph, read the accounts, which showed a balance in hand of £117. It was decided to remit £100 to headquarters, with the suggestion that £50 of this should be applied to the funds for Britons Overseas Memorial Fund. Sir Harry Maclean, president, and the other officers and committee were re-elected. It was suggested that the committee should show a little more activity in propaganda work and in arranging entertainments to draw the colony together.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, March 13.

Naval Movements

It is expected that the entire Mediterranean Fleet, as it is to be revived, will concentrate at Malta in about six weeks' time. We understand that the Superb, battleship, and her sister ship, the Temeraire, will then return to England.

The light cruiser Dublin has returned to her home port. At the outbreak of war, she formed part of the Mediterranean Light Cruiser Squadron, and had been since continually employed at different theatres of war and had done excellent work, especially in the Adriatic, where she carried the flag of an Italian Rear-Admiral. She was twice torpedoed in those waters, but managed to reach her base under her own steam on both occasions. Her damage was made good at Malta Dockyard.

The Japanese cruiser Nisshin and five of the destroyers which accompanied the flag of Rear-Admiral Sato to England from the Mediterranean are on their way back to Malta, en route to the Far East. They have arrived at Gibraltar and are bringing out with them the three ex-German submarines allotted to Japan.

Two of the new type of boats to be based on Malta, namely the Calypso and Ceres, have arrived from Chatham, commanded respectively by Captain B. B. Thesiger, C.B., C.M.G., well remembered on this station, and Captain H. G. E. Lane.

Sir E. S. Alexander Sinclair is coming out to the Mediterranean in command of the Light Cruiser Squadron, which will be composed of vessels of the above modern type known as the "C" class. Admiral Sinclair has lately been in the Baltic with a squadron of vessels of the type he is to take over command of in these waters.

The battleship Agamemnon, Captain F. S. Litchfield-Speer, C.M.G., D.S.O., which was attached to the Mediterranean throughout the greater part of the war, has just left Malta and has returned to Sheerness. She will be paid off.

The Australian cruiser Melbourne and several Australian destroyers may be expected to call at Malta on their way home The Melbourne called at Malta, along with the Sydney, soon after the latter had put an end to the exploits of the German light cruiser Emden, but the fact could not then be disclosed.

The destroyers of His Majesty's Australian Navy which served in the Mediterranean during the war and sailed for England some three months ago, are returning to Malta. They are at present at Gibraltar.

The Influenza.

The "Flu" epidemic, which was supposed to have abated, has broken out in a most virulent form and is claiming many victims. The renewed activity of the disease is attributed to the recent Carnival celebrations with their attendant overcrowding. The military authorities have taken very rigorous precautions, and several camps are in quarantine. The cases are so numerous that the hospitals are overflowing, and barracks are being requisitioned for the milder cases. Schools are closed and whole villages are placed out of bounds.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Situation in Egypt.

March 24.

Earl Curzon, replying to the Earl of Crewe, who asked for information regarding the situation in Egypt, said: The position in Egypt is rather less anxious. In Cairo there have been demonstrations on a small scale (chiefly by students) and collisions betwen rioters and patrols, but, on the whole, Cairo and Alexandria are quiet. In the provinces, however, violent outbreaks have occurred. In both Lower and Upper Egypt mobs have attacked communications with a system and method that seem to indicate a carefully prepared organisation, and several railway stations have been burnt. Trains are now being run between Cairo and Alexandria and Cairo and the Canal, and the difficulties and delays are diminishing. Telegraphic communication between Cairo and Tantah has been re-established, but both railway and telegraphic communications with Upper Egypt have been interrupted, the line and station at Wasta and elsewhere being damaged. Communications have, however, been assured by the use of aeroplanes and wireless. Recent manifestations have been predatory rather than political in character—rioters at Tantah, Zagazig, and elsewhere looting European shops. In certain districts the movement has taken the form of peasant tenants rising against landowners. A more serious feature of the situation is that some of the Bedouin tribesmen who live on the edge of the cultivated area, especially in the Behera and Fayoum provinces, have joined in the disturbances. They are comparatively well armed, and a report has been received that they have killed some British officers who were in the Upper Egypt express returning from leave at Luxor. Full particulars on this head are awaited. Bedouin on the 19th attacked the detachment of British troops in the Fayoum, but were beaten off with loss, and Australian troops in Sharkia were also attacked with similar results. A party of seventy-one passengers from Luxor and Assouan has arrived safely at Halfa. Peace and order reign in the Sudan, where there is no sympathy with the present agitation. One gratifying feature of these deplorable occurrences in Egypt has been the behaviour of many of the Egyptian officials and of the Army and police. These last have behaved especially well. There are growing signs that better-instructed native opinion deplores these outbreaks, and that some of the notables are doing their best to calm the agitation. I should like to make clear one point on which there would appear to be some misconception. His Majesty's Government have never entertained the slightest disinclination to the two Egyptian Ministers Rushdi Pasha and Adly Pasha coming to this country. On the contrary, their presence here would be most welcome. The request to them at the end of last year to postpone their visit for a short period was solely prompted by the consideration that during the initial phases of the Peace Conference sufficient time and attention could not be afforded to discuss the important questions of our future relations with Egypt and Egyptian constitutional reform. The visit of these or other responsible Egyptian statesmen would have been welcomed, and the discussion with them of the exact form which the British Protectorate is to assume in the future has always been regarded by us as of capital importance. But as regards Said Zaghlul Pasha and the persons who have organised the present movement it is a different matter. They are the self-appointed and irresponsible leaders of an agitation for the avowed purpose of expelling the British from Egypt, and it is this agitation, timed, as it would seem, to coincide with the meeting of the Peace Conference at Paris, which led to the present deplorable outbreak. With its authors and abettors there is no common ground for discussion. Their presence here would have been generally misunderstood in Egypt, where it would have been interpreted as evidence that we were willing to consider the complete abandonment of our responsibilities for that country. And, further, it would only have served to embarrass and render abortive those discussions with representative and responsible Egyptian opinion to which we still look, as soon as a favourable opportunity presents itself, for the conclusion of a settlement that will be equally satisfactory to Egypt and to the Protecting Power.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The State of Egypt.

March 20.

Captain Ormsby-Gore raised the question of Egypt, the condition of which, he said, was causing anxiety to those who cared for that country and for the part Great Britain had played in bringing it to a pitch of progress and prosperity which it had never before known in all the days of its age-long history. He asked the representative of the Foreign Office to supply the House with more information than had yet been given about the origin of the recent trouble and as to the policy which the Government intended to pursue in the future. In particular, he wanted fuller information regarding the events which led up to the unfortunate resignation of the Prime Minister of Egypt, who during the war had stood loyally by England. He was anxious to see British influence and control maintained in Egypt not only in our own interests, but in the interests of Egypt herself. The situation which led to the resignation of the Egyptian Government, and the trial and deportation of the leaders of the National Party, followed by riots of a somewhat serious kind, had been foreseen by a great many people or should have been foreseen. He understood that now the declared policy of the British Government was one of sympathy with the idea that the Egyptians should be allowed an increased share in the government of their country. There was a great deal to be said against the present administration of Egypt through the Foreign Office. What was needed in the Egyptian department particularly was a new spirit. His ideal was that the Arabic-speaking world and our responsibilities in the Arabic-speaking world should be a Department just as India was. Neither the Foreign Office nor the India Office was so constituted as to enable it to deal adequately with the needs and aspirations of the great Civil Service that would be needed by the British to help and assist the people of the Arabic-speaking world. A certain constitutional development in Egypt was necessary, and it would brook no delay. There were large and important minorities in Egypt, and those elements required representation and their interests required to be guarded. But in order to do that they must have a satisfactory Constitutional Assembly of two Chambers. The new Constitution in Egypt must consist of a Senate as well as a Legislative Assembly duly elected, and, in addition, they would have to have a reorganisation of the whole Ministry of the Interior. We had yet to create in Egypt that feeling of responsibility among Egyptians which only years of example and tuition and assistance, sympathy, guidance and help could give them. He did see dawn ahead in Egypt; but he warned the Government that there should be no more attempts by native Ministers to shelter behind the British Adviser. He hoped the Foreign Office would do all they could to get out of this situation in Egypt, and lead us back into the paths which Lord Kitchener showed could be

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pursued with success. He hoped that such a policy of working with the Egyptians would bring about a better moral, political and material state of things.

Sir HENRY CRAIK thought there could be no question that the position of the whole administration in Egypt at this moment was at a very critical point. We had accomplished a great work in Egypt. We had improved her resources, developed her commerce, adjusted her political relations, and he hoped we should be able to develop in her the instinct of free government. All these things we might be proud of, but they brought their responsibilities with them. Our administration in Egypt would be judged by what we had done for the people of Egypt who were under our charge. The first necessity to lift them out of their misery was to provide for their health, and not to let them rot away in insanitary villages without water supply and devoured by all sorts of plagues. We had to do that work for them, and we must have a Ministry properly organised and independent, with full access to sympathetic administration in Egypt, not hampered at every turn by the palsied effect of bureaucratic administration of a department.

EARL WINTERTON said that so long as the Capitulations remained as they were, Egypt would be a badly governed country. Under them profiteering neutrals and foreigners had escaped taxation, a judicial system or a judiciary in which anybody could have confidence was impossible, and the country had become an entrepôt of the white slave traffic. He was told it was intended to continue the Capitulations two or three years longer. He considered that would be a disaster to Egypt of the first order. The whole future government of Egypt depended on the abolition of the Capitulations immediately after peace was signed. The best form of government, he believed, would be a full British protectorate. It was essential for the future of Egypt and the British Empire that with the mandatory power should go the fullest possible opportunity for the development of the country in the educational and also in a commercial sense. He considered that it was one of the primary duties of our representatives at the Peace Conference to urge that Britain should be the mandatory Power, and we should have no false modesty in that respect.

Major HURST said that it was an amazing thing that in Egypt, where the French population did not exceed 7,000 out of 13 millions, the French language should be obligatory in the courts of law, and that a small minority should inflict an archaic relic of the Napoleonic Code on a community which required more modern procedure. The English language ought to be encouraged and not discouraged in the courts of law.

Mr. C. HARMSWORTH (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs) said that in regard to recent events in Egypt a full statement had already been made in the House of Lords by Lord Curzon. After quoting from this statement, he went on to say that no doubt the situation in Egypt was such as to give rise to very considerable anxiety. It was the desire of the Government that the natives of Egypt should have a larger share in the control of their country. As to the Capitulations, he was informed that the discussions on the question between his Majesty's representative and the representative of the French Government in Paris were now entering upon their concluding stage, and it was hoped that during the current year the abolition of the Capitulations would be an accomplished fact. The situation required that law and order must be restored before they could embark on the speculative enterprises which had so largely engaged their attention that evening. It also required firmness and decision, and those the Government would enforce with all the power at its command.

A Dardanelles Exploit.

Major MORRISON-BELL asked the First Lord of the Admiralty if it is the intention of the Admiralty to grant any posthumous honour to the late Lieutenant-Commander G. S. White for his gallantry in forcing the Dardanelles in submarine E 14, with a view to torpedoing the Goeben, in January, 1918, or to grant any reward to the survivors?

Dr. MACNAMARA: The question of awards to officers and men of E 14 is under consideration with other cases in which the evidence of survivors who took part in the enterprise has only become available on their release from captivity under the terms of the Armistice.

Egyptian Affairs.

March 24.

Replying to Captain Ormsby-Gore and Earl Winterton, Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH made a statement as to the situation in Egypt, giving similar information to that conveyed by Lord Curzon to the House of Lords on the same date.

Replying to a further question by Captain Ormsby-Gore, Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH said:—Sir Reginald Wingate is remaining here to afford valuable advice and assistance to his Majesty's Government. In the meantime, as already announced, General Allenby is proceeding to Egypt as Special High Commissioner with supreme civil and military authority, and will receive the full support of his Majesty's Government in dealing with the situation.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE: Am I to understand that Sir Reginald Wingate has not in any way been superseded, and that this arrangement is a temporary one?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: I do not think Sir R. Wingate is in any sense superseded.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE asked whether, as soon as order had been restored in Egypt, the Government would set up a Royal Commission to examine and report on what constitutional and departmental changes were necessary, if any, to give effect to the declared policy of the Government in regard to the future development of the administration of Egypt; and whether, in the event of such a Commission being set up, the evidence of responsible Egyptian public opinion would be taken and the present composition and functions of the Egyptian Department of the Foreign Office and its relation to the Egyptian Government and the Anglo-Egyptian Civil Service reviewed.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: It has always been the intention of his Majesty's Government that as soon as possible a full inquiry should be made on the lines indicated in the first part of the question, and at such inquiry the evidence of responsible Egyptian public opinion will have every opportunity of being heard. It would be premature, however, to decide at the moment whether a Royal Commission will be the most suitable machinery for the purpose, and the last part of the hon. and gallant member's question does not, therefore, at present arise.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE: Are we to understand that the Government are considering the alternative of a purely Departmental Committee of the Foreign Office?

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: No, sir. The Government are considering everything relevant to the question.

Albania's Neighbours.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, in reply to Colonel Walter Guinness, said he was not aware of the arrival at Scutari and Zadrima of Albanian refugees from Serbian attacks. There was every reason to believe that they would be looked after. The Government had received no information confirming the report that bands of Greek *Komitajis* were preparing to invade Southern Albania.

Afghanistan.

March 25.

Mr. RAMSDEN asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could furnish the House with the latest reliable information from Afghanistan.

Mr. MONTAGU said that according to the latest accounts Aman Ullah Khan continued to control the situation, and no disturbances appeared to have occurred. European employees of the late Ameer who arrived at Peshawar from Jelalabad on March 13 reported all quiet at Kabul up to March 8 and at Khandahar up to the 9th. Nasr Ullah and Inayat Ullah were believed to be under surveillance. The Government of India had received a letter from Aman Ullah couched in friendly terms, announcing his accession and expressing his desire for co-operation with the British Government.

St. Sophia.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary for India whether he had made any representations to the Foreign Office as to the importance to the peace of India of retaining under Moslem control the ancient church of St. Sophia, in Constantinople?

Mr. MONTAGU: Yes, sir. The hon. and gallant member may rest assured that Indian interests in such matters have not been, and will not be, overlooked.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

INDIA: Revolver Licences.—Secretary of State's Report.—Famine Relief Code.—Rowlatt Bills.—Indian Service Gratuities. DEMOBILISATION: Salonika Forces.—Khartoum Garrison.—Flight Cadets (Egypt). Albania (Frontiers). (March 17).

EGYPT: Mixed Court of Appeal.—British Protectorate Courts (English Language).—Deportation of Notable Egyptians.—Shipping Accommodation (Egypt to England). DEMOBILISATION: India (Short Service). Ministry of Health (Egypt). (March 18).

INDIA: Lajpat Rai (Deportation).—Army Officers (Invalid Pensions).—Emergency Legislation.—Homeward Passages.—Delhi Conference.—Civil Service (Pay and Leave). Gezira Agreement. Roumania (British Losses). India (Persons Interned). (March 19).

Ukraine. Albania. Suez Canal. St Sophia's, Constantinople. (March 20).

RELIEF FOR SERBIAN LADIES.

Princess Marie Louise was present at a meeting of the British Women's Patriotic League held at Lady Nathan's house in Cornwall Gardens on Tuesday afternoon, to receive, on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund, gifts of clothing intended for distressed Serbian gentlewomen and children. She was supported by Lady Bective and Mrs. Carrington-Wilde, inaugurator of the Serbian Relief Fund early in the war. Mrs. Carrington-Wilde stated that the fund sent, last week, 200,000 articles of clothing and comfort, and during December last the total reached was between five and six hundred thousand. Four hospitals, an orphanage, and other institutions had also been established through its agency, in Serbia and in this country.

GREEK FOLK SONGS.

M. P. J. Petrides delivered a lecture on "Greek Folk Songs and Greek Music" before the Anglo-Hellenic League last week. The character and spirit of the Greek nation were, he said, reflected in the folk-lore as sung by the ancient bards. The songs of a domestic and individual character revealed the ancient spirit, as in a mother's injunction to her son: "It were better to lose thy head than the arms left thee by thy father." All shades of tender and idealistic feeling were represented. Poetry, music, and dancing were combined, the dancing songs being often austere and imposing. Modern Greeks, like the ancients, widely practised dancing combined with song.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF SMYRNA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—From unofficial, but apparently reliable, reports from the Peace Conference it seems that the minority of the Committee sitting on the Greek claims, and composed of the American representatives, has espoused the cause of the American missionaries and overlooked Mr. Wilson's principles, in wishing to leave Smyrna to the Turks.

I would be the very last to minimise the good educational work done by the different missions amongst the oppressed Christians of the Turkish Empire, and I also believe that the cause of Christianity must have precedence over any national or political consideration; but let us consider with what spiritual or educational success the work of the American Missions has met amongst the Turks, during the last fifty years. If any evidence is required to prove the utter failure of the missions in making any impression on the Turk (let alone converting him to Christianity) allow me to cite the case of the Robert College at Constantinople. This most excellent institution—one of the finest educational institutions of the East—established many years ago by American missionaries and maintained by American funds, numbers many hundreds of Greek, Armenian, and Bulgarian students, while on the other hand the number of Turkish students who have entered its precincts is absolutely negligible.

There is, however, another and more important consideration that the good American missionaries ought to bear in mind, namely, that the light of Christianity came from the East. It is still burning there amongst the millions of oppressed Christians, perhaps with a dimmed flame, due to the demoralising Turkish yoke of 600 years' duration, but pure enough and strong enough to appeal to the Turk whenever he decides to change his heart and be converted.

In the meantime let the American missionaries follow the example of Livingstone, John Paton, Mary Slessor, and others and go in search of darker fields where the light is most needed.

Dr. Benson, the late Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "We sons of Japhet are not the people who will bring back the people of Islam. I believe they must be brought back by Oriental Christians who regard us with favour and affection."—I am, etc.,

G. S. NAXAKIS.

"Stoneygate," Broughton Park, Manchester,
March 24, 1919.

RHODES AND THE ENDECANESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In reply to Colonel Yate's letter of the 17th inst., I should like to say that if I have in any way offended him it was only because I was under the impression from his previous letter that he advocated the cession of Rhodes to Italy, under the cloak of placing the island in the hands of the Hospitallers.

If Colonel Yate is only anxious about the Auberges he need have no fear. As I have previously mentioned, the Hospitaller buildings in Rhodes, having been raised by the sweat of unpaid Greek labour, are regarded by the Greeks as almost their own property, and they serve the useful purpose of reminding the Greeks in what manner "staunch defenders of Christendom" are capable of treating their fellow-Christians. I entirely fail to see what Colonel Yate imagines the Greeks are going to do with his "much valued" Hospitaller buildings. Does he think we are going to ship the whole lot of ramshackle Auberges across to Athens and place them on the Acropolis by the side of the Parthenon, as specimens of architecture? Unlike Morosini, we do not destroy historic buildings. Unlike Lord Elgin, we respect the feelings of others, and do not covet that which is foreign to us, and we would willingly let Italy, France, Britain, and Spain have their Auberges. From the question addressed in the House of Commons on this point one would imagine that the Greeks were a barbarous non-Christian people, instead of being one of the oldest existing races, with a civilisation second to none, and a code of laws which is the basis of all European codes.

Colonel Yate, in attempting to prove how inaccurate and intolerant I am, cites the fact that the Knights held Halicarnassus and made it a refuge for escaped Christian slaves in Asia Minor. He has, however, omitted to mention that if these slaves happened to be Greeks they could only gain their freedom by renouncing their religion and acknowledging the Pope.

No person with any knowledge of mediæval Greek history can deny that the behaviour of the Hospitallers in Cyprus, the Dodecanese, and Asia Minor towards the Greeks was that of the haughty conqueror towards the conquered. The unfortunate Greeks were ground down by taxation, and even their religion was not respected. I merely called the Knights "pirates" because I could not find words strong enough to voice my opinion of these persons, who, posing as Knights of the Cross, committed all these infamies; for hypocrisy is the worst of sins.

Anyway, since Colonel Yate no longer questions the right of Hellas to Rhodes, and the matter is merely one of the fate of the Auberges, we need not argue about what our respective forefathers did in days of yore, and so far as I am concerned the matter is at an end.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER CALLINICOS.

The Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, Manchester,
March 21, 1919.

"His House was Bare"

A SERB'S SAD HOME-COMING.

"D———was a Serbian exile. He returned to his home to prepare it for the return of his family. Then he learned that his house was bare—that the Austrians had looted every stick, and even carried off his beloved books."

That is one of the tragedies of the return of the Serbian exiles. And in the great tragedy of Serbia this case can be multiplied a thousand-fold. In many cases not even the house of the returned exile remains. While we rejoice in peace, the Serb sorrows when he gazes on the sad aftermath of war. But in Serbia the trustees of British benevolence—the Serbian Relief Fund—are hard at work mitigating the suffering, giving food and raiment to the weak and helpless, and hope and inspiration to the despairing. Will you help? The work of the Serbian Relief Fund is only bounded by the resources that your generosity supplies.

Hospital supplies and material should be sent to 53, Grosvenor Street, W.1, care of THE COUNTESS OF BECTIVE.

Parcels of clothing should be addressed to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, and offers of personal help at home and abroad should be addressed to Lady Grogan, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

Cheques and donations of money should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, the RIGHT HON. the EARL OF PLYMOUTH, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

(*Registered under the War Charities Act*, 1916.)

5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ROMANCE OF THE RED TRIANGLE.*

This little volume is well named. It is not a dry cut history with tables of statistics—such as we imagine must some day be issued—but a fascinating account, full of anecdotes, many humorous and all to the point, of the great work of the Y.M.C.A., which has done so much to relieve the tediousness and gild the brutality and tragedy of our great war. If there are any who doubt the appreciation of this work by our leaders, the various extracts of their appreciations, one of which heads each chapter, should convince the sceptic. The outburst of war in August, 1914, found the skeleton of the organisation, which has since grown so vast, complete, but the "sinews of war" were lacking. It was absolutely necessary to secure £25,000 at once. Not to be daunted by the cry of "impossible" from the more cautious, the younger organisers went ahead, and within a few days the whole sum was secured, and an appeal for a further £50,000 was issued. By August, 1918, the war fund had reached two and a-half million. Astonishing as this sum is, it is not much more than a fifth of what the United States Y.M.C.A. raised in the same time. The author says "we have always been short of money, have always had a big overdraft at the bank." "The bank overdraft of the war fund has often reached four and five hundred thousand pounds!"

The work has been a happy co-operation between people of many religious views. No Red Triangle hut can be used for proselytizing by Catholic, Protestant, Moslem, or Jew. These all have been able to help and receive benefit. "A visit to one of the Red Triangle huts or tents in an Indian camp is a revelation. You hear the Mahommedan call to prayer, see the tiny mosque and realise how in many and varied ways it is possible for the Y.M.C.A. to be of service to these brave men of another faith."

The hut, or dugouts were in Mudros, Imbros, and Tenedos, and even on Anzac beach and Cape Helles. They flourished at Kantara, in the midst of the desert of Sinai, along the Gaza-Beersheba lines, and later in many points in Palestine; on the Macedonian front as well as all the way from Busreh to Baghdad; among the interned British prisoners in Switzerland and Holland, and under the White Ensign. But their greatest effort necessarily was with our vast armies in France and Flanders. We get glimpses in this book of the heroism displayed on many occasions when Y.M.C.A. centres were kept as near as possible to the fighting line, many of these depots being destroyed by shell fire or engulfed by a sudden advance of the Hun. In our great retreat last spring the association lost more than 130 huts and other centres in Picardy and Flanders, as well as upwards of £15,000 in cash. At Noyon one local secretary made three attempts to return and secure the hut's cash, and finally made his escape with ten thousand francs in his pocket.

The three dozen illustrations greatly add to the interest of the book.

E. W. G. M.

AN EARLY SANSKRIT DRAMA.†

The translators have done well to publish this version of a play which they describe as the earliest romantic drama of the East, the manuscript of which was included in the famous find made ten years ago by Pandit Ganapati Shastri. The place occupied by Bhasa in the literary history of ancient India is sufficiently important to justify the issue of a translation for the benefit of those who are unable to read the original; we are not in a position to test the faithfulness of the rendering, but it reads well, and Mr. Shirreff's name is sufficient guarantee of its literary quality.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Gitanjali and Fruit-Gathering." With illustrations. By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Macmillan and Co. 10s. net.)

"In and About Palestine." By Alfred Forder. (Religious Tract Society. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Whale Oil Guards." By J. Kennedy, D.S.O., C.F. Dublin: James Duffy and Co., Limited. 5s. net.)

"La Question Roumaine en Transylvanie et en Hongrie." By Aurele C. Popovici. With Preface by N. P. Comnène. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. Fr. 4.50.)

"Requisitoire Contre la Bulgarie." By R. A. Reiss and A. Bonorassient. (Paris: Librairie Bernard Grasset. 1½ fr.)

"The Yougoslavic Littoral on the Adriatic Sea." Edited by M. Rojc. (Zagreb: Government Press.)

* "The Romance of the Red Triangle." By Sir Arthur K. Yapp, K.B.E. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

† "The Dream Queen." A translation of the Svapnavasavadatta of Bhasa by A. G. Shirreff and Panna Lal. (Allahabad: The Indian Press. Price 12 annas.)

ALBANIA.

Recently, at 28, Bruton Street, W., Miss M. E. Durham delivered a most interesting lecture on the Albanians. They were, she said, a very ancient people, who had been pressed back into the mountains by later settlers in the Balkan peninsula, where they had been not only long before the Slavs but also long before the Greeks. Their language was still that spoken by Alexander's Macedonians. They had survived all the empires great and small that had held sway for a time over them. The Serbs they regarded as the enemies and oppressors both of their race and religion. More or less, they had fought them ever since they came into the Balkan peninsula, and they were fighting them now. The Albanians claimed to have been converted to Christianity by Saint Paul, and the majority of those among them who had remained Christians were still Roman Catholics; but, late in the 17th century, a great number of them had gone over to Islam. This, however, had not weakened the national spirit whether Moslem or Christian, the Albanian remained an Albanian first of all.

Miss Durham sketched the course of Albanian history. Coming to recent times, she said that M. Venizelos claimed the whole of Southern Albania because it contained 120,000 Greeks. But although these people were members of the Greek church, they were not Greek either by race or language. The Greeks had tried at one time to win Albania by establishing schools, and these the Turkish government had encouraged, hoping that if the Christian children went to Greek schools and the Moslem to Turkish schools, the growth of a national Albanian sentiment would be arrested. But when the Albanians found that the Greek objective was propaganda and annexation, they had turned against the schools. In 1908 the Albanians took a leading part in the revolution which compelled Abdul Hamid to grant a constitution. They greeted this with extraordinary enthusiasm. Albanian schools, until then prohibited, were opened in every place, and many newspapers were started. But the joy of the people was short-lived. The Young Turks had started with good intentions, but they made some bad blunders, and among the worst was their treatment of the Albanians. They closed the schools and stopped the printing presses. The newspapers they could not suppress entirely—because they had guaranteed the freedom of the Press—but they forbade them to publish any political information less than twenty years old! The Albanians revolted in 1910, 1911 and 1912. Then the Turks granted autonomy. But Serbs, Greeks, and Montenegrins did not want Albania recognised by the Powers and delimited, and they made the first Balkan War the occasion to make war on Albania before it should have time to establish and organise itself. In this war the Albanians had suffered terribly. Their villages had been burned, and there had been great slaughter and suffering. They had appealed to Europe again in 1913 and were recognised, but their country had been bounded by a very narrow delimitation. Then had come the great war, and Albania had been entered by seven armies—including the French and British Contingents. In the end, three-quarters of the country had been brought under the Austrians and held by them until last November. They were now appealing again to Europe to have their rights recognised, and to have restored to them lands taken by the Berlin Treaty and the Treaty of 1913.

A number of interesting lantern slides illustrated the lecture. Among the most curious were some pictures of "Albanian virgins." Miss Durham explained that the betrothal of children is still customary in the country, but if, when the time for the marriage comes the girl refuses the man and swears eternal virginity, she may own property and in other ways have all the privileges of a man. Thenceforward she associates with the men, dresses like them, and smokes.

Lady Willingdon has written testifying to the splendid organisation of the Y.W.C.A. in Bombay, and speaks of the nurses' clubs started there and in Mesopotamia as being great boons. The Association now supports sixteen secretaries in India, some being responsible for as many as thirty branches.

Parcels for civilians in Constantinople can now be accepted for transmission if addressed Poste Restante, British Army Post Office, Constantinople, at the following rates of postage: For a parcel not exceeding 3 lb., 1s.; over 3 lb. and not over 7 lb., 1s. 4d.; over 7 lb. and not over 11 lb., 1s. 8d. Persons sending parcels to Turkey should make inquiry of the War Trade Department as to export restrictions.

SUDAN.

¶ All interested in the commercial development of the Sudan are invited to communicate with the offices of the

Sudan Government Railways & Steamers,
5, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. 2.

where information regarding the produce of the country, facilities for transport, etc., may be obtained.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. March 28	1919. March. 15	Friday	1337. Jumada II. 26	5679. Adar II. 26
29	16	Saturday.....	27	27
30	17	Sunday	28	28
31	18	Monday	29	29
April 1	19	Tuesday	30 Rejeb	Nisan 1
2	20	Wednesday	1	2
3	21	Thursday	2	3

The Greek Minister left town on Sunday for Brighton.

The Aga Khan visited the India Office on Tuesday.

The Greek Metropolitan of Serres, Mgr. Christopher, arrived in London on March 20 from Paris.

Colonel Napier, hitherto British military representative in Bulgaria, has arrived in London from Sofia.

Mr. E. McDonald, Commissioner of Kyrenia, Cyprus, has arrived in England, and is at present in London.

A Cairo telegram announces an engagement between the Sultan's daughter and Sabri Pasha, Governor of Cairo.

On Thursday afternoon of last week, the King and Queen received M. and Mme. Gennadius and M. D. Caclamanos.

Mr. E. Hanson Freshfield has left London for Smyrna, and will be absent for a few weeks.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, who came to London to attend Lady Swaythling's funeral, returned to Paris last week, but he is now back in town.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, the King invested Major Harold Thorburn, I.M.S., with the insignia of a C.I.E.

Mr. S. Polychroniadis, the newly-appointed First Secretary to the Greek Legation, has arrived in London and taken up his duties.

The Emir Faisal arrived in Brussels on March 19 from Cologne and Crefeld, on his way to Paris, and was received that afternoon by King Albert.

A Reuter message from Cairo states that the Sultan has conferred the Order of the Nile, Second Class, on Sir George Lloyd, the Governor of Bombay.

Major-General Sir Travers Clarke, K.C.M.G., whose appointment as Quartermaster-General was announced last week, served on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-98.

Lieut.-Colonel Arion, the Roumanian Military Attaché, has left the Albany for 3, Down Street, Piccadilly (telephone No. Mayfair 6,508).

The Emir Faisal is transferring his racing stable to France, where he hopes to enter for the Grand Prix and other French races.

Mr. Arthur Garrels, American Consul, left Alexandria on March 1 for the United States, on leave. During his absence, Mr. Pinkney Tuck, Jr., Vice-Consul, will be in charge of the affairs of the Consulate.

M. N. Misu, son of the Roumanian Minister in London, last week beat M. Max Décugis, the well-known French tennis player, in the Finals for the Lawn Tennis Championship of the Riviera at Mentone.

The engagement is announced between Captain Archibald F. W. Brown, Indian Army, and Mollie, only daughter of Colonel J. H. Balfour, late 13th (Duke of Connaught's) Lancers, Indian Army, and Mrs. J. H. Balfour, of Stoke Gabriel, South Devon.

The Roumanian Prime Minister, M. Jean Bratiano, left London on March 20 for Paris. The Roumanian Minister, the personnel of the Legation, and Mr. R. F. Synge, representing Earl Curzon of Kedleston, were at Victoria Station to see him off.

At the memorial service for Sir Mark Sykes, held in Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday morning, the King of the Hejaz was represented by M. Alexander Séfi, of the London School of Oriental Studies.

There will be given to-morrow (March 28), at the Palladium, a Serbian matinée, under the patronage of Queen Alexandra, in aid of the Royal Horticultural Society's War Relief Fund. The special object is to help to restore the gardens and orchards of Serbia.

The engagement is announced between Captain Gordon Cranstoun, R.A.F.M.S., son of the Rev. J. P. Cranstoun, Welland Vicarage, Malvern, and Charlotte Chicheley, daughter of Richard Chicheley Plowden, Indian Police (retired), and Mrs. Plowden, 22, Eccleston Square, S.W.

Lord Carnock, P.C., will take the chair at a meeting of the Central Asian Society to be held at 22, Albemarle Street, on Wednesday, April 2, at 4.30 p.m., when Mr. E. P. Stebbing will read a paper on "The Bolshevik and German Danger in Russia: It's Threat to the British Empire."

The engagement is announced of Todd Harold Treather, of the Federated Malay States, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Treacher, Dullatur, Camberley, and Dorothy Maud Pennington, elder daughter of the late Major Eales, The Buffs, and Mrs. Eales, The Haven, Camberley, and grand-daughter of the late Major-General Sir Charles Pennington, K.C.B., Indian Army.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (March 13):—It has given universal pleasure to the community to learn that Rear-Admiral Ballard, C.B., has been promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral. He only recently relinquished the appointment of Admiral-Superintendent, Malta Dockyard, and his great interest in the welfare of the men working under him earned for him their lasting gratitude and the esteem of the entire community.

The Persian New Year began on March 21, and in celebration of the event the Persian Minister (who returned from Paris in the morning) and the Councillor held a reception at the Legation. Among those present were H.H. the Aga Khan, Nasir-el-Mulk, the late Regent of Persia, the personnel of the Legation and members of the Persian Colony in London, and many English friends.

Commander Locker-Lampson, M.P., speaking last Friday at Cannon Street Hotel on his adventures in Russia, said we must all welcome Roumania's great queen to this country. Nobody had behaved more magnificently during the war than that gracious and gallant lady. He had seen her in times of suffering and difficulty, and he could not speak with enough enthusiasm of what she had done.

An engagement is announced between the Rev. Harold Spooner, M.C., chaplain to the forces (Indian Army), youngest son of the late Rev. George Woodberry Spooner, M.A., Vicar of Inglesham, Lechlade, Glos., and Alice Maud, youngest daughter of Surgeon-General G. F. A. Harris, C.S.I., I.M.S., of 6, Corfton Road, Ealing, and granddaughter of Major-General A. E. Campbell, of Mannamead, Plymouth.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Antony Floyer, Royal Navy, second son of the late Ernest Ayscoghe Floyer, of Cairo, and Mrs. Vaughan Cornish, and stepson of Vaughan Cornish, D.Sc., of Woodville, Camberley, and Alice Rosalie (Aileen), second daughter of R. B. Whitehead and Mrs. Whitehead, of Alvie, Kincraig, Inverness-shire, and granddaughter of the late Robert Whitehead, of Fiume.

Dr. Tresitch Pavitchitch, the Yugoslav leader attached to the Yugoslav Delegation, and representing Dalmatia at the Peace Conference, was entertained by the Yugoslav Colony in London at the Florence Restaurant on March 20. M. Cheddo Miyatovitch presided, and among those present were M. George Gentchitch (ex-Minister for Serbia), Dr. Dragutinkoyich (Chargé d'Affaires for the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes), and M. L. Smodlaka.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Edwin S. F. Turner, youngest son of the late Samuel Turner, of Cashel, Co. Tipperary, and Mrs. Turner, 8, Clarinda Park, N. Kingstown, and grandson of the late Francis Fosbery, of Curragh Bridge House, Adare, Co. Limerick, and Alison, eldest daughter of the late Frederick Sikes, of Cloyne Estate, Badulla, Ceylon, will take place quietly (leave permitting) early in April.

The Queen of Roumania received the Roumanian Minister on Monday morning, and subsequently called upon Princess Christian and remained to luncheon. In the afternoon her Majesty attended a reception held by Sir George H. Perley (High Commissioner for Canada) and Lady Perley at the Ritz Hotel. The reception, which was largely attended, was arranged in order to afford her Majesty an opportunity of meeting representatives of Canada.

A Supplement to Monday's *Gazette* contained a list of names brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for valuable services rendered in connection with the military operations in Arabia. Among the officers of the Royal Navy mentioned is that of Rear-Admiral T. Jackson, and those of the Army include General Sir E. H. Allenby, Major-General Sir L. J. Bols, and Temporary Brigadier-General G. F. Clayton (Egyptian Expeditionary Force), and Temporary Major-General Sir L. O. F. Stack (British officer attached to the Egyptian Army).

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OBITUARY.

Lady Elles died on Sunday at Kincraig, Guildford. She was the widow of Lieutenant-General Sir William Kidston Elles, K.C.B., who formerly commanded the Bengal Army, and who died at Naini Tal in 1896.

Surgeon-General W. D. Cattell died on March 20, aged ninety. He served in the Crimea sixty-six years ago, and saw the battles of Balaclava and the charge of the Light Brigade. He served also in South Africa and in India. In the Afghan War of '79 he served with the 10th Hussars. He retired from the Army in 1889.

Lieut.-Colonel Dudley Beaumont died on March 17. He was born in September, 1840, and was gazetted ensign when under sixteen years old. He served through the Bhootan Expedition of 1865-6 and the Egyptian campaign of 1882—in the latter as Paymaster to the Grenadier Guards. He passed the Staff College, and was subsequently transferred to the Army Pay Department.

The Rev. William Townsend Storrs died at Sandown on March 18, aged 87. He passed many years (1855-1871) in India, going out as a C.M.S. missionary to Benares, and passing through the period of the Mutiny partly in that city and partly at Lucknow. He was largely instrumental in starting medical missions; but he was best known for his devoted work among the Santals. He retired from active work in 1910.

The death took place at Reading on Sunday of Brigade Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel John Robinson. He entered the Army Medical Service in 1858, taking first place in the entrance examination. He served in the Afghan War in 1878 (for which he had the medal), the Egyptian Expedition of 1882 (when he was present at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star), and in the operations in Zululand in 1888. Colonel Robinson retired in 1889.

Sir William Duff Gibbon (a former chairman of the Ceylon Press Association) died on March 19 at Bournemouth, where he had lived since his return to England. A son of the Rev. Charles Gibbon, D.D., of Lonmay, Aberdeenshire, he was born in 1837 and at the age of eighteen went to Ceylon. He was for some years a member of the Kandy Municipal Council, and also occupied for a time a seat on the Ceylon Legislative Council. He took a keen interest in philanthropic and religious work, especially among the coolies employed on the tea estates in the island. He was a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute.

Colonel Edmund Spencer Eardley Childers, C.B., late Royal Engineers, died at Bath on March 18. He took part in the Afghan war of '78-'80, and was present at the action of Tukt-i-Pul and the capture of Kabul, and marched with Lord Roberts from Kabul to the relief of Kandahar. He was mentioned in dispatches, and received the medal with three clasps and the bronze star. In the Egyptian campaign of 1882 he was A.D.C. to Lord Wolseley, and was in the battles of Tel-el-Mahuta Kassassin, and Tel-el-Kebir. Again he was mentioned in dispatches, and gained the medal, the bronze star, the fifth class of the Mejidieh, and the brevet rank of major. Later he took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5, as A.D.C. to the General Officer Commanding, and for the third time was mentioned in dispatches, and received the brevet of lieutenant-colonel. Later he held several important positions at home.

Deputy Surgeon-General S. J. Wyndowe died on March 19. He was born in 1830, and joined the Indian Medical Service in 1854. After being employed with various Regular Corps in the Madras Army, he was appointed to the medical charge of a cavalry regiment in the Nagpur Irregular Force in November, 1855, and took part in an engagement with the rebels near Sambulpore in December, 1857, when his horse was shot. For services during the Mutiny he received the medal, the thanks of the Government of India, and of H.M.'s Government. Later he accepted civil employment in the Central Provinces, and was afterwards Chemical Examiner and Professor of Chemistry in the Madras Medical College. In 1867 he was appointed Resident Surgeon at Hyderabad and Superintendent of the Hyderabad Medical School and Civil Dispensaries in the Nizam's Dominions. He retired in 1881 with the rank of Deputy Surgeon-General.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Greek war losses in Bulgaria, Turkey, and Roumania amounted to £56,250,000, and in Eastern Macedonia to £28,125,000.

The *Ahram* says that the number of new posts for foreigners provided for in the Egyptian budget of the coming financial year is 560, of which 100 posts have been created in the Ministry of Public Works and its branches.

Replying to Sir Stuart Coats, Mr. Churchill, in Parliamentary debates, says that the question of the granting of leave to British officers of the Army of Occupation in Egypt is at present receiving sympathetic consideration.

Parts of Northern Asia Minor do not yet know of the armistice, and the Turks are still terrorising the Greeks there, according to an appeal for Allied help from the Greek Metropolitan of Sivas, about 160 miles south-west of Trebizond.

The Italian Zionist Federation has (says the *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent) issued a statement, in reference to the Pope's recent Allocution, that the delegates of the Jewish people have explicitly excluded the Holy Places from the sphere of their claims.

Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., First Commissioner of Works, has sent to Mr. Israel Cohen a cheque for £5,000, being the first instalment of the donation of £25,000 which he has promised, in five annual instalments, to the Jewish National Fund for the purchase of land in Palestine.

The Hon. Sir Charles Wade, Agent-General for New South Wales, has received through his Government a further contribution of £10,000 towards the Australian Canteens for Serbians Fund, which through its Belgrade and Nish canteens is helping to feed the starving and alleviate distress.

The *Basrah Times* contains an announcement that stamps bearing Turkish designs overprinted, "Postage I.E.F. 'D.'" and surcharged with values ranging from ½ anna to 8 annas, have been issued for use in payment of postage and postal fees in the Civil Posts in Mosul Town and Division.

A delegation from the American Episcopal Church has invited the Archbishop of Cyprus, who is at present in London, to send representatives to a World Conference which it is proposed to convene to discuss matters concerning Faith and Order in the Christian Churches. The Archbishop replied that he would transmit the invitation to the Holy Synod of Cyprus.

The charity fête recently organised under the presidency of Countess Granville at Athens has, says Reuter's correspondent in that city, been a great success. A sum of 240,000 drachmai was obtained, and this will be devoted to the erection of a sanatorium for children suffering from tubercular arthritis of the hip.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—The Executive Council of the Central Syrian Committee has decided to address a protest to the Peace Conference regarding its decision to send an Inter-Allied Commission of Inquiry to Syria and Asia Minor. The protest adds that the inquiry which has been ordered by the Peace Conference will be impracticable, and will throw no light upon problems "which have been arbitrarily obscured."

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1919.

THE DISTURBANCES IN EGYPT.

The confident predictions of last week that the situation in Egypt was well in hand were speedily belied. Disturbances, which at first had been confined to Cairo and Tantah, took place over the whole country from Alexandria to Assiout. The railway lines became a special object of attack, and sufficient damage was done to cause the suspension of all traffic between Cairo and the sea for a number of days. Telegraph wires were also cut. At the same time armed Bedouin entered the Baharia oasis, looted some of the villages, and are said to have hoisted the Turkish flag. The sequence of events points to the existence of an organisation working for a general outbreak, which had had its hands forced by the arrest of the Nationalist leaders. In the hope of forestalling their deportation the machinery of unrest was set going in the capital before the co-operation of the outlying districts could be secured. In due course, however, these responded to the call, and something like systematic rioting broke out simultaneously up and down the country. None of it, perhaps, was very serious in comparison with what is happening elsewhere at this time. The crowds were for the most part unarmed, and trusted merely to their numbers to effect what damage they could. An effort was made to direct the movement into a clear-cut issue between Egyptians as a whole and the British authorities by a strike of all Government employees. But the attempt failed, and the students and the lower classes were the only members of the community who responded to the summons to embarrass the Government. Nevertheless, the organisation at the back of the disturbances can claim to have achieved considerable success. The whole country has been thrown into a turmoil, the Administration has been seriously inconvenienced, and the British Government has had to send General Allenby back to Egypt post haste from the Paris Conference as Special High Commissioner.

It is evident from what has happened that a movement designed to undermine the government of the country has been allowed for a long period to mature its plans with impunity. An accident or the overconfidence of its leaders at last compelled the Administration to intervene, and for the first time the extent of the organisation is discovered from the subsequent disturbances. Hasty judgment is to be deprecated, but only the Egyptian Government will be able to explain why it allowed so much rope to the agitators without taking adequate precautions to cope with their designs. In the debate in the House of Commons on March 20 an attempt was made to fasten most of, if not all, the blame on the Foreign Office, which was taken to task for not having sought an earlier opportunity for discussing with the Egyptian Ministers the plans his Majesty's Government had in view with regard to the future administration of Egypt. No doubt the Foreign Office was responsible for the refusal to allow the Prime Minister and the Nationalist deputation to come to England, and if its decision ran counter to the advice of the High Commissioner, the latter is exonerated in regard to this point. But it would appear as if by that time most of the harm had been done; for the machinery that ultimately started disturbances from Assiout to the Mediterranean coast and stirred up the Bedouin on the West can hardly have been put together at short notice. The importance of close relations between the British and the Egyptian officials was rightly insisted upon by Captain Ormsby-Gore, who initiated the debate in a speech conspicuous for its studied moderation and its knowledge of Egypt. Failure to discover the ramifications of a wide subversive movement may not unjustly be held to imply that there was room for considerable improvement in the relations of the two sections of the Government, and it is at least open to argument that Rushdi Pasha, if not Saad Pasha Zaghlul as well, might have been deterred from taking the action he did by more sympathetic handling. For the trouble, as far as is known, dates back beyond last November when the deputation of Nationalists called at the Residency with their programme of complete autonomy for Egypt. Even before the joint declaration made by the British and French Governments in Syria and Mesopotamia it was understood in Egypt that ultimately the question of constitutional reform would come up for discussion. As the actual event showed, a scheme was drafted without any special collaboration between the British authorities and the Egyptian Cabinet. When completed, it was submitted to the Prime Minister; but it is one thing to consider a Constitution that has been elaborated as the result of joint deliberation during which every item has been carefully considered, and another thing to be confronted with a cut-and-dried draft which differs materially from one's own unadjusted views. Whether from pique or from war strain Rushdi Pasha decided at once that no bridge could be thrown across the gulf which separated him from the British authorities. The Nationalists were quick to seize their opportunity, hoping that a bold stroke would bring the whole Egyptian people, official and non-official, to their side. They have been disappointed; but the work of restoring confidence all round has been rendered difficult by the mistaken policy of the last two years.

There is much to be said for the suggestion that the Arabic-speaking world and our responsibility to it should become the special concern of a separate Department, not as a reflection on the Foreign Office, which by common consent has been conspicuously successful during the war in its handling of the problems of the Orient, but in virtue of the wide extent of territory now involved and its importance in the scheme of the British Empire. Questions of policy would still have to be determined by the Home Government, and for right decisions we should have to trust to the standard of statecraft obtaining at the time. But it would be possible to train a larger class of officials with expert knowledge of the Arab world, and consequently to enlarge the circle from which the chief officials have to be drawn. In the future Mesopotamia, Palestine, and possibly Syria will call for as expert and sympathetic handling as Egypt. The latter country is showing signs of outgrowing the supply of the ready-made administrator as distinct from the trained specialist. General Allenby will now take the situation in hand, and on the strength of his prestige among the people and his innate tact may be expected to undo some of the mischief done. There will remain the problem of constitutional reform, and it would seem as if the first thing to be carried out should be to scrap any draft constitution already in existence and to elaborate another in consultation with various sections of the people. Great Britain's position and her determination to uphold it and to safeguard the interests of the fellaheen could be made perfectly clear: but within these limits it should be possible to find room for a constitution which will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the more enlightened elements of the population.

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THE EGYPTIAN STUDENT.

(By One Who Knows Him.)

It seems to be generally agreed that the present trouble in Egypt has drawn its support largely from the Secondary and Higher Schools. Ever since the Egyptian Nationalist Party came into existence, its rank and file has been composed mainly, if not entirely, of the students of these schools. Their subscriptions kept the *Lewa* going, their attendance turned the party meetings into "mass meetings," and their shrill cheers assured Mustapha Pasha Kamel that he had "the nation" behind him when he appeared upon the platform at Cairo or Alexandria to denounce the British Occupation.

As a matter of fact, the students began the present trouble by going out on strike, and they have played an equally conspicuous part in its later, and more dangerous, phases. They have been the leaders of the Cairo mob in attacking Government offices and private property, and last week's telegrams from Egypt made it clear that they have also appeared as leaders of bands of hooligans in the provinces. In the attack on the railway station at Wasta, for instance, *The Times* correspondent tells us, the crowd, which consisted of 2,000 fellaheen, was "led by a student mounted on a donkey."

The extreme youth of these students (most of them must be well under twenty) makes the phenomenon one which may well puzzle European readers. But, in the first place, the fellaheen are very easily led by anyone with a smattering of education. In the second place, the sense of difference in age is, in some ways, curiously lacking among the Egyptians. It is quite a common thing in the Secondary Schools for a well-grown lad of eighteen to complain to his teacher, with tears in his eyes, that he has been kicked or beaten by a child of fourteen, whose head scarcely reaches to his shoulder. It does not seem to occur to him to assume any superiority on account of his advantage in years and stature; and it is, therefore, the less surprising to hear that crowds of full-grown men have been prepared to follow eighteen-year-old leaders into perilous adventures during these times of abnormal excitement.

Furthermore, there is the Egyptian students' extraordinary gift for organising strikes—in a country where strike organisations hardly exist. They will strike about anything, from an over-stiff examination paper to a political controversy entirely unconnected with their work. They have brought the business to a fine art. A master will lay down some rule, or announce some decision that they do not like. There will be no protest, no whisperings; but suddenly he will notice that every student in the room has put his books away and is sitting with folded arms. Of course, they are punished for this; but the truth is that they generally end by extorting some concession, though one does one's best to conceal the extent of their victory from them.

I think I am right in saying that the first strike on a large scale, organised by the Egyptian students, was on the occasion of the death of the Nationalist leader, Mustapha Pasha Kamel, in the winter of 1907-1908, when they elected to take a holiday in order to attend the funeral of "the lion of Egypt"—as one of them described the late Pasha to me. They simply stayed away from school that day, and attended the funeral in due course. But one hesitates to write of it, lest schoolboys in other countries should get hold of the idea, and being less industrious than the Egyptians (who are really exemplary students as far as their work is concerned) should take to commemorating the death of some favourite politician on every fine afternoon!

Saad Zaghlul Pasha, the Nationalist leader, whose desire to visit London and subsequent deportation to Malta, brought the present trouble to a head, was at that time Minister of Education, and, of course, a great opponent of Mustapha Pasha Kamel and his party. Strikes began to increase in frequency after the funeral incident, though not on the same scale; and the Minister presently decided to intervene in person and put a stop to the practice. There was a strike in progress at the moment at Saidieh Secondary School, Cairo, over some paltry question of the date of an examination paper—if my memory serves me—and the Minister went to the school himself, reversed the decision of the English headmaster, and settled the matter to his own satisfaction, but not, apparently, to that of the students. For as Zaghlul Pasha left the building, some of the malcontents got together and hooted him, whereupon he hastened back to the Ministry in a state of considerable alarm and sent down a *posse* of police—to the great amusement of all concerned. The joke was told against him in Cairo for many months after. One wonders whether he himself, in his new character of the popular leader, ever remembers these early encounters of his with the schoolboy "Nationalists" of Cairo.

It must not be supposed, from what has been written above, that discipline is altogether lacking in the Secondary and Higher Schools of Egypt. At all ordinary times the students are well in hand, and they have a genuine respect for their instructors, whether British, French, or native. The students are docile, well mannered, and as industrious as any that could be found in the world. And strikes, after all, do not occur every day—or every month. Nor, as far as one can gather, do the students, as a rule, attempt to take undue advantage of any success they may have gained by such demonstrations. There is, however, an extraordinary solidarity among them, a sort of public spirit—too often a perverted public spirit—which one may hope will some day be turned to better uses in the true service of their country.

SOUTHERN MACEDONIA.

Lecturing before the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, Captain Alan Ogilvie said that the region north of Salonika where from 1915 onwards military operations had been carried on, had to the north an unbroken range of mountains five thousand feet high, and to the east and west the Vardar and Struma rivers. The mountain range was rather a plateau with a flat top and steep sides. The region combined the long hot Mediterranean summer with the cold dry winter of Eastern Europe; but this was broken by snowstorms, which sometimes lasted several days. In spring and autumn thunderstorms were frequent. The rainfall averaged about two inches a month. Cultivation was carried on in the plain and on patches of alluvial soil, which occurred at higher levels; elsewhere the ground was covered by scrub, sometimes forest, or was bare rock. The only four-footed creature native to the country that occurred in great numbers was the tortoise, but bird life was abundant and very interesting; for summer migrants came from Africa, while geese and ducks of all sorts came from Eastern Europe in winter. Birds of prey of all kinds, from vultures to sparrowhawks, abounded in the hills. The most important insect was the mosquito. Of this several species were found, including the one which carried malaria. The classification of the races of men in Macedonia had given trouble to anthropologists ever since they had studied the question. The Turk, Greek and Slav were predominant. Language was the great distinguishing mark, for racially there had been great admixture. Other races were the Kutzo-Vlachs, who were a pastoral people, the Jews of Salonika, and the Gypsies. The last-named were very dark skinned, almost negroid in appearance; and he had discovered that their language was intelligible to some of the Indian troops who were with the British expedition.

Speaking of the economic future of the country, he said that the agriculture of the plain might be greatly improved and developed by a system of irrigation, of such a character that all might benefit by it, by draining swamps and making roads, by setting up an equitable system of land tenure, by instituting co-operation among the farmers on a plan similar to that in use in Denmark, by providing agricultural education, and by supplying machinery and fertilisers. The hills should be reafforested, and the migrations of the shepherds and their flocks restricted. As to Salonika, there was some danger of the harbour being destroyed by silt from the Vardar river, but there was the possibility of developing a port of the character of Marseilles.

Professor Ernest Gardiner, who had been at Salonika as a Naval Intelligence officer, said that all over Southern Macedonia one came across the remains of water channels and irrigation pipes; it must have been a most productive country in the past, and, given a stable government, could be so again. As to the port of Salonika, the course of the Vardar river might be diverted a few miles to the west, where it had an old mouth.

Lady Grogan said that where the lecturer had used the word Slav she would have said Bulgarian. The people could not be divided into watertight compartments; very often you found a village half Greek and half Bulgarian, or half Turk and half Greek. No settlement could be just or final that did not take into account the fact that the bulk of the inhabitants of Macedonia regarded themselves as Bulgarians. It was not wise to put one Balkan people under the domination of another.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

OMAR KHAYYAM.

Nobody knows better than I the fascination of a pipe; and cigars, and even cigarettes, are not without their charm for me. But I do object most strongly to youngsters smoking; and should like to have a short Act passed through Parliament authorising any adult to take away the cigarette (or pipe, or cigar!) from any juvenile smoker and administer chastisement to him. Seriously, juvenile smoking is deplorable; and it is, I fear, on the increase. At any rate, I seem to see a lot of foolish lads poisoning their systems with smoke before their undeveloped bodies have acquired strength to resist the toxin. In this matter we might take a hint from Travancore, where steps have been taken by the Popular Assembly "for the preventing of the use of tobacco by school children." The Government had previously, "after carefully considering the problem . . . issued orders to all heads of educational institutions to stop smoking among schoolboys," but this had not achieved the desired result. I am a little sceptical whether the new legislation will prove much more effective; though, I observe, the ten sections of the Bill "follow mainly the provisions of the Mysore regulation of 1911." It seems to me that it is not Mysore regulations that will appeal to the juvenile smokers of Travancore (or Great Britain), but sore portions of their own anatomy, if they offend. At any rate, the experiment is surely well worth trying.

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A Beyrout paper, the *Lissan el-Hal*, reports that a certain effendi skilled in caligraphy once wrote on an egg the whole of the Ottoman Organic Law, in Arabic and in Turkish, with explanatory notes and two poems about the Ottoman Constitution, adding—to fill up space, one supposes—a map of the Ottoman Empire. Altogether the ingenious gentleman managed to write some 10,000 words on the egg. Now he has presented to the Syrian Protestant College Museum a grain of wheat on which he has written a poem of 107 words, all of which, we are told, can be read clearly through a magnifying glass, and even by a man with strong sight. I agree with the *Lissan el-Hal* that the effendi has given proofs of marvellous patience and skill. But we must remember the training of the Oriental scribe. Usually he holds his paper "all anyhow" in one hand, making it into a kind of crumpled ball, and then writes on it with a split reed, using ink that consists chiefly of lumps of weird chemical substance. After that, writing on an egg-shell, or even on a grain of wheat, must be comparatively "smooth going," and a decent pen and readily-flowing ink must be wonderfully helpful. I am not sure that I do not consider the caligraphic performances of certain Turkish officials that I have witnessed in my travels quite as wonderful as the feat of the writer on the egg and the grain of wheat. At any rate, I could never write anything at all in circumstances which seemed to present no difficulties to the Turks and Arabs referred to; while I could write at least a few words on an egg!

***

The trouble in Egypt did not come altogether as a surprise to me—not because I lay claim to any great foresight in such matters, but because it would have been little short of a miracle if the Egyptian "Nationalists" had not taken advantage of the present state of affairs in their own sweet way. With politicians the world over promising everything to everybody, and the Press predicting that the Millennium will come to-morrow, it is perfectly natural that would-be politicians in the Nile valley should think the time ripe to join the Jazz orchestra. But what *does* puzzle me is to account for the agitators scoring such successes as they have managed to secure. I could understand their finding followers among the rabble of Cairo or Alexandria, but that they should have been able to get at the fellaheen of the provinces does surprise me. Where did the money come from? And who managed the organisation part of the agitation? The "Gippy" unaided?——

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Of course, the Fellah is a credulous soul, and in all probability a clever agitator could do almost anything with him, if once he could secure his attention. But the Fellah does not, as a rule, like to be bothered over politics, and I suspect that the only way that the agitator has been able to nobble him at all has been either by "cash payment" or by very, very tempting promises of financial gain for himself in the *near* future. Such bait, I fancy, he might find it very difficult to resist. For, like the Bedawi, he is a greedy person. I have often referred to swindles put upon him, and in looking through Egyptian papers the other day I came across several instances of a kind to show what an extraordinarily gullible being he is. For example, a Cairo butcher, named Ismail Hassan, lately sold three rotls of mutton to an effendi, who induced him to hand over also change for a five-pound note which he (the effendi) had "left at home"! The obliging butcher sent one of his boys home with the customer to carry the meat and bring back the note. The effendi, however, despatched the youth to fetch some more mutton—and then disappeared.

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Another Ismail, this time a resident of Beni Suef, was lately accosted by a venerable old gentleman, who expressed a great desire to bless him. As the ancient one mentioned casually that he was a saint, Ismail granted his request. Next the benevolent stranger desired fervently to bless Ismail's worldly goods, and asked the Fellah to entrust him with some money, in order that he might increase it threefold. Apparently the "saint" would not have been a real success as a company promoter, for 200 per cent. is nothing in these days! Ismail, however, found the prospect pleasing, and parted with three pounds (Egyptian). His saintly friend thereupon despatched him to secure some special kind of dust for some purpose connected with the hocus-pocus. Ismail went. So did the "saint" and the £E3. . . . It is all very ridiculous, no doubt. But it does show how easy it is to mislead the Fellah if only you dangle the right bait before him. And the "Nationalists" have, no doubt, studied the bait question pretty carefully.

CORSAIR.

"THE DOME OF THE ROCK."

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A most interesting lecture was delivered on the 5th inst. at the Dominican Convent of St. Stephen, Jerusalem, by Major E. T. Richmond, F.R.I.B.A., late Director-General of Public Buildings in Egypt. The lecturer took for his subject the tile work of the world-famed Mosque of Omar, and illustrated his history, remarks, and discoveries upon that unique building by a series of drawings, paintings, and fragments of the tiles representing the progressive deterioration produced by modern and, latterly, European methods of production.

The lecture, which was very largely attended, was delivered in French, and will possibly be incorporated into the authoritative work which, it is understood, Major Richmond will publish on his return to England upon the Dome of the Rock, Mosque of Al Aksa, and, in general, the whole Haram es-Sherif, or sacred enclosure.

THE S.A. IN INDIA.

Sir Louis Dane, who presided at a meeting of the East India Association on Monday at the Lincolnshire Room, Tothill Street, Westminster, paid a tribute to the work of the Salvation Army in India, and said Mr. Tucker, the founder and head of the movement, entered the Indian Civil Service in the same year as he did.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Bedford read a paper on work among the criminal tribes of India; Mrs. Stephenson described her twenty-nine years of service among the Tamils of South India; and Mr. Basu, a member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, spoke of the great missionary work of the Salvation Army, and more especially its educational and industrial side, for which the Indian people were most grateful.

The formation of a military record office at Bombay, to be designated the Adjutant-General's Office (Record Section), is announced. It will be located at the New Custom House, and will maintain (a) the record of service of every British service officer and British soldier serving in India from the date of embarkation for India to the date of embarkation on leaving India; (b) a card index showing the whereabouts of every British service officer and British soldier whose record of service is maintained.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Last week's article on "British Commerce in the Balkans" has brought me a letter from a correspondent with reference to the statement that Dedeagatch is of little value as a port owing to the shallowness of the roadstead and the difficulty of access from the interior. "May I be allowed to state," he writes, "that Dedeagatch could, at very small cost, be made a first-class port, and that by a glance at the map you will find that Bulgarian and Thracian produce could be more easily brought to Dedeagatch than to Kavalla."

***

The decision to establish a new train service to the East entirely through Allied countries is, in my view, very welcome, as in a case like this the more competition there is the better. I am rather sorry that the political flavour should have been introduced into what should be a purely commercial undertaking. What the average traveller will consider, is his comfort and convenience. Give him the comfortable carriages of the International Sleeping Car Company, and he will use the new line with satisfaction; but give him indifferent accommodation, and he will give it the cold shoulder.

***

The position as regards exports to Morocco appears to be much the same as when I last wrote. Little can be done until the surplus stocks over there have been disposed of, and so far there is no very great improvement in this direction. I understand, however, that hopes are entertained that there will be a change for the better shortly. As regards exports from Morocco, the position is now that the free export is permitted of hides, skins, wool, and linseed. It is confidently anticipated that there will soon be a further relaxation of restrictions. On the whole the outlook in Morocco cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory, especially as this year's crop prospects are certainly well up to the average, and possibly a good deal better.

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It is satisfactory to learn from a Ceylon contemporary that success has attended experiments to find pulp sufficiently economical for the manufacture of paper in the Island, but I cannot express the same sentiment in regard to the news that the necessary machinery is to be obtained from Japan and America. Are British manufacturers unable to supply it?

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I learn that Mr. Leslie Couper, C.M.G., general manager of the Bank of British West Africa, is now in Egypt on a business trip.

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I am glad to hear that the Earl of Onslow, president of the British Merchants' Morocco Association, is now taking an active interest in the work of the association. Hitherto he has been precluded from doing so by his military duties.

***

At the annual meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company the chairman, Mr. Greenway, discussing the remarkable results achieved by the company during the year ended March 31, 1918, pointed out that these results were obtained at a time when the company was only in its early infancy. "With the various extensions already on the way," he added, "the throughput of our refineries will within the next year or two be trebled, and other extensions which we hope to arrange for in the near future should, when completed, bring our throughput up to five times or six times the quantity dealt with in the year under review. And, as I have indicated on previous occasions, we anticipate no difficulty whatever in finding markets for this largely increased production. Our one and only difficulty is to provide refining, transport, and storage facilities fast enough to enable us to meet the demands upon us for our products." The supply of crude oil, Mr. Greenway stated, was practically unlimited, and that, "with the great increase in the demand for oil products of all kinds resulting from the enormous development of motor traction in every part of the world, and for fuel oil as a substitute for coal for steam raising and other purposes, there is endless scope for us in the direction of the sale of our products."

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As regards the productivity of the company's fields, Mr. Greenway pointed out that the wells in the field from which they had hitherto been obtaining their production still maintained their extraordinarily high rate, and wells already drilled were, it was estimated, capable of yielding a production at the rate of 5,000,000 tons a year. On the field adjacent to it another well, at a distance of about a mile from the preceding one, had struck oil in considerable volume, and the well had been reported as equal to any yet struck in the company's territories. In the third field little progress had been made, but the prospects were satisfactory. "Testing operations are being carried on," he said, "or are about to be started, in a further six fields, all of which give promise of favourable results. We are now substituting electric for steam power in our producing fields, a change which will result in greater efficiency and a minimum of cost for drilling and producing generally."

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A further letter in reference to the serious delays in telegraphic communication with Eastern countries was sent last week to the Secretary of the General Post Office by Mr. E. F. Stockton, president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in which it was pointed out that the reply to the previous letter had failed to allay the anxiety and irritation which exists owing to the continuance of the trouble. "Only yesterday," Mr. Stockton wrote, "I received complaints from several quarters that recent telegrams from India, China, and Egypt were taking ten days in transmission. Two or three days in a time of great stress would be comprehensible, but it is impossible to believe that longer delays than this are not avoidable. As matters stand at present the telegraph service is for practical business purposes of very little use. It is, in fact, almost a delusion. Offers are submitted by wire and replied to by wire in order that the two parties may have the advantage of contracting if they so choose at the prices current at the time, but of what avail is it to send an expensive wire if three weeks elapses before a reply is received? You observe that relief would be afforded if the use of codes could be permitted, and that 'the censorship authorities have the question under consideration.' This is nine days since, and it is a subject on which a business man would have decided at once."

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It is, I should think, almost a unique occurrence for a company report to contain anything verging on what Fleet Street would probably regard as the sensational. This is apparently the case as regards the recent report of the Cawnpore Woollen Mills, which, according to the mail papers, seems to have attracted the attention of the business community in India on account of a paragraph regarding the excess profits tax. The paragraph in question states that no provision has been made for the threatened excess profits tax, because the directors cannot believe that it is seriously intended to proceed with an impost that would operate so unfairly and inequitably, and which has been condemned with such unexampled unanimity. It has aroused considerable sympathy, because it is felt that if no absolutely definite promise was given on the question of a tax the implication was that it would not be raised. Many of my readers know, I daresay, of the generous contributions of this company for war purposes, but, for the benefit of those who do not, I may mention that the latest contributions were Rs.25,00,000 to the second Indian War Loan, in addition to subscriptions from the staff to the extent of Rs.16,90,500, and Rs.6,95,000, which the directors handed back to the Government as a free-will gift.

COMMENTATOR.

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TRADE WITH THE LEVANT.

Greater Enterprise Required.

(From a Correspondent.)

The vital need of the moment is for a forward policy on the part of British traders if advantage is to be taken of the openings for business in the Near East generally, and in particular in the Levant This, unfortunately, is not what is happening, and it must regretfully be admitted that as yet there is little evidence of the widespread endeavour to enter the Near Eastern markets that might justly be expected, in view of the better realisation of the importance of these trade centres in the last few years. A member of a leading house doing business in the Near East explained to the writer that the position was roughly that while Lancashire firms, whose exports to the Levant largely accounted for British trade predominance there before the war, are active in arranging shipments, that is not the case with firms in other parts of the country, notably London, dealing with other commodities. As a matter of fact, since the armistice, it has been Manchester that has led the way in urging the removal of restrictions on trade with the Near East, and in bringing pointedly before the attention of the authorities the hampering effect of various factors on the resumption of commerce. Why this enterprise and initiative should be mainly confined to one centre, it is difficult to understand. One explanation suggested is that while exporters of cotton goods know the character of the Levant markets by experience, they are, to a considerable degree, new territory to exporters of other commodities, among whom there is on that account a certain not unnatural hesitation and a disposition to see what "the other man is doing," which has not been diminished by the element of uncertainty in the outlook. Another factor which is probably not without effect is the belief that some of the districts in question have been too impoverished during the protracted war for trade on an extensive scale to be possible for some time. It is only to be expected that, in the circumstances, there should be difficulties at first, but they can at the worst only be of a temporary character, and the question of the financing of imports will be speedily solved by the export of commodities available in the Levant. As for the outlook, it may be taken for granted that as soon as peace is finally ratified, any anxieties on this score, whether at home or abroad, will quickly disappear, and those who allow this factor to influence them in adopting a Fabian policy will find to their cost that they have been badly in error, while the lack of knowledge of the markets as a reason for inaction is unworthy of serious consideration.

Foreign Competition.

There is, in short, no valid excuse for any absence of enterprise on the part of British merchants and manufacturers. The times call for action, enterprise, and initiative, and those firms who bring these qualities to the markets of the Levant will find that the results will richly repay their efforts. But if, on the contrary, delay and caution are to be the guiding principles, then it may be accepted that Great Britain's place in these markets will be no better than it was before, and one of the most excellent opportunities for increased trade ever offered to this country will have been thrown away. And why? Simply because while British business men are considering the outlook, other countries are rapidly preparing to take advantage of the promising markets in the Near East. They have studied the position there, have estimated correctly the possibilities, and are prepared to lose no time in establishing trade relations. Such considerations as the financing of imports and the general situation are no deterrents in their case, for they know very well that these things are only temporary in their incidence. As showing the activities of foreign countries, it may be mentioned that Japan is making strenuous efforts to develop her trade with Greece; France has established commercial bureaux at Bucharest, Sofia, and Belgrade to facilitate her import trade; America is displaying considerable activity in relation to various Near Eastern trade centres, notably Salonika; while Italy, too, has to be reckoned with. In the Levant the position is just the same, and there, too, serious competition must be anticipated, and the slower British exporters are in entering the markets, the more severe it will be. The maxim for British exporters now is to reach these markets at once by means of travellers and agents, and to do everything possible to cultivate them and to meet local requirements. It may not, and no doubt will not, be possible in many cases to promise immediate delivery, but there is no obstacle of any description in the way of booking orders for delivery as soon as circumstances permit. Acting on these lines, and acting promptly, the foundations of enduring business will be laid.

Goods in Demand.

Finally, emphasis must be laid on the comprehensive character of the Levant markets. The requirements of the inhabitants are not so extensive as those of European countries, but they are far more varied than is generally imagined in business circles in this country, and the present scope of their wants will rapidly increase with the development of the districts. With imports ranging from oleographs to superfine china and cut glass; from ploughs and tractors to felt hats, and from upholstered furniture to fancy leather goods, it is impossible to describe the market as other than important, and there is a demand for all these goods in the Levant, and others too numerous to specify in the present article. To take the Syrian market alone, which, by the way, promises to be one of the most prominent trade centres of the Near East, the list of imports before the war included such commodities as cement, paper for wrapping oranges and lemons, tiles, flooring, paints, hardware, ironware, chemical manures, clocks and jewellery cases, ready-made clothes, silk goods, glassware, building material, and iron and steel. This list, selected at random, is intended merely to show the character of the trade. Before the war, British trade in Syria was mainly confined to cotton goods, though, even so, we were able to head the list of importing countries. There was no reason other than lack of organisation to account for the poor showing we made in the trade in other commodities, and it should be a comparatively simple matter to obtain a fairly large share of the other imports in the future A special effort should be made to cater for the trade in tractors and other agricultural machinery, for which there is certain to be a growing demand in Syria and other similar districts, and this will necessitate arrangements for the provision of repair shops, for, otherwise, as was the case before the war with a competing country, a customer unable to have his machine repaired will be lost for good. There is also likely to be a great deal of constructional work, requiring building materials of all kinds, and here, too, it may be hoped that British firms will be well to the fore. They will be if, as we have said before, they lose no time in entering these markets and are no pains in cultivating them.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from March 12 to 16 inclusive, amounted to 2,170,000 francs as against 1,260,000 francs for the same period last year.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Messrs. Benabu and Co. have removed to Benabu House, 163, Fenchurch Street.

Mr. J. C. G. Bouillat has resigned his position as director of the Eastern Bank, Limited.

Italy is to have a new port near Voltri to cost £5,800,000 and to be completed in twelve years.

A French Commercial Bureau has been opened in Belgrade to promote trade between France and Greater Serbia.

The Dutch Holland-Amerika Linie has issued new capital to the extent of five millions of florins at a premium of 327 per cent.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has imported a large consignment of empty sacks from India with a view to distributing them among cultivators.

A special bonus equal to one tenth of a year's salary has been granted to all the covenanted Europeans except Italian employees on the Kolar Goldfield.

The Persian Government has decided to use motors for practically the whole of its mail service, and it is reported that an order has been placed with the Fiat Co. for fifty motor mail vans.

A proposal for through navigation between the Rhone and the Rhine, via the Sâone, to link up the Mediterranean with Central Europe, was approved at a Chambers of Commerce meeting at Chalons-sur-Sâone.

Two French banks have decided to increase their capital. The Banque Nationale de Credit is raising its capital from 150 millions to 200 millions of francs, and the Credit Commercial de France from 45 millions to 64 millions of francs.

Mr. Jules J. Hesson, managing director of the Eastern Company of Warehouses, Insurance, and Transport of Goods with Advances, Limited (of Petrograd), and the Caucasus and Mercury Steamship Company, has arrived in England from Petrograd, and is staying at the Piccadilly Hotel.

H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta has forwarded a copy of "A Note on some Shipbuilding Woods of Burma," by Mr. J. D. Hamilton, of the Provincial Forest Service, Burma. It contains a description of such woods as are best suited to the various parts of a ship. A copy may be consulted on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

During the eleven days in which the British Industries Fair remained open, 31,000 persons passed through the turnstiles, as compared with 23,000 the previous year. Over 300 buyers from the Continent visited the fair; there were also 23 buyers from Canada, and four from the United States. It is estimated that the amount of business transacted was in excess of last year, when the orders noted were over £1,500,000.

According to the Department of Statistics in India the number of cycles other than motor-cycles imported by sea into British India from foreign countries was 10,937 in 1917-18, compared with 34,577 in the pre-war year, a decrease of 68 per cent. In 1917-18, 98 per cent of the cycles came from the United Kingdom, 1 per cent. from Japan, and in the pre-war year 99 per cent. came from the United Kingdom and 1 per cent. from Germany.

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CONDITIONS IN SYRIA.

Position Improving.

(From A Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 23.

Syria may be said to be fast approaching the end of her troubles. In a letter dated four days ago a lady who had left Egypt for Syria to take part in the work of relief writes: "There is hardly any room left for relief work among the poor. So much has been and is being done by the various relief societies and by the authorities. What strikes the newcomer, however, is the great number of persons in ragged clothing." Actually the cost of living in Syria, or at any rate in Beyrout, is lower than in Egypt. Even sugar is little more than a 1½d. more per lb. than in Egypt. As regards the market position it may be mentioned that several hundred bales of Manchester cotton goods, shipped from Egypt, and discharged last month at Beyrout, are said to be still lying there. The expected arrival of the "Kaffir Prince," which is now discharging at Alexandria, and will be proceeding thence to Beyrout, Tripoli, and probably Alexandretta, with a full cargo, most of which is destined for the Government, but part of which also consists of Manchester goods ordered direct from Beyrout, will tend to aggravate the state of the market. That means of transport to towns in the interior, such as Damascus, Baalbok, Homs and Hama, where a great deal more gold has always existed during the war than in Beyrout, is not available is due to the fact that the railways and motor lorries are still required almost exclusively for military transport, while beasts of burden except a few that the military authorities have given away to relieve urgent needs, are likewise unavailable to the public. Now, however, that the bridge on the Orontes between Homs and Aleppo has been repaired the train service between these two towns has been resumed, and it is hoped that the public will have a better chance of being allowed transport facilities in the interior. But the market position is not only due to lack of transport; another factor is the temporarily reduced purchasing capacity of the inhabitants of Beyrout and of the neighbouring villages. This temporary check to their purchasing capacity is natural, seeing that they have been despoiled in every imaginable manner by the Turks during four years of war, and have been unable to export any produce from the country; but under the greatly improved conditions a very early improvement may be looked for.

It seems that the olive yield was a good one in Syria, and fortunately the Turks were driven away before the ripening of the fruit and the gathering in of the crop. It is said that the first steamer that carried goods to Beyrout could have had on her return to Egypt up to 1,500 tons of olive oil, but the authorities did not allow this export, on the ground that as oil is an article of prime necessity and one consumed largely by the poor its export would lead to a considerable rise in prices, and probably to scarcity in the open market.

PAPER MONEY IN EGYPT.

Complaints of Dirty Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 3.

By Proclamation, the embargo placed on the introduction into Egypt of banknotes issued by or under the sanction of any Government at war with his Majesty has been taken off. This means that Turkish notes, of which there is an enormous quantity in Palestine and Syria, can be negotiated by the banks, and in consequence of this considerable relief will be afforded the local population.

Whilst on the subject of banknotes it would be interesting to know whether the almost universal use of paper money which has crept in since the war is not to a very great extent responsible for the continuation, if not actually the propagation, of the present influenza epidemic. I understand that bank notes by reason of their larger surface and of their greater humidity are better conductors than most metal coins, and it would be interesting to hear the opinion of the medical and bacteriological experts on the point now raised. If paper money is to continue in circulation after the war then it would appear highly necessary that some arrangement should be made whereby all notes paid into banks or large business houses are fumigated before being re-issued, and that in the case of the former establishments notes which are at all dirty should be withdrawn from circulation.

(From Our Port Said Correspondent.)

Port Said, March 6.

Great dissatisfaction prevails over the filthy and insanitary condition of the currency notes, which have been issued by the Government in lieu of small change; many of the notes are literally in tatters, and sometimes only held together by sticky paper. Some of the natives refuse to accept notes that have more than one hole in them, even though issued by a bank or the post office. Surely the Government, which must be making a handsome profit out of the note issue, could arrange that any torn, holed, patched, or very dirty notes, could be retained by the post office and the banks, and not put again into circulation. By such means the worst of the notes would be gradually eliminated, and people would be spared the annoyance not only of filthy notes, but the added vexation of having them refused by the very people who are chiefly responsible for their condition.

Some time ago the local Press in announcing the arrival of Monsieur Bonnet, the general manager of the Suez Canal Company, from Paris, also said that the British Government were contemplating giving a war bonus of two months' pay to the Suez Canal employees. Enquiries at headquarters would seem to indicate that this was a hoax, as nothing is known of the matter in British Government circles.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN PALESTINE.

The London Bureau of the Zionist Organisation states that the agriculture and colonisation department of the Zionist Palestine office reports that the first task which it set itself as soon as the whole of Palestine was liberated from the Turk was the investigation of the losses sustained by different Jewish colonies and farms as a result of the war. It also made a comprehensive though necessarily hasty survey of the economic situation in the country, so that the next steps in colonisation might be directed along beneficial lines.

New estates, it declares, will perhaps not be at the disposal of the Zionist Organisation for some time, and even areas acquired will not be ready for colonisation purposes until such improvements as irrigation and drainage works have been effected and roads and highways have been constructed. Schemes for development along those lines must, therefore, be ready for consideration in connection with such colonisation work as will occupy lengthy periods. But for the immediate future it is urged that closer settlement and more intensive culture on the land already in Jewish hands will enable some twelve thousand persons more to live on it. On the various estates in Jewish hands there is room for six hundred settlers' families, say two hundred on land belonging to the Jewish National Fund and the Palestine Land Development Company, and four hundred on land belonging to private societies and individuals. Thus, assuming five to a family, three thousand could be directly engaged in agriculture. Mr. Ettinger, director of the department, estimates that this would provide a basis for twelve thousand persons living directly or indirectly on agriculture and its bye industries. The fact that the land reserve is so small, compared with the need that is sure to arise in the very near future, makes it all the more imperative that every effort should be made to utilise the land now in Jewish hands to its maximum productivity.

The report proposes that the land to be provided from the Jewish National Fund land should be leased on hereditary leases to families likely to work without hired labour, and containing workers already used to agricultural work. Adequate loans to cover working expenses (seed, cattle and so on) should be advanced from a special agricultural credit institution yet to be created. The settlements should be supervised by committees consisting of representatives of the settlers, of the Jewish National Fund, of the credit-giving institution, and of the intended Jewish National Council. As the establishment costs, namely, the cost of buildings, implements, working capital, schools, sanitation and other public services, cannot be borne by working-men settlers, it is proposed that the latter should be aided by loans. The cost of settling a family is estimated at £600.

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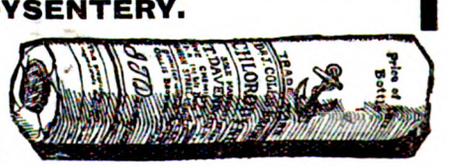
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

American Machinery for Greece.

According to Athens newspapers of recent date, a very large consignment of agricultural machinery and implements has arrived in Athens from America. The consignment comprised all classes of power machinery and a considerable number of motor (petrol) ploughs. Most of the latter were stored at the Botanical Gardens, where King Alexander went to view them, and, at his express wish, two or three of them were set to work on an adjacent field, attracting from first to last his special attention. Later these American machines and implements were exhibited at the Zappeion, the large Olympic Exhibition Building, where they were visited by official agriculturists, large numbers of landowners, and the general public. A number of these motor-ploughs and other implements have already been sent by the Government to Eastern Macedonia and to Thessaly, to be used for the spring cultivation. In the meantime, after prolonged arguments, the Bulgarian Government agreed to deliver seven hundred draught animals per week to the Greeks in exchange for the cattle and horses that were taken by the Bulgarian army in Thrace. This weekly delivery will continue until the number is completed. However, in spite of this, comparatively, substantial number, the dearth of draught animals in Macedonia and Thessaly is still causing anxiety to the Government, which is urging the extension of land cultivation in the two provinces, and is offering every possible assistance to farmers. Hence, besides the motor-ploughs from America, some thousands of ordinary ploughs, it is said, have been ordered, and many are still wanted. From the reports it appears that America is the principal supplier at present of these machines. It is hoped that British manufacturers will not neglect this market, which, apart from its local value, is a commercial centre for regions further East.

Motor Ploughs for India.

Apropos of the dearth of draught animals in the Near East, it is interesting to note the remarks made on the same subject by an agricultural engineer, who, writing from India, points out that in that country there will shortly be a need for many motor-ploughs, or light direct ploughs, capable of ploughing from six to seven inches deep, and which can be handled easily in small fields, and are, as far as possible, "fool proof." This is what has been emphasised in these columns as the necessary feature for ploughs intended for work in the East generally. It appears that, owing to the weak monsoon, there are in India now thousands of acres absolutely bare and devoid of a blade of grass or a grain of corn, says this engineer, and consequently it is extremely difficult to keep bullocks alive. Prices had already risen sky high before famine conditions were felt, and it is anticipated that before next ploughing season commences—which will be about the end of next month—about 50 per cent. of the bullocks, which in ordinary circumstances would have been employed for ploughing, will have died. As a result, it is feared that there will be practically no bullocks left to haul the ploughs. The alternative is mechanical cultivation, and as there are several firms in England which have already placed on the market motor-ploughs which are suitable for conditions in the East, and, of course, in India, it is to be hoped that they will take the matter into their hands, and will not allow American and Japanese firms to establish themselves in the Eastern markets practically without competition.

Except by special permission of the Minister of Immigration, the entry of German, Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Turkish immigrants into Canada is forbidden.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

The general tone of the market has not improved during the past week. Numerous difficulties are still encountered in arranging business. It is believed in many quarters that prices have not yet touched the bottom, although numerous spinners and manufacturers are now willing to accept orders at rates which show either a loss or no profit at all. The disorganisation of the cable service between this country and Eastern markets is a very serious hindrance to trade negotiations. Merchants with connections in Egypt have followed with considerable interest the Press telegrams relating to the disturbances abroad. It is feared that although the unrest may be put down by the Government, this movement must have some effect upon trade developments. Shippers will not be inclined to ship goods if there is a possibility of further riots. There seems to be every probability of a big acreage under cotton in Egypt for next season. There is considerable speculation as to when the control upon prices will be abandoned. No increased activity can be recorded in yarns made from Egyptian cotton. Prices continue to fall, and now and again surprise is expressed at the figures accepted by needy spinners. A little more inquiry has been mentioned in piece goods for India, with occasional offers, and isolated speculative sales have occurred in light fabrics. Operations for China have been irregular, but now and again the contracts arranged have been of fairly substantial dimensions. There are no indications of cloth manufacturers as a body meeting with any definite relief. American yarns have again dragged in demand, and prices are easier on the week. Stocks at some mills are of very serious dimensions. Only odd lines have been mentioned in export yarns.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Service to the Near East.

The Ellerman-Wilson line, Hull, have resumed their regular services to the Near East, and propose to maintain regular sailings from Hull to Malta, Constantinople, Novorossisk, and Odessa. The City of Madrid is now taking in cargo intended for shipment to Malta, Constantinople, and Odessa.

Cunard Line's Acquisition.

An agreement has been effected between the Cunard Steamship Co. and the holders of £150,000 ordinary share capital in Thomas and John Brocklebank, Ltd., whereby the shares in question will be transferred to the Cunard Co. in exchange for £150,000 in Cunard ordinary shares. The total issued ordinary share capital of Thomas and John Brocklebank is £250,000. The remaining £100.000 of this capital is held by the Anchor Line (Henderson Bros., Ltd.), while all the ordinary shares in the Anchor Line are owned by the Cunard Co. This agreement secures a complete community of interest between the three companies and involves an increase in the issued ordinary share capital of the Cunard Co. from £1,335,383 to £1,485,383, as against the total amount of £2,000,000 already authorised by the shareholders. The directorate and management of the Brocklebank Line remain unchanged.

The R.M.S.P.

The court of directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have appointed Mr. H. A. P. Cotton, head of the passenger department, to be an assistant manager of the company, and Mr. D. I. Conradi, assistant secretary, to be the secretary to the company in place of the late Mr. A. H. Bennett.

WAR DAMAGE IN PALESTINE.

The London Bureau of the Zionist Organisation states that the destruction of fruit-trees in Palestine during the war was serious, 8.000 olive and almond trees were so damaged that no hope of their recovery is entertained. The damage sustained reduced the number of trees from 27.000 in 1914 to 4,000. The trees lost down to the present time represent a minimum loss of £9,300, and the total loss by war damage of all kinds (building, trees, cattle, and crops) is valued at over £10,000.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railway for the eight days ended February 28 amounted to £E8,519, making the total for the year £E340,621.

Mr. G. N. Lionda, managing director of Messrs. Lionda and Co., Ltd., 3, Broad Street Buildings, Liverpool Street, E.C.2, is leaving shortly for the Near East for an inspection of their Athens and Salonika houses and for the establishment of new houses in Constantinople, Smyrna, and Alexandria. The capital of Messrs. Lionda and Co., Ltd., has been raised to £30,000.

PROHIBITED EXPORTS.

Turkey, Bulgaria, and Black Sea Ports.

Two new lists of prohibited exports have been published in the *London Gazette*. The first list, D, prohibits the export of the following war material to Turkey, Bulgaria, and Black Sea ports :—

Aircraft of all kinds, including aeroplanes, airships, balloons, and their component parts, together with accessories and articles suitable for use in connection with aircraft; apparatus which can be used for the storage or projection of compressed or liquefied gases, flame, acids, or other destructive agents capable of use in warlike operations, and their component parts; armoured plates; armoured motor cars; arms of all kinds, including arms for sporting purposes and their component parts; barbed wire and implements for fixing and cutting same; camp equipment, articles of, and their component parts; clothing and equipment of a distinctively military character; electrical appliances, adapted for use in war, and their component parts; explosives specially prepared for use in war; field glasses; gases for war purposes; guns and machine guns; gun mountings; limbers, military wagons of all descriptions; harness or horse equipment of a military character; implements and apparatus designed exclusively for the manufacture of munitions of war or for the manufacture or repair of arms or of war material for use on land or sea; mines, submarines, and their component parts; projectiles, charges, cartridges, and grenades of all kinds and their component parts; rangefinders and their component parts; searchlights and their component parts; submarine sound signalling apparatus; materials for wireless telegraphs; torpedoes; warships, including boats and their component parts of such a nature that they can only be used on a vessel of war; and those articles marked either A or B in the schedule to the Proclamation dated May 10, 1917, as amended or as may be amended by subsequent Orders of Council or Proclamations, which are not included in the above list.

The second list, E, prohibits the export of the following articles connected with land transport, telegraphs, and telephones, to Bulgaria :—All articles for use in transportation on land; saddle or pack animals, vehicles, motor cars, bicycles and their component parts; locomotive and rolling stock; telegraphs and telephones and their component parts, and materials for use therewith.

All articles not included in lists A. B. D. E may be exported to Turkey, Bulgaria, and Black Sea ports without licence.

The Ceylon Government *Gazette* contains the draft of an ordinance making it penal for any person to possess in the colony any imitation of an Indian currency note including cotton or silk, or other goods having impressed thereon designs in imitation of Indian currency notes.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Mercantile Bank of India.—Transfer books will be closed from March 26 to April 4, inclusive

The directors of the Samnuggur Jute Company recommend a final dividend of 30 per cent., making 50 per cent. for the past year, less tax.

The directors of the Victoria Jute Company recommend a final dividend of 40 per cent., making 60 per cent. for the past year, less tax.

The directors of the Titaghur Jute Company recommend a final dividend of 50 per cent., making 70 per cent. for the past year less tax.

National Bank of India.—Ordinary general meeting will be held at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, E.C., on April 7, at noon. Transfer books will be closed from March 26 to April 8, inclusive.

The directors of the Ionian Bank, Limited, recommend a final dividend of 3s. per share with a bonus of 1s. per share, both free of income-tax, subject to audit, for the financial half-year ended December 31, 1918, making, with the interim dividend, 7 per cent. per annum for the financial year 1918.

Madras Electric Tramways.—Holders of preference share warrants to bearer are notified that a final dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, will be paid upon presentation of coupon No. 14 on and after 31st instant at the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, 2, Princes Street, E.C.2. Rate of tax is 4s. 6d. in the £.

Eastern Bank.—Transfer books will be closed from April 5 to April 23, inclusive.

Coupon No. 10 of the ordinary shares of the Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Co. is payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements' Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.4, at 60 pts.; and Coupon No. 2 of the founders' shares at pts. 15, both at exchange 97½ to the £ sterling.

The report of the Constantinople Land and Building Company for 1918 only shows the transactions in London. The credit balance is £137; £5,593 was brought forward, making £5,731 to be carried forward. Two letters have been received from the company's manager in Constantinople. He has managed the company's affairs during the war, and paid the balance of the moneys collected to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Constantinople. He hopes in the course of a few weeks to send the accounts from December 31, 1914, up to December 31 last.

Japanese exports for 1918 totalled more than £196,270,000, an increase of £35,969,000 on the figures for 1917, while imports totalled more than £166,813,000, an increase of £63,232,700.

It is announced that French import licences are to be dispensed with in respect of machine parts destined to be used in machines now on the list of goods admitted into France and Algeria without an import licence.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of this company was held on March 26 at their offices, Britannic House, Great Winchester Street, London, Mr. Charles Greenway, the chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Secretary having read the auditors' report, and the statement of accounts being taken as read, the Chairman said: At the last annual meeting I expressed the hope that we might be able to accelerate the issue of our next report and balance-sheet. Unfortunately, owing to greater delay in the delivery of mails, shortage of staff, and other causes beyond our control, this hope has not been realised, but these difficulties are so well known to you all that I am sure no apology is needed. It gives me and the rest of the board the greatest possible pleasure to present to you such a very satisfactory report and accounts as are before you to-day, as although we are only at the initial stage of our developments the results shown are such as to more than confirm the anticipations which we have always held out as to the great future which awaits this company

Dealing with the balance-sheet first of all you will see that the paid-up capital shows an increase on the previous year's figures of one and three-quarter millions, due to the payment by His Majesty's Government of the final call on their ordinary shares and to the issue of a further £1,000,000 of participating preference shares, and we have also issued additional debenture stock to the extent of £1,800,000. You will, moreover, notice that our capital resources have been further augmented to the extent of about £2,400,000 by funds lodged with us by our associated companies, share premia, and allocations to reserve accounts. It has been suggested in the Press that we may shortly have to make further capital issues. Although we and our associated companies have a very large amount of new capital outlay to meet in order to provide for the requirements of our rapidly expanding business, yet I am pleased to say that there is no immediate need for any new issue of capital, inasmuch as our available surplus assets to-day in cash or easily convertible securities (including no less than £2,302,000 invested in War Bonds and War Loans) amount to between five and six million pounds, a sum quite ample for our present requirements

Turning to the credit side of the balance-sheet, you will see that the first item of our assets has increased from £1,982,791 in the present year to £7,001,375. This large increase is practically all accounted for by the purchase prices paid by us for the companies acquired in 1917, and by the fresh capital which we have taken up in these and other associated companies.

Profits.

I will now deal with the profit and loss account. The trading profit for the year amounts, you will see, to the very satisfactory sum of £1,516,994 3s. 9d., after making ample allowances for depreciation, as against the conservative estimate of not less than £800,000 to £1,000,000 which I gave when dealing with the previous year's accounts. A substantial portion of this profit was, I may explain, due to the earnings of our fleet, for a portion of which during the year under review we were able to find very remunerative employment. This item of profit will not recur in the following year's accounts, because during the greater portion of that year our boats were under requisition at rates which will barely cover running expenses; and also the profits of our distributing companies will be on a reduced scale. On the other hand, we shall benefit by a larger throughput at our Abadan refinery and by better prices which have been obtained for some of our products, and on the whole I think we can confidently anticipate results for the current year fully equal to those shown in the accounts now before you.

As you will see from the appropriation statements given at the foot of the profit and loss account, we have out of our profits paid off the advances of £175,547 3s. 6d. made by the Burmah Oil Company in our early days to enable us to pay the preference share dividend guaranteed by them, and also the sum of £45,843 10s. 5d. due to them for interest thereon, this latter amount being included in the first item on the debit side of the profit and loss account. We have also written off the whole cost of our last preference share and debenture issues, and allocated a total of £330,000 to various reserve accounts, both of which steps will, no doubt, meet with your full approval. This leaves a balance of £779,708 18s. 1d., out of which we have paid dividends amounting to 8 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and we now recommend the payment of a similar dividend on the ordinary shares. The balance remaining to be carried forward will be £454,722 12s. 1d., which we estimate will amply suffice to cover the amount which will be payable in respect of excess profits duty, although the amount of this has not yet been definitely settled with the Revenue Commissioners.

This result is, I think you will agree with me, one of which we have every reason to be proud. The dividend which we are proposing to declare on the ordinary shares is not very large, but as I have explained a large amount of our profits has been employed in the liquidation of special liabilities which will not recur, and a further large amount has been reserved to meet excess profits duty, a liability which also we may hope will not recur for very much longer. It will probably interest you to know that the return to His Majesty's Government for the year on their investments in the company, taking into account the amount they will receive from excess profits duty, the payment of which has only been made practicable by their investment in the company, works out to something like 30 per cent. per annum; and that in addition to this they effected a very large saving through the favourable long-term contracts entered into with the company for the purchase of products. It will be borne in mind that these are results achieved at a time when the company was only in its early infancy. With the various extensions already on the way the throughput of our refineries will within the next year or two be trebled, and other extensions which we hope to arrange for in the near future should, when completed, bring our throughput up to five times or six times the quantity dealt with in the year under review. And, as I have indicated on previous occasions, we anticipate no difficulty whatever in finding markets for this largely-increased production. Our one and only difficulty is to provide refining, transport, and storage facilities fast enough to enable us to meet the demands upon us for our products.

Whilst on this subject of outlets for our products I would like, now that this is a subject which can be referred to without detriment to the military situation, to mention that, apart from the large quantities of fuel oil which we have been supplying throughout the war for the use of the Navy, we have been supplying the War Office with practically the whole of the requirements of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force for railway, motor, and other transport. It has become rather the fashion nowadays for industrial concerns and others to claim credit for "winning the war." We do not claim any such credit for this company, but it may be claimed that without these supplies the conduct of the Mesopotamian expedition, at any rate on anything like the scale which was eventually found to be necessary, would have been an impossibility, because it would not have been practicable under the later conditions of scarcity of tonnage to have transported these supplies from more distant fields. How far the Mesopotamian expedition has tended to bring about the successful conclusion to the war I will not venture to express an opinion, but notwithstanding the attacks which were at one period of the war made on "side shows," I think it is generally admitted now that had this expedition not been undertaken our position in the East to-day would have been very different from what it is. The credit for this is, however, due to the great foresight, which may now, in the light of our present knowledge of German pre-war aims, he regarded as almost providential, of Lord Fisher and Mr. E. G. Pretyman, who, in 1905, on representations made by the late Mr. D'Arcy, urged the Burmah Oil Company and the late Lord Strathcona to provide the necessary funds for carrying on Mr. D'Arcy's exploratory work to a successful issue in order that the concession might not fall into foreign hands. This is a chapter in the history of this company which is not very well known, and one which deserves to be placed on record now in view of the important bearing which it undoubtedly had on the conduct, if not on the actual issues, of the war.

Great Productivity of Fields.

I am pleased to report that the work carried on since I last addressed you further confirms the opinions we have previously held as to the great productivity of our fields. The wells in the field from which we have hitherto been obtaining our production still maintain their extraordinarily high rate of yield, and the wells already drilled are, it is estimated, capable of yielding a production at the rate of 5,000,000 tons per annum. On the field adjacent to it, to which I referred at the last meeting, another well at a distance of about one mile from the preceding one, has struck oil in considerable volume, the well being reported upon as being equal to any yet struck in the company's territories. In the third field referred to in my last speech little progress has since been made owing to the lack of drilling material, but the prospects are still satisfactory. Testing operations are being carried on, or are about to be started, in a further six fields, all of which give promise of favourable results. We are now substituting electric for steam power in our producing fields, a change which will result in greater efficiency and a minimum of cost for drilling and producing generally.

Since I last addressed you the first of the refinery extensions at Abadan to which I then referred has been completed and brought into operation. The further extensions for which capital was issued a little over twelve months ago have not yet been completed owing to the great delay which has been experienced in obtaining delivery of plant, but they are now well in hand, and should be completed during the year. A further large addition at Abadan has now been decided upon to enable us to meet the rapidly growing demand in the East for our fuel oil, and will be undertaken as soon as plant can be contracted for at reasonable prices and delivery.

In addition to our extensions at Abadan we have now commenced the erection of a large refinery near Swansea, where the refining of such products as are marketable in the United Kingdom can be carried on more thoroughly and more economically than at Abadan. The work at this refinery—the initial capacity of which will be twice that of the whole of the Scottish shale companies—is being executed with all possible speed.

The additional pumping stations referred to by me at the last meeting are now in course of erection, and should be in operation during the course of this year. We have also decided upon the laying of an additional 10-inch line from the fields to our present 8-inch line, in place of the present 6-inch line, which will further considerably augment our pipeage capacity between the fields and the Persian Gulf. We shall, when this line is completed, have one complete 10-inch line from the fields to the Gulf, and another line made up of 10-inch pipe for

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about half the distance, and 8-inch for the remainder.

Our fleet now amounts to a total dead-weight capacity of 162,000 tons, and, as mentioned in the report, we have placed orders for further vessels of a total capacity of about 150,000 tons. We also purpose purchasing further ready tonnage whenever opportunities occur for securing it at reasonable prices. All of our vessels which were requisitioned by the Shipping Controller have now been released, and such as are not required at the moment for our own transport have been chartered at remunerative rates.

Political Situation.

I am pleased to say that the political situation in Persia has improved very much during the past few months. The present Persian Cabinet is well disposed towards this country, and the unrest which existed some time ago as the result of German and Turkish intrigue, followed by the spread of Bolshevism from the Caucasus, has now largely disappeared. Our relations with the Persian Government continue to be of a friendly character, and a representative of the company is now in Teheran discussing with them the settlement of various questions which are outstanding between us—I was hoping to be able to announce to-day the result of these discussions, but so far no advice has been received.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing our regret at losing the valuable services of his Excellency Sadigh-es-Sultaneh, who is giving up his post of Imperial Commissioner to this company to take up the more important position of Minister of his Imperial Majesty the Shah at the Court of Washington, and at the same time the board would like to offer him their heartiest congratulations upon his new appointment. Our relations with his Excellency have always been of a most friendly and cordial character, and we are greatly indebted to him, because he has always done his best to promote the interests of the company as well as those of his Government. His brother—Farid-es-Sultaneh—has been appointed by the Persian Government as his successor, and I am sure, from what he has said to me, that he will do his utmost to maintain the policy of friendly co-operation established by his brother.

Before concluding I would like again to pay a tribute to our staff both here and in Persia, for the good and loyal work which they have rendered to us and the sacrifices they have made during the past years, under conditions which have become more and more trying. Now that the company has arrived at a remunerative stage it has been decided to allow the employees of the Anglo-Persian Company and of all its associated companies to share in the prosperity of the company by establishing what we have designated as a "provident pension and insurance fund." The fund, to which all British employees, both male and female, and certain non-British employees, are eligible for membership, affords a means of enabling the employees to share in the profits of the company, and it at the same time ensures a substantial pension after retirement, and a considerable capital sum—the equivalent of life insurance—for the benefit of their families after death. The scheme has been heartily welcomed, and already over 1,500 employees have applied for and been admitted to membership.

He then moved "that the report of the directors, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1918, be received, approved, and adopted." Sir Frederick Black seconded the motion, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: The next business before the meeting is the declaration of a dividend on the ordinary shares, and I now beg to move "that a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, be paid on the ordinary shares in respect of the year ended March 31, 1918, and that such dividend be paid on April 30 next." Mr. J. T. Cargill seconded the proposal, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: The next business before the meeting is the election of directors. As you will see from the report, Sir Campbell K. Finlay was unfortunately compelled, owing to the exigencies of his Government work, to resign his seat on the board, and

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

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

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
RAOUL MALLET,
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 58, Rue St. Ferreol.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

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Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout.
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Caifa. Hamah.
Homs. Saida.
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Mr. Robert I. Watson, whose great knowledge of the oil business in all its branches and conspicuous ability will be of great advantage to the company, was appointed to fill his place. A further appointment, to fill the seat rendered vacant by the death of Mr. D'Arcy, which has been made during the past year is that of Lord Southborough, whose great ability and long experience of oil questions at the Admiralty from what may be described as the Imperial point of view, will also undoubtedly be of great benefit to the company. Both of these gentlemen, who now retire under Clause 82 of the articles of association, are valuable acquisitions to the board, and I am sure that you will heartily support their re-election. The directors retiring by rotation are Mr. F. W. Lund, Mr. Frank C. Tiarks, and Sir Trevedyn Wynne. All of these gentlemen have done extremely good work for the company, and I am sure that you will desire to retain their services. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing the pleasure we all feel at welcoming to the board Sir Frederick Black as one of the Government representatives. Sir Frederick has for many years dealt with oil matters at the Admiralty as Director of Contracts—much to the advantage of the nation, as I know from personal experience—and I am sure that his co-operation on the board will be of great service to the company. I would like at the same time to express our appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the company by Mr. Jenkins during the time that he was on the board as a representative of the Government prior to the appointment of Sir Frederick Black. Another reference which I must make to the Government representatives is to express our regret at the absence from to-day's meeting of Lord Inchcape, and at the unfortunate cause thereof. We all know the great services which Lord Inchcape has been rendering to the nation, and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him a speedy restoration to health in order that he may once more be able to resume his herculean labours on behalf of the country. I now move "that the election to the board of Mr. Robert I. Watson and of the Rt. Hon. Lord Southborough be confirmed, and that Mr. F. W. Lund, Mr. Frank C. Tiarks, and Sir Trevedyn R. Wynne, who retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election, be and are hereby re-elected members of the board."

Admiral Sir E. J. W. Slade seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., then proposed "that Messrs. Brown, Fleming and Murray be re-elected as auditors for the financial year 1918-9 at such fee as may be determined by the board." Mr. Powell seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended December 31 states that the British military authorities are now in control of the railway, and that, acting under the direction and with the ready assistance of the War Office, the general manager and the other members of the Smyrna staff, who have been in this country since the outbreak of war with Turkey, left England on February 26 in order to undertake the working of the line. Some time must necessarily elapse before the general manager can report upon the present condition of the permanent way and other property of the company in Turkey, but from unofficial information recently received the council have reason to believe that traffic over the railway has not been altogether interrupted during its occupation by the Ottoman Government. The council has also learned from similar sources that recent seasons have been favourable to husbandry in Asia Minor and that substantial quantities of goods will be available for transport so soon as confidence has been restored in the efficient management and regular service of the line. To enable the company to make arrangements for the resumption of traffic it became necessary that the council should provide funds for the purchase of rolling stock and materials and to meet working expenditure, which may exceed the receipts for some time to come. With this object the council have obtained an advance through its bankers of £140,000, secured upon the unissued balance of £100,000 four per cent. and £100,000 five per cent. debenture stock at 6 per cent. per annum. The council are taking all possible steps for establishing before the Peace Conference the claims of the company for reparation of the heavy losses it has sustained in consequence of the interruption of its lawful business and the other damages it has suffered by the usurpation of its property and rights during the last four years by the Ottoman Government. With this object in view the assistance has been secured of Colonel Adrian Corbett, who rendered most valuable aid to the company during the long and complicated negotiations conducted by the Government in 1913 and 1914, which dealt with the railways of Asia Minor. The council have now authorised him to proceed to Asia Minor to co-operate with the general manager in the reconstitution of the railway and with the view of his representing the company's interests before the Peace Conference. If, as the result of the general manager's report upon the present circumstances of the railway, it is ascertained that further funds are necessary for the reinstatement of the line and the restoration of its prosperous working, the council, having now exhausted their borrowing powers, may find it desirable to ask the share and debenture holders to sanction the creation of additional capital.

National Bank of India.

The report of the National Bank of India for the year ended December 31 last states that the net profits, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £403,636; £139,829 was brought forward, making £543,464. An ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, was paid for the half-year ended June 30, amounting to £100,000. The directors now recommend a further dividend at the same rate and an addition of £200,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £1,550,000. They also propose to write £10,000 off house property account, and to add £10,000 to the officers' pension fund, leaving £123,464 to be carried forward. Meeting, Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, E.C., 7th proximo, noon.

Templestowe Estate of Ceylon.

The report of the Templestowe Estate Company of Ceylon for the year ended December 31 states that:—Profit, after writing off Rs. 8,415 for irrecoverable coolie debts, amounted to Rs. 18,521; Rs. 2,432 was brought forward, making Rs. 20,953, out of which the dividend on the preference shares, absorbing Rs. 6,516, has been paid. The directors now recommend that the balance of Rs. 14,437 be carried forward as it is necessary to strengthen the financial position of the company.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Our market has been rather dull and inactive this week, owing to the continuation of the unrest in Egypt, but there has at no time been any pressure to sell. Prices, however, have been lowered here and there as a precautionary measure; but, with the more satisfactory cables to hand during the last few days, there is again an inclination to pick up any cheap stock offering.

In Government stocks, both Unifieds and the 3½ per Cent. Prefs. are about ½ lower.

In Bank shares Nationals, after declining ⅜ to 22, finish only ⅛ down at 22¼. Agricultural banks are a like fraction lower at 6¾. Some business has been done in Land banks at the current level.

In Railways, Delta Lights are 3-16 lower at 8¼.

Amongst the Land shares Aboukirs, after dropping to 27s. 6d., close unchanged at 28s., with some good buying in progress. Allotments have been done at 5, a rise of ¼ on the excellent results for last year—dividends of 15 per cent. on the Ordinary, and 2s. per share on the Deferred being announced, as compared with 7 per cent. and 6d. per share respectively for 1917. Behéras have eased off ¼ to 13½. Dairas are 4½d. higher at 4s. 4½d. Delta Lands are 3d. lower at 15s. 6d. New Egyptians, after falling to 26s., close unchanged at 26s. 6d., and Sidi Salems are 1-16 easier at 2 13-16. Sudan Plantations have again been in continuous demand, and are closing ¼ higher at 5⅝.

In Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters and Salt and Sodas are each about ⅛ down at 12 and 3 respectively; on the other hand, Khedivial Mails are a like fraction higher at 5¾.

In Greek securities, with the exception of a rise of two points to 66 in the Funding Loans, there is no change to record; but the market in most Greek stocks is bare of sellers, and prices are firm.

Oil Shares.

Oil shares have been strong. Anglo-Egyptian B. have touched 88s. 1½d., and Burmahs are up to 9 1-32. Anglo-Persian Prefs. closed at 26s. 6d. Roumanians have improved during the week, but yesterday Roumanian Consols fell from 17s. 9d. to 17s.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tangier-Fez Railway.

Tenders are invited for the earthworks of the seventh section of the French part of the Tangier-Fez Railway. This section is about 25 kilometres in length, and is between Meknes and Fez. The provisional deposit is 25,000 francs, and the definite deposit 50,000 francs. Tenders must be in by June 7, 1919, at the latest, but those intending to tender are urged, in their own interest, to send in their certificates "de capacité" at least forty days before this date. All particulars may be obtained at the office of the Cie. Franco-Espagnole du Chemin de Fer de Tangier à Fèz, 41, Avenue de l'Opera, Paris.

At Chittagong, General Borton and Captain Ross-Smith, while engaged in surveying the coast for suitable stations for the Calcutta-Rangoon air route, lost their boat and records through an explosion, which injured six men, though they were unhurt.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

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Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Mar. 18	Mar. 25
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	93½	93
Do. Pref. 5 %, 1890	88	78½	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	71	71
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	71	71
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	71	71
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	83	83
Do. 5 % Currant	—	97	97
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	—
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7⅜	7⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅜	15⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅜	7⅜
British Trade Corporation	—	11xd	11xd
Chartered Bank of India	65	74	75
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7⅛	7⅛
London County and Westminster	—	17⅛	17⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22⅜	22½
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8 7/16	8½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	28/-	28/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	5
Béhéra Co.	8½	13⅜	13⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/9	15/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	26/6	26/6
Sidi Salem Co.	1⅛	2⅛	2 1/16
Sudan Plantations	—	5⅜	5⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	75/-	75/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/-	2/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	28/3	28/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	3⅛	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	1	5⅜	5⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	4½	4¼

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - £485,580
RESERVE - - - - - - - £85,000

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £1,000,000

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Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Anwas, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agencies at Busreh and Baghdad

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 413.—Vol. XV. THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The most important news from Paris during the past week, as far as the Near East is concerned, is the appointment of General Mangin as Commander-in-Chief of the Roumanian and other Allied troops to be employed in the defence of South-Eastern Europe against the Bolshevists. This step is an indication that the extent of the Russian menace is at last being appreciated, and that the Allies realise that a policy of *laissez-faire* is not the wisest way to cope with it. Bolshevism, however, requires to be attacked both by military and by economic methods. It would have been by this time a far less formidable enemy if the Allies had seen their way at the outset to giving the Japanese a free hand in sending help to the moderate section of the Russian people. Behind the cordon of troops with which it is proposed to check the imperialistic designs of the Bolshevists practical measures must be taken to prevent the countries from becoming a prey to unrest from want of food or from enforced idleness of the people, resulting from delay in the restoration of more or less normal conditions of trade and industry. In the case of Roumania it is satisfactory to note that practical assistance to this end is being afforded by Great Britain by the opening of credits for the purchase of immediate necessaries, in particular, of railway material, of which the country is in dire need.

The Allied force that will operate against the Bolshevists will sacrifice much of its strength if it has to take the field with the settlement of the Balkans still unaccomplished. There will be little real co-operation between the various units if, for instance, feeling is still running high over the Banat among both Roumanians and Serbians. General Mangin's task will be materially facilitated if the Council of Four in Paris can first fix the Balkan frontiers and give the different States to understand that the whole question has been closed, and cannot, at least, for a specified number of years, be opened again. It is significant of the uneasiness which the present indeterminate situation engenders that the Roumanians should be, or be reported to be, anxious over the attitude of Bulgaria. According to one statement Roumania is exposed to immediate attack from Russia, from Hungary, and from the Bulgarians. That the latter are in a position to cause their northern neighbour anxiety is not to be credited; but the bogey will be used by interested persons to prevent as far as possible an equitable settlement in the Balkans.

Some idea of the mass of detail that has had to be digested or, at least, examined by the Paris Conference, is afforded by the controversy between Serbia and Montenegro. It appears that in support of the Serbian claim it was urged *inter alia* that the Crown Prince of Montenegro had sold his forest domain, or Zabran, to Austrians. The charge had, of course, to be met and a further memorandum was submitted to the Conference to prove that the sale was actually made to a British subject, who had, it is true, large interests in Austria. The matter, either one way or the other, ought to have no bearing on the Balkan settlement; but its introduction is symptomatic of the means employed to influence the decisions of the Conference.

Reports from Egypt appear to be subject at present to considerable delay, and are somewhat vague. Those describing events of the past week are probably as satisfactory, if not as full, as could be expected; but those giving details of the earlier phases of the disturbances do not make pleasant reading. General Sir E. S. Bulfin, who succeeded General Watson in the Cairo Command, inaugurated his tenure of office by some very plainly worded warnings to the Notables and to the people of the Fayoum and of Upper Egypt. This apparently had a good effect, and General Allenby's arrival, on March 25, has impressed the makers of trouble as we anticipated it would do. Train services have been restored, at least, in part, and telegrams are being forwarded again. The telegraphic service, however, cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Reuter reports that messages for Upper Egypt had to be despatched by aeroplane to Suez, thence on by cable to Suakim, on to Khartoum, and then to their destination. Thus, a telegram to Minia, which is 150 miles from Cairo, had to make a circuit of 3,000 miles.

The fact that the Fayoum has suffered extensively in the way of disorders is a further indication that the Bedouin of the Western Desert constitute the most serious factor in the problem that confronts the authorities. At Medinet el-Fayoum the desert Arabs attacked the garrison on March 19, and were only driven off when they had suffered some 400 casualties—which shows that the attack was conducted with determination. In the Behera Province the situation has been admittedly serious, Damanhur, the capital of the province, having been the scene of "great disturbances," in the course of which the *Mudir*, Ibrahim Halim Pasha, was attacked and severely wounded. This incident is to be the more regretted because Halim Pasha has consistently acquitted himself loyally and

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well in any work entrusted to him. On this occasion, it is reported, "the troops dispersed the mob, killing 18." It is to be hoped that Damanhur will take the lesson to heart. Beni Suef, again, a town barely 75 miles from Cairo, was for a short time the scene of happenings which bore some resemblance to incidents of the Indian Mutiny. For five days the Europeans and Americans in the place were more or less besieged by a mob of townsmen reinforced by hundreds of Bedouin. Happily, a small force of Indian soldiers and English officers were hurried into the town before the trouble became acute, and in the end the women and children, with most of the civilians, were got safely on board a steamer and conveyed to Cairo. Here, as in other places, many of the native minor officials appear to have behaved very well; and here, as elsewhere, the Bedouin were clearly "out for loot" rather than for any other reason.

What would have been a humorous situation had the outbreak been less serious in character, was brought about when General Watson informed the "Egyptian Independence Committee" that, as they had started the agitation, he looked to them to stop it. The members of this interesting body—of which we had never heard before—had to confess that they could not control the *Jinnee* that they had summoned for their own ends. They even added, with shameless pusillanimity, that they feared that any attempt on their part to quell the disorders would be attendd with risk to themselves, and they concluded by asking, "for their own protection, that they might be ordered to return to their villages." The moral is too obvious to need emphasising here. But the Egyptian Fellah is not quick to see a point, and those who are anxious to obtain his "freedom" for him, in order that they may exploit him for their own purposes, are not likely to call his attention to such little *contretemps*. It is satisfactory to note that the Sudan remains unaffected; that it has actually afforded refuge to a large body of officers, nursing sisters and civilians from Assouan and Luxor; and that it has been able to despatch relief parties to other points in Upper Egypt.

The Council of Four is reported to be making rapid progress with the work it has set itself, but French patience, severely tried by past delays, shows signs of breaking down completely at certain points. Probably this tendency accounts for a remarkable speech made the other day in the Chamber of Deputies by M. Franklin-Bouillon, President of the Chamber Committee on Foreign Affairs. In this oration M. Franklin-Bouillon spoke with some warmth regarding "the problems confronting us in the East," notably of the future of Palestine and Syria Briefly, he contended that there was a treaty still in force between France and Great Britain regarding their spheres of action in this region, and he disapproved of the appointment of a Committee to visit Syria and report to the League of Nations. Even more strongly, apparently, does he object to the League deciding the future of Syria, which, in his opinion, is "already definitely settled." This view would undoubtedly find many ardent supporters in France, but whether the majority of Syrians would regard it with equal favour is less certain. It is perfectly clear, however, that in regard to Syria, Great Britain is in a most self-denying mood, and that the opposition—admittedly strong—to French ambitions there does not emanate from this country.

India's progress in modern methods of transacting business is indicated by the news that the Legislative Council at Delhi has indulged in something like an all-night sitting, the first, if we are not mistaken, since its establishment. Unfortunately for the legislators, it is not likely to be the last; experience in the West shows that the habit of prolonged sittings is easily formed, and since the average length of speeches is greater in India than in this country we must expect that more and more time will be required to dispose of a given volume of business. That will mean, of course, a period of progressive restrictions on debate, and India will have to become familiar with the "kangaroo-closure" and other modern devices for speeding up the machine, the use of which may lead eventually to some reasonable working arrangement.

Such restrictions will, we fear, prove intensely unpalatable to active and earnest politicians, but sooner or later the question will have to be faced. Indians as yet scarcely appreciate the limitations and defects of the system of government which they have been taught to admire, but the truth is that Parliamentary institutions are very far from perfect, and that the best that can be said for them is that an actual breakdown is rare. An administration commanding an adequate majority can usually find a way of getting the powers which it considers to be indispensable, but the process is so cumbrous and is attended by so many drawbacks that students of political science are justified in asking whether India is wise in attempting to reproduce institutions which are only just workable in the country of their origin; can she not apply Western experience so as to devise something better for herself?

One such device, the separation of legislative functions from political discussion, is actually working in some of the Indian States, and possesses undoubted advantages of its own. In Travancore, for instance, as we learn from the last Administration Report, for a copy of which we are indebted to the Chief Minister, the Legislature is a compact body of fifteen members, qualified to frame laws with efficiency and despatch, while there is, in addition, a Popular Assembly, much larger in numbers and based on a wide franchise, which has no legislative authority, but serves to give the people direct access to the Administration and adequate opportunities of expressing their opinion. The Assembly is, perhaps, more truly representative than any public body existing in British India, and judging from the reports of its proceedings its functions of discussion and criticism are faithfully performed; the subjects of the State can make their voices heard, but necessary legislative business has not to wait till they have finished.

Arrangements of this kind are obviously temporary, but a small adjustment would suffice to produce from them a really democratic institution. If, for instance, the Popular Assembly were given authority to pass or to reject, but not to amend, the measures prepared by the Legislative Council, the claims of democracy would be met, and only a short step would remain to lead to complete responsible government. India might thus find her own way to the result which is being gradually evolved in this country, where the details of legislation are being more and more withdrawn from the purview of the House of Commons; but, apart from the question of such developments, we may fairly regret that it did not enter into the plans of Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu to discuss the bearings of these experiments carried out by Indian States; they constitute the one original contribution so far made by India towards the reorganisation of the country on democratic lines.

Apart from these constitutional questions, the most striking fact disclosed in the Travancore Report is undoubtedly the wide extension of education throughout the State. The proportion of 11 per cent. of the population attending recognised schools is far in advance of ordinary Indian standards, and indicates that three children out of every four are receiving instruction of some kind; it is all the more remarkable in view of the social distinctions which prevail in this part of India, and the fact that all the children of some of the depressed classes are attending schools should serve as a stimulus to reformers in other parts of the country where the conditions are at present very different. Assuming that the education provided is worth having, Travancore has thus taken a leading place in preparing for the new epoch, in which India shall look steadily forward instead of dreaming of a more or less mythical past.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 17.

Demonstrations in Cairo.

My last letter told of the arrest and deportation to Malta of Zaghlul Pasha and three of his more active assistants in the movement which he has been heading during the past eight or nine months; and briefly referred to the demonstration which had followed the arrests. Since then the local excitement has spread, and the whole country has suddenly become seized with a fit of lawlessness, the gravity of which cannot be denied. It was the students of the Law School who, as usual, set the ball rolling. They struck work and decided to call on their comrades in the other schools to do likewise. They proceeded to Giza to the Schools of Agriculture and Engineering, where the students readily joined them. Thence the united forces went to Kasr El Aini. Here an unfortunate incident ensued, in the course of which Dr. Keatinge, the Director, who is about to retire after thirty years of hard and valuable work, sprained his hand; but the medicals duly joined the other schools.

A demonstration was then made at the main railway station at the hour when it was thought that the four Pashas would be removed to Port Said. Their departure took place, however, quiet quietly and without any incident. From the station the demonstrators proceeded to the Court of Appeal, and on their way there they were met by the students from El Azhar University, who showed them an example by starting to break street lamps, smash up tramcars, and so forth. The demonstrators were dispersed by the police, and nothing further took place that day.

Next morning, however, matters assumed a graver aspect. The students of the Higher Schools called the pupils of the Secondary Schools out, and these latter for the most part joined them. A demonstration was then made outside the American Agency quite close to the Residency, and the crowd, which by now had been joined by the rabble of the city, refusing to disperse, the police had to charge it. That being insufficient, the military, who had been hurried up, had to fire on the crowd, with the result that there were several casualties. On the way to the American Agency the mob stopped at the Ministry of Finance and tried to get in, to bring out the native employees, but the gates were shut in time, and a strong guard had been posted there. Later on similar efforts were made at the Ministries of Public Works and Agriculture, unsuccessfully in the case of the latter, but with success at the former, where a large number, including several high officials, left their offices.

The crowd having been foiled of its objects at the Ministries and at the American Agency, proceeded to take its revenge on the way back, and it literally smashed everything it could reach in the Sharias Soliman Pasha and Kasr El Nil, tearing up trees to make staves, breaking lamps, smashing glass windows and advertisement signs, etc. Later in the day it passed through the Muski and looted many of the shops. On its way it also wreaked its vengeance on various newspaper offices, especially those of *Al Mokattam* and *Al Ahram*, where it did a lot of damage, on the last-named premises injuring the printing machinery very much. Next day General Watson issued a Proclamation forbidding any gatherings or demonstrations, and warning those who contravened this order that they would be summarily dealt with. The reply to this was a demonstration in the Bab El Hadid Square, where the mob had to be fired on before it would disperse. This demonstration had for its object to get the men of the railways workshops to join; but it was unsuccessful.

The Government's Precautions.

As a result of the more serious aspect which these disturbances had assumed, the city was strongly picketed. Strong guards were posted at all the points of access to the Sultan's Palace and private villa, at the newspaper offices, the *caracols*, etc., whilst strong patrols passed all day and night through the streets. All up the Mohamed Ali street small pickets were posted, and an armoured car patrolled the city during the night.

From that time onward matters seemed to improve in the capital. On Thursday the officials who had left their offices returned for the most part to their duties, and the various administrations contented themselves with signing petitions of protest to the Sultan. The only exception was the Native Bar, which decided to strike, its action taking the form of a request to the Court to transfer its members from the list of practising to that of non-practising lawyers. Friday had been pointed out as the day on which something serious might happen, and, naturally, everyone was prepared for the worst. As a matter of fact, the day passed off quite quietly. The Sultan went peacefully to perform his usual Friday prayer at the Mosque, and the only outward incident was the firing of some shots at one of the armoured cars as it was going up the Muski—an act which, as it wounded one of the crew, called forth a salvo from its machine-gun, with several casualties amongst the people as a result. Saturday and Sunday passed off fairly quietly in the capital. There were one or two minor demonstrations, but it was not until this morning that anything of any importance occurred. At about noon a large procession of Ulema, headed by a car with three of the Grand Sheikhs of Al Azhar, and followed by the students of that Institution, the workmen from the railway workshops, who had, meanwhile, struck, and a huge concourse of people of all sorts and conditions, started from the Citadel and, passing through the city, proceeded to the Italian and American Agencies, where it demonstrated. Thence it passed in front of Saad Zaghlul Pasha's house and the Sultan's private palace, and made a final demonstration before the French Agency. At each place and at intervals along the route, the demonstrators shouted for the independence of Egypt, but the whole proceedings were carried out in a most orderly manner, and the crowd, numbering over 8,000, finally dispersed quite quietly.

Grave Situation in the Provinces.

But if, all said and done, the situation in the capital is satisfactory, the same cannot be said of the provinces, where, in fact, the state of affairs is exceedingly grave. It was, of course, to be expected that the events in Cairo would have their repurcussion in the districts, but no one ever dreamed that matters would take on the proportions which they have done during the past six days. It is difficult to say exactly where the agitation first started. Demonstrations, more or less peaceful, took place early in the week at Damanhur, Zagazig, and Mansourah, while at Tanta some violent scenes were witnessed. The students of the Ahmadi Mosque went on strike and, exciting the rabble, proceeded to make an attack on the station just at the time when the trains from Cairo and Alexandria were about to arrive. Fortunately, the authorities had had wind of the affair, and a strong force of troops had been sent down. The mob was foiled, but it immediately directed its attention to the Mudiria. Here it was met by the Mudir, Hassib Pasha, and the Interior Inspector, Mr. Wild. As it would not disperse, and, in fact, assumed a threatening attitude, the British troops and the police were ordered to fire on it; which they did with serious loss amongst the demonstrators. The gathering was thus dispersed, but feeling ran very high in the town. Meanwhile, a train had been held up at Shebin El Kom by students, who would not let it proceed on its way for several hours. This interference with the railway necessitated the promulgation of a Proclamation from the authorities warning all who tampered with railways, telegraphs or telephones that they rendered themselves liable to be shot. No sooner was this published, than the railways were attacked at various points. Thus a train was held up at Galiub, where the telegraph wires were cut and the passengers threatened. At about the same time an attack was made on the railway centre at Bulak Dakrur, but was repulsed.

On Saturday, however, the worst news came to hand. This was that a body of about two thousand fellaheen, led by a student on a donkey, had made an attack on Wasta station, which is the junction for the Fayoum, had captured a train which had come in, and destroyed it; had demolished the station, and had maltreated the European passengers, after killing the local English railway inspector. First-hand accounts state that the mob

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was in an infuriated state, and that some of the Europeans only escaped thanks to the intervention of a delegate of the Legislative Assembly who happened to be on the train. It is reported that nothing remains of the station. At about the same time a body of about two thousand fellaheen marched out from Kafr El Sheikh to Sakha, where they demolished the fine rest-house belonging to the Domains, cut all communications, and destroyed everything they could lay their hands on. Another attack was also made on Bulak Dakrur, which this time was considerably damaged. Bridges have been damaged in various places, and telegraph and telephone wires have been cut right and left; so, as a precaution, it has been decided to stop the train services. Since noon yesterday no trains have run, no telegrams can be sent to Lower Egypt except to Alexandria, and then only by one wire, and none to Upper Egypt except by way of Alexandria, Suez, Port Sudan, and Atbara. Late this evening two trains were got through from Benha to Cairo.

The Zaghlulites Warned.

Yesterday evening General H. D. Watson, Commanding the British troops in Egypt, sent for the remaining members of the Zaghlul Committee, and told them that he held them responsible for what had happened, and that they must take action to stop these disorders forthwith. He pointed out that the military authorities had been exceedingly lenient in their action towards the agitators, but that that attitude could not continue, and if the disorders did not cease at once it would be necessary to take very drastic action in the matter. The Committee rejoined, declining responsibility, and said that, in any case, the agitation had got beyond anything they could control, and had assumed proportions which caused them very real alarm. They added that if they called upon the agitators to desist, they would only turn against them; and they asked that, if they did do anything in this direction, they might be ordered back to their villages, which would be the only way they could be protected.

What Should Be Done?

To a certain extent the issues are still obscure. But it is certain that the Zaghlul party have a very serious responsibility in the matter. How far they are directly concerned in the extension of the agitation throughout the country, and in its encouragement once started, is a matter which will have to be clearly investigated, but there is no shadow of doubt whatsoever that they are responsible for the inception of the idea. It has, indeed, been established that they were making arrangements for a general and simultaneous strike of Government officials and employees throughout the country; and the plot was only spoilt by the impetuosity of the students, who precipitated matters by striking and demonstrating themselves. That the Zaghlulites intended to aim a blow by paralysing the Government is generally known, and there is every reason to believe that subsequent events owe their occurrence to the organisation called into being throughout the country by the Zaghlulites, who used every means at their disposal to appeal to the elements they wanted to influence and excite them to join in active demonstrations. By no other means than an organisation directed, or at any rate conceived, from some central point could the outbreaks recorded have taken place at different points simultaneously and on such extraordinarily similar lines.

There are some people who say that the offer of some concession would quickly quell the present agitation. Such a course would be absolutely fatal. There is no guarantee that any such offer would have the required effect, and, in any case, it would establish a precedent that would be far too dangerous to set up. The one thing that must be done is very clear, and that is that before everything else the authority of the Government must be re-asserted and order be re-established. No other consideration can be entertained for one moment. Whether we should be prepared to discuss matters later on is another thing; but no promises in this direction may or can be given now. The authority of the Government has been set at naught, and for the good of Egypt itself it is imperative that before aught else that authority shall be reasserted clearly and definitely.

NOTES ON SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 2.

Relief Work.

Grand work has been, and is still being, done in Syria by the foreign relief societies. A Syrian lady, who had been working enthusiastically in Egypt for Syrian relief, found on landing lately at Beyrout that there was hardly any room left for her to satisfy her desire to be of direct help among the poor. But if the needs of the avowed poor have been so fully satisfied, it must not be imagined that distress has completely disappeared from the land. It still lurks in many a home hidden under the veil of self-respect. The lady just mentioned, with feminine intuition, had, even when still in Egypt, divined the existence of this field for charity, and her diagnosis of the situation received clear confirmation in an appeal made in a letter written to her by a friend just before she arrived back in Beyrout. This appeal runs as follows:—

"What about that relief money and clothing you have collected? Cannot you get them to appoint a committee here for discreet relief among decent people? Red Cross succour can only reach the children of the gutter, while the children of respectable birth—with something in them worth saving—are perishing. The flower of our manhood has perished—it behoves Syrians abroad to try to save their offspring. These people would die rather than stand in a line of paupers to beg for assistance. . . ." etc.

The writer of this letter is an American lady, who had the painful experience of seeing and going through all the horrors of those four years of war in Syria. Having wide social connections, especially among the Syrian middle-class families, she enjoyed exceptional opportunities of gathering first-hand impressions of the effect of the war on the said class, and is particularly well qualified to speak with authority on the subject. The fact that she is working with the American Red Cross lends special weight to her words, and compels earnest consideration on the part of all Syrians. The matter has already been brought to the attention of the Cairo Central Committee for Syrian Relief, and its members, as well as other Syrians of note whose attention has also been drawn to the point, have unhesitatingly endorsed the suggestion that Syrian relief should henceforth be confined to the impoverished respectable class. It is only Syrian ladies and gentlemen of the country who had known those unhappy families in the former days of their ease, and can have access to their present intimate life, who can be trusted to fulfil such a delicate mission.

The Syrian lady is now finding ample room for work in the field which her intuition opened up not only for herself but also for scores of others. It is satisfactory to know that her connections will enable her to secure the right type of voluntary assistants. She has found that help is needed not only in the matter of clothing and food, but also, and especially, in regard to education. If the children of this class—the mainstay of society in every country—are to be left without education, how can the Syria of to-morrow be expected to rise and take her stand among the living and progressive nations?

Foreign Relief Societies would eventually—perhaps even now—do well to devote part of their funds to this class of help, and many Syrian ladies and gentlemen would be happy to assist their workers in the discreet distribution of such funds as might be available.

Sailings to Syria.

The Messageries Maritimes have at last resumed their service with the Syrian coast. Their steamer Bosphore left Alexandria at the beginning of this week for Beyrout, not touching, this time, at Port Said. The Kaffir Prince, which arrived at Alexandria on the 22nd of last month, was expected, after discharging a part cargo there and filling up the available space, to sail a full ship to Beyrout and other Syrian ports. Much as these increased shipping facilities will ease the situation, it is to be feared that there will be no substantial advance towards prosperity before summer. Then the new harvest of cereals and fruit will be gathered in, and summer visitors are expected to pour into the country by thousands from Egypt. It is hoped that by then the present restrictions on travel will have been removed in the interest both of the people in Egypt, who badly need a change after four successive summers in a semi-tropical climate, and of the Lebanese, for whom the periodical influx of summer visitors has always constituted an important source of profit. Such help will be more valuable than ever to them now in their dire financial need.

Owing to the hanging up of the political fate of Syria hardly any work of reform has been undertaken, and Syrians cannot help looking with envy at the wonderful transformations wrought already in other occupied countries, like Mesopotamia and Palestine.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

In Bessarabia.

The Roumanians are organising the resistance against the Bolshevik forces concentrated in Ukrainia, and during the last week they have obtained remarkable successes against the "Red" armies of Lenin. The Bolsheviks tried to cross the Dniester, in the northern part of Bessarabia, on several occasions, but were repulsed, losing more than 2,000 in dead and wounded. In the southern part of Bessarabia, in the region of Tiraspol, the French troops co-operated with the Roumanians and dispersed large forces of Bolsheviks, capturing their equipment and munitions. But it must be added that the real force of these apostles of anarchy is not their military organisation, nor the superiority of their war material, but simply their propaganda. The danger of infection through ideas is the greatest possible, and the very recent fall of the Cossacks of Denikin is a sign, as well as a warning, to all those who believe that Bolshevism is to be counteracted only by guns and machine-guns. If the Allies decide to fight ideas with ideas and to oppose force only in the most exceptional cases the danger of Bolshevism will be reduced. The Roumanian soldiers—who tested Bolshevism when the Russian armies in Roumania revolted, burned the villages, pillaged and destroyed everything—know what this kind of "new social order" means, and thus it is more easy to make them understand the peril of Bolshevism. In the meantime the Roumanian authorities are devoting their forces to the organisation and improvement of social and political conditions.

The Organisation of the Army.

Now, when the idea of a general disarmament is dominating the democratic world, it appears strange that Roumania should be thinking of reorganising a large army. But this army is a necessity to keep order in the East and to prevent the spread of anarchy in the heart of Europe. The Roumanian army, we hope, will not become an instrument to be used against any democratic movement, but to protect the property and life of the citizens. Present conditions in the Roumanian army are extremely bad. The soldiers cannot get any food other than bread (once or twice a week they receive a kind of bean salad); they have no proper boots or clothes, and shirts are extremely scarce. Forage for the horses is badly needed; and the commandant of a Roumanian regiment told me that during the last month his regiment, out of 320 horses, lost 265 for lack of forage. The lack of transport terribly increases the difficulties. It is nearly impossible to transport the troops because there are no locomotives, and the train carriages are in the worst condition. I hear that at last some railway material and some locomotives are to be sent to Roumania. To restore the means of transport is perhaps one of the principal conditions of making Roumania able to resist Bolshevism. The present Roumanian army will not be able to fight longer than one or two months. The Allied Commissions know the real situation; they realise its gravity; and I hear that they have already warned their respective Governments.

In Transylvania.

The Hungarian Bolshevists so far have been able neither to obtain any success nor to convert the Roumanians of Transylvania to Bolshevism. The economic conditions of the Transylvanian peasant are much better than those of his neighbours in Hungary, and the admirable political commonsense of the Government of Transylvania in taking prompt measures to organise the country prevented the danger. Besides the work of the Government, the Hungarian Bolshevism has the old Magyar tendency of oppressing the other nationalities, and thus the Roumanians understood that they must fight in defence of their rights as a nation. The priests and the school teachers of the Transylvanian villages held a congress recently and discussed not only the organisation of the schools and religious matters, but also the union of all their forces to enable the Roumanians to resist the Bolshevist propaganda carried on by Magyar agents.

Helping the War Invalids.

Colonel Virgil Badulescu, the organiser of the Roumanian Alpine units, who played a glorious part in opposing the forces of von Mackensen in his attempt to conquer Moldavia, has founded an "Association for helping the invalids." This association aims not only at helping materially the invalided soldiers, but at giving them a better education so as to re-establish them socially. The material help was given mostly by the officers who were better off, but also by invalids who were rich. They began with some co-operative societies for timber works, cinematographs, printing, food, etc. The start was a very fortunate one, and the soldiers were so enthusiastic that the prosperity of the association has increased rapidly. They have the intention of founding some educational institutions for the invalids, as well as for the children.

MARIE, QUEEN OF ROUMANIA.

On March 29 the Queen of Roumania brought her visit to England to a close. Her Majesty had spent a very crowded eighteen days, and there can have been very few hours in that time which had not definitely belonged to one programme or another. If anyone had earned a rest after a strenuous period of war-work Queen Marie had; but her activity and her devotion to her adopted country know no limit. By seeing and being seen she realised she could make Roumania mean something more to the British public than a mere territorial unit at the other end of Europe. Wherever the Queen went, whatever she did, it was with the idea of stirring in England a yet greater interest in the country to whose service she has consecrated herself. Her Majesty's efforts, it can be said without a shadow of doubt, have been attended with signal success. England was ready to pay spontaneous homage to one of her own Princesses; but as she finds that love of Roumania is now the mainspring of that Princess's whole being, she is satisfied that there must be much in Roumania that will repay fuller knowledge.

The day before her departure was one of Queen Marie's busiest days. It comprised a visit to a working guild, a presentation to herself at Buckingham Palace of the insignia of a Lady of Justice of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, a series of visits to various Y.M.C.A. huts, tea at an officers' club, a reception at the Roumanian Legation, and dinner given by the Earl and Countess Curzon of Kedleston. At the Queen's special wish, the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Misu had included among their guests representatives of the Press. Her Majesty entered into conversation with each guest individually, and at the end of the reception she said a few general words of farewell, in view of her return to the Continent the following morning. Her Majesty spoke of the help and comfort that Roumania had already received from Great Britain, but pointed out that there was still need for the closest co-operation. Roumania stood as an outer fort in an exposed position, which could only be held with support from those who were associated with her.

On Saturday Queen Marie concluded her visit to the King and Queen, and left for Paris, accompanied by Princess Marie. Princess Ileana is unfortunately suffering from a slight cold, which prevented her from making the journey. The Royal travellers left Buckingham Palace at one o'clock and drove to Victoria Station, where they bade farewell to the King and Queen, the Prince of Wales, and Princess Mary, Queen Alexandra and other members of the Royal family.

Captain Sir Charles Cust, R.N., Equerry to the King, who had been specially attached to the Queen of Roumania during her visit, attended her Majesty as far as Folkestone, and the Roumanian Minister travelled with her Majesty to Paris. Before leaving, Queen Marie several times declared how greatly she had enjoyed her visit.

MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, March 14.

An "Incident" Averted.

We were within an ace of having a very nasty incident here on Wednesday, the 12th inst. The Derkawa, a very strict sect of Mohammedans, who are very numerous in Tangier and the surrounding villages, are very bitter against the French, and have not hesitated to show their sentiments on one or two occasions. Now, sugar is more or less rationed here, and the quantity that may be taken out of the town by natives is strictly limited and controlled. The natives, who consume a large amount of sugar, are always protesting against the smallness of the quantity they may take out, and on Wednesday a number of Derkawa determined they would take what they wanted, and persisted in an endeavour to pass the guards in the town. The Tabor (native mounted police) were called, and came into town at full gallop, bringing their machine guns; and the Military Command wished to give the Derkawa a lesson. The Basha and other native officials, however, with the French civilian authorities, decided against this, and after taking one or two prisoners the cavalry returned to barracks, and for the moment things again became calm.

The Act of Algeciras.

The French authorities seem to take it for granted that their demand for the abrogation of the Act of Algeciras will be conceded, and lose no time in acting on the assumption; for I am informed that they have already transferred the payment of the native police, which, under the Act, was made from a special fund through the Banque d'Etat to the Basha from Moorish Government funds.

I am informed that a "Comité d'Aviation,' a French concern, has bought land some few miles out of town in connection with the proposed flying service to the French zone and the interior.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, March 19.

Naval Movements.

The super-Dreadnought battleships **Ajax**, Centurion, Benbow, and Marlborough, earmarked for the Mediterranean, are expected daily, whilst it is stated that the Centaur, famous as having had both her stem and stern blown away by mines while in the great Harwich fleet under Sir Reginald H. Tyrwhitt, is destined to become the flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir E. S. Alexander Sinclair, who is to command the new Mediterranean Light Cruiser Squadron. The light cruiser Melbourne, of the Royal Australian Navy, convoying home the Australian destroyers Warrego, Yarra, Huon, and Paramatta, has just left. Her stay was shorter than was expected, on account of some disciplinary difficulties.

We have with us for a time the following ships of the Imperial Japanese Navy:—The cruiser Kislino (Captain N. Nagasuwa) and the destroyers Raid, Ume, Sakaki, and Sugi. As they are convoying the German submarines allotted to Japan, their arrival has aroused more than ordinary interest.

Mediterranean Fleet.

Nine destroyers: the Tryphon, Spear, Sportive, Torch, Tomahawk, Tumult, Montrose, Speedy, and Swallow have arrived here to form the modern destroyer flotilla of the revived Mediterranean Fleet. They lie moored in the Marsamuschetto Harbour, and are a fine sight. Needless to say the marine merchants welcome them.

The New Governor.

The announcement that General Sir Herbert Plumer has been nominated as Governor in the place of Lord Methuen has been well received, although it appears that the wishes of the people inclined to the appointment of a naval Governor. Lord Methuen has done much for the island, and has had to leave before some of his schemes had become perfected, notably as regards the erection of a hospital for English people stationed here, and in connection with the establishment of compulsory education.

The Influenza Epidemic.

The influenza epidemic has assumed grave proportions, and the sanitary authorities are taxed to the utmost of their capacity. Not only have all educational institutions been closed, but on a petition by the Chamber of Advocates the Courts of Law have been suspended for a fortnight. It is a singular fact that the disease has been particularly hard on the judges of the court, practically every one of whom has met with a family bereavement; and several most promising advocates have fallen victims to the terrible complaint.

Economic Stress.

Malta in some ways is feeling the economic pinch more keenly now than in the actual time of war. The merchants are chary in purchasing, and the Food Control Board are finding that it is far easier to prevent merchants from selling than to compel them to purchase. Government regulations have just been issued dealing with the exportation of what the island possesses.

The island is suffering from a delay, very protracted, in cable communication, and for forty-eight hours no outside news has reached us. Even Reuter failed.



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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Recently I was told a curious tale of a much-lost-and-found dog. It begins with the appearance of the animal, ownerless and seeming to have dropped from the clouds, at a certain spot in rural Cyprus, where it was discovered by a Briton. After the fashion of his race this Briton, observing the animal's forlorn appearance, spoke kindly to it; and doubtless, also after the fashion of its kind in such circumstances, the dog wagged its tail (if it had one!) and smiled up at the man. At any rate, it attached itself to him at once, and he allowed it to adopt him, so to say. In course of time he became so attached to the animal that when he came home on a long visit he brought it with him. Then the dog became demoralised, it seems. Perhaps our climate did not agree with him; perhaps——. But why inquire too closely into a painful subject? Whatever the reason, the dog "went to the dogs," and contrived to get itself lost. Its owner advertised for it, offering a substantial reward for its return—and probably because it was not of a fashionable breed—it was soon brought back, at the end of a bit of rope and looking rather sorry for itself. And now comes the curious part of the story. The owner, having paid a stiff price to bring the dog from Cyprus to England, and on top of that having had the expense of advertising for it and of rewarding its finder, now paid for it to go back to the (other) island, and instructed his agent there that the animal was to be taken to the point where it had first been seen, and there turned adrift. It was, you see, an ungrateful dog.

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To all who have had any length of time in the East the fowl, or "chicken" as it is generally called by your unblushing servants, is a rather sore subject; and, as I have indicated before in these notes, the eggs of these marvellous specimens of rapid muscular development, are usually quite beneath contempt. I am therefore glad to learn that the education of the Mesopotamian Hen and her Owner has been taken in hand by our countrymen. A model poultry farm has been established at Hillah, chiefly with a view to improving the supply of eggs for our military hospitals; and it has already turned out a huge success. Some 10,000 birds are kept at this farm, and already a very marked improvement is reported in the quality of the breed—or "strain," or whatever the proper expression may be! I gather that nearly 100,000 eggs a month had to be supplied a short time ago. Whether these were "Oriental eggs" or real eggs I do not know; but in any case, if the improved hens of Hillah are really putting their backs into it, so to say, they ought to manage ten eggs a month each, and of the respectable size!

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The Arabs have taken considerable interest in the experiment—for, I suppose, such a farm in Mesopotamia must be regarded as an experiment—and we may therefore hope that in course of time poultry farming will become quite a widespread industry on the banks of the Euphrates. Will the Hillah hen, I wonder, ever rival the Rhode Island Red in popular favour in England? Shall we have Buff Babylonians as well as Buff Orpingtons? And will Buereh Rocks have a class to themselves at all self-respecting poultry shows? It seems quite possible, for if the Arab sees that "there is money in it" he will take up poultry farming, I am convinced, quite as keenly as he will take up other ways of amassing wealth. It really looks as if our more enterprising makers of poultry-houses, "foster-mothers," incubators, and so forth should investigate the possibilities of the Mesopotamian field.

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Mention of the Irakian hen reminds me of one queer specimen of the kind that I used to know very well when I lived out there. In fact, the old lady—she really was very old, I am sure, but I fear the title of lady can be given her only by courtesy—lived in our own poultry yard, with some fifty or sixty others of her kind. At night all these birds used to roost on a large perch that ran round three sides of the yard, and every night there went on what was a comedy to watch, though the angry fowls doubtless failed to see the humour of it. There was apparently only one spot to get on to the perch comfortably, and that was near one end. About sunset, therefore, the hens used to flutter up on to the perch at this spot, one after the other, and sidle along the perch. Then they performed their simple toilets, and finally settled down comfortably for the night. But the "old lady" already mentioned always upset them all. She would *not* go to bed at a respectable hour. No; she would stay up late, scratching for worms, or something else. Then, when the others were just dozing off, up she would hop, and proceed to make her way right along the perch, pecking each drowsy fowl in turn to make it hop down and allow her to pass, until she reached her particular spot near the other end. She must have had a reputation as a fighter, I suppose, for the others always put up with her bullying. But how they must have hoped each night that we would have her for dinner the next evening. As a matter of fact, we enjoyed her performance so much that we told the cook on no account to sacrifice her.

Corsair.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

French Propaganda in Palestine.

The issue of *Palestine* of March 22 has some striking passages in connection with "The Friends of the Holy Land," a French society. It says:—

The time has gone by when this French propaganda for Palestine can safely be ignored. Much mischief, in fact, has already been done by the silence of the British Press with regard to Palestine, and by its obvious anxiety to avoid saying anything that could lead to discord between the two Allies. The French Press, one is bound to say, has not shown the same delicacy of feeling. On the contrary, there has been a persistent and long-continued propaganda in favour of what is called *La Syrie Intégrale*, which, being interpreted, always means French Palestine. This propaganda has unfortunately been allowed to gain a long start, and if it had not been for efforts first made in this publication judgment might have gone by default. The present situation is a serious one, and calls for plain speaking. The official policy of the British Government is for the establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine—that is, of a Jewish Palestine, for there is no other rational interpretation of the wording of the promise. The official policy of the French Government is much less clear, but so far as public utterances have gone, there is no reason to suppose that it is hostile to the British policy. All the more reason, therefore, why notice should be taken of the private societies conducting a campaign against what we firmly believe to be British interests no less than Jewish rights. If their efforts have no official backing, so much the better; if they have, then there is everything to be gained by perfect frankness and by a clear understanding of the British position.

The following is an uncompromising statement against the propagandists:—

The programme declares that "Palestine forms an indivisible part of the Syria which is bound to France by ties of secular friendship." Here the cloven hoof is revealed at once. The friendship between France and Syria is secular, and does not base itself primarily, at any rate, on grounds of sentiment or of religion. The objects presumably of the society are therefore primarily secular, and to be regarded as part of French Imperialistic schemes. Regarded merely as a conflict between British and French secular aims, the question of Palestine presents no difficulty. For France to dispute the trusteeship of Palestine with England is in effect to dispute England's trusteeship of Egypt. The secular argument for a British mandate in Palestine is based entirely on the British position in Egypt. A mandate in Palestine is in fact necessary, as things are, for the defence of Egypt. France can show no such solid claim as that, and English people will do themselves great injustice and inflict immeasurable harm on their future position in the East if they do not stress the argument of Egypt. It is at the heart of the whole matter.

An incisive article concludes thus:—

Foreseeing the failure of their propaganda against the Jews, the "Friends of the Holy Land" ask that if Palestine is not to form part of Syria (that is to say, if it is not to be French), it should be independent (that is to say, there should be no British trustee). What does this alternative of an independent Palestine mean? It means the whole project of a Jewish state in Palestine will be prejudiced from the start. The burden of independence would be too great for the Jews to carry, and the result would be intervention and future partition. And thus these "Friends" appear finally as the advocates of partition. They set out by arguing for an indivisible Syria, and they end by asking in the alternative for a divided Palestine. Palestine may well pray to be saved from such friends.

Venetia and Armenia.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in an article published on March 31, states that Signor Luzzatti is "specially interested in Armenian affairs" by reason of the fact that he is a native of and deputy for Venetia. The connection is made clear in the following passage:—

Considerable interest is being shown in Italy, alike in Governmental and in Vatican circles, in the fate of the Armenians. This feeling is traditional and historic, for it will be remembered that Italy contains one of the most interesting Armenian settlements, that on the island of San Lazzaro, in the Venetian Lagoon, where Byron studied the Armenian language as mental gymnastics, and came to the conclusion (expressed in the preface to his Armenian grammar) that "the satraps of Persia and the pashas of Turkey have alike desolated the region where God created man in his own image." But few of the many British tourists who have visited that delightful island are probably aware that it owes its selection for an Armenian refuge to the famous Armenian divine, Mekhithar of Sivas, who, in 1708, founded a monastery at the then Venetian colony of Methone, or Modon, in the extreme south-west of the Peloponnese. When, however, seven years later, the Turks captured Methone, he fled to the hospitable Republic of St. Mark, and was allowed by the Venetian Government to erect a new monastery on the island of San Lazzaro. From the printing press of that monastery books in various languages have been diffused throughout the Armenian world.

The Egyptian Disorders.

The remedies proposed in the Press for dealing with the unrest in Egypt are almost as numerous as the causes assigned to it. For instance, Dr. L. Haden Guest, M.C., writing in the *Daily News and Leader*, has the following words:—

Nationalism in the sense of Irish nationalism or French nationalism does not exist in Egypt. The word really indicates that small group of educated Egyptians, Turks, and other non-Europeans who resent our domination of the Egyptian Fellaheen, and who wish to get rid of us and establish a state on the old Eastern pattern. But, at any rate, these "nationalists" are of the same blood as the Fellaheen, for the most part, and, what is infinitely more important, of the same religion. The religion of Islam is, in fact, a kind of "nationality" of its own, not of country, not of race, but of opinion. And the wealthy nationalist and the poverty-stricken Fellah can both unite on the common platform of their faith against the usurping and "infidel" foreign oppressor. This united movement, the economic grievance of the Fellaheen, and political aspirations of the small "nationalist" group, being welded into one by the fire of a fanatical religious belief, is a really great danger, because it may, and probably already has, spread to Palestine, Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and possibly even to India.

He very decidedly supports the idea of a change in the composition of the governors of Egypt, and concludes his article thus:—

Nothing will be done without a drastic and complete change. The men on the spot have created the trouble, and cannot be trusted to cure it. Light, a searchlight on Egyptian affairs, is what is wanted at once, and no "firmness" of military authorities can give us any confidence unless it is acting on knowledge gained impartially by men sent from England for the purpose.

What the Government should do is to dispatch a small commission to Egypt at once, with wide powers to inquire and to act. That commission should contain a large proportion of Labour leaders, and they should go by the quickest aeroplane and sea route that can be devised. The Executive Government must act. Let there this time in our history be decision. It is not Gordon's head that is to-day in danger; it is the honour and prestige of the British Empire in the East.

We have quoted Dr. Guest's views, and shall content ourselves with the comment (which doubtless many of our readers will make), that we should have thought that there were in existence already a sufficient number of Commissions.

A very different line of thought is seen in the *Glasgow Herald*, which, in discussing the repression of the outbreak, says:—

It is earnestly to be hoped that in the execution of these repressive measures an adequate proportion of real Nationalist agitators has suffered rather than ignorant and, for the most part, innocent fellaheen. With the former it is impossible to have much sympathy, since it is quite obvious that they have been entirely unscrupulous in their attempts to thrust down the throats of the British Government demands which are probably more unreasonable than any ever formulated by a party pretending to speak in the name of a country like Egypt. Our record in respect to Egypt will bear close examination, and, if it is not altogether blameless, it does not for an instant justify the assumption of such an attitude as that taken up by the Nationalists, first in putting forward, and, latterly, in trying to enforce the adoption of their preposterous programme. In any case, those who seek to attain their ends by violence cannot complain if violence is used to prevent them from gaining the upper hand.

Articles to Note.

"The Future of the Ottoman State," by Sir William Ramsay; and "Africa and the League," by Fulani bin Fulani, in the *International Review*. (April.)

"Albania at the Peace Conference," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Contemporary Review*. (April.)

"The New Middle East," by Robert Mackray; "Three Egyptian Proconsuls," by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G.; "The Territorial Solution of the Jewish Question," by Israel Zangwill, in the *Fortnightly Review*. (April.)

"Palestine Impressions," by Arthur Mills, in the *English Review*. (April.)

"The Czecho-Slovak Movement," in the *Windsor*. (April.)

"The Roads of Albania," by Ward Muir, in the *King's Highway*. (April.)

"The Evangelistic Movement in the Indian Church," by the Rev. H. A. Popley; and "The Kumbh Mela at Allahabad," by the Rev. D. C. L. Dunlop, in the *International Review*. (April.)

"Egypt To-day," in the *Times*. (April 1 and 2.)

FOR THE ARMENIANS.

In an appeal for the Armenians the Rev. F. E. Hoskins, writing from Beyrout on February 20, calculates that over one million souls have perished through the massacres of 1896 and the most recent one. The surviving Armenians, he says, are enduring terrible sufferings, especially through lack of clothing and medicine. He points out that the temporary stoppage of commerce has left nearly all in debt, and that the country is in extreme desperation. Relief and missionary workers are already striving to re-establish industries, and to care for the orphans; and the writer hopes that the future may be better than anything seen in past mission work.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of February 14 there appeared two letters, both of which contained inaccuracies. The Cyprus deputation makes much of the fact that some prominent members of the Moslem community were interned at Kyrenia for a considerable period, and from this the deputation advances the theory that the Moslems of Cyprus are disloyal. For the sake of argument, let us suppose that the interned men were guilty, the deduction that the Moslem community is disloyal is nevertheless unsound. As a matter of fact, nothing was ever proved against the prisoners, and they were discharged—to use a judicial expression—without a stain on their character.

The other letter asserts that in 1915 the British Government *willingly* offered to cede Cyprus to Greece. Sir Edward Grey certainly offered to hand over the island *forthwith*. But the haste with which the offer was made rather implies unwillingness. The proposed cession, when considered on its merits, was revealed as a bribe pure and simple.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus,
March 14, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "NEAR EAST."

Sir,—There are many proposals afloat on this subject now. If the welfare of the island and its people is the chief thing desired, we venture to suggest the following course of action:—

First, abolish the Tribute. This was always an injustice. If Turkey took £92,000 annually from Cyprus, that was no reason for perpetuating the anomaly. Although since 1907 £50,000 has been contributed by England, the remaining £42,000 is more than the island can bear if she is to progress. A small payment in recognition of British protection would be fair, and would not be resented. The Cyprus Convention with Turkey stated that the payment to Turkey was to be made by England, not Cyprus.

Secondly, take a step forward in opening higher Government offices to natives, not to imported Greeks. Surely a Cypriot (Greek or Turk) has some right to rise, if proved worthy, to higher office in his own land. At present his nationality is an absolute hindrance to such an ambition. If you want to make a man trustworthy, trust him.

The native Greeks, were these two conditions carried out, would be much happier than under the Government of Greece, a country too far off, and too weak and too poor to defend Cyprus against invasion, or to further her development.

Thirdly, to avoid nepotism, and give a wider range to the action of the Governments of both countries, it certainly would be an advantage to connect Cyprus with Egypt by making the High Commissioner of each country the same person, with a Lieutenant-Governor under him. This would give more scope to both countries, and enable officials to be moved from one to the other.—I am, etc.,

A FRIEND OF CYPRUS.

Nicosia, Cyprus,
March 6.

"ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow space in your valuable journal for the following—not merely to explain the Yugoslav point of view, but the point of view of all who respect justice and truth?

The reason given by Signor Virginio Gayda in your issue of March 20 for Italy's refusal to accept arbitration is incorrect, the true reason being the fear that the arbitrator would be just, and that his decision would deprive Italy of plunder and the conquest of territories populated by Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who, after centuries under the Austrian yoke, to-day see the first rays of liberty and independence shining upon them, and will never submit to any human power which would place upon them even heavier chains than they have hitherto borne.

With regard to Italian sacrifices, we all know that the Allies took up arms against the Central Powers because of their greed of conquest, and for the liberation of oppressed nations. Who were these oppressed nations but the twenty-six million Slavs under Austria-Hungary? The principles of the Allies were most noble and just, and it reads rather strangely when Signor Gayda, an Italian, accuses Italy of such a monstrous crime as having entered into the struggle and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of her noblest sons in order, with their blood, to seal the fate of people of other nations. The writer states that Italy alone fought the final war against Austria. This is rather amusing. It resembles the tale of a man who boasted of stopping a train running at twenty-five miles an hour, who, when asked how he did it, replied: "I lay across the lines, and the engine-driver, noticing me, stopped the engine." Signor Gayda, when making such a naïve assertion, could not have reflected that everybody has followed with interest all that has happened on all the fronts, and all know that there were two hundred thousand British troops in Italy, and that it was the British soldiers who broke the Austrian lines on the Piave front, which lines had previously been declared impregnable by the Italian Generalissimo; and this was achieved only after the Bulgarian defeat, which compelled Austria to withdraw troops from the Italian front for the East.

With reference to Italy's "year of war against the whole armed forces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire," Signor Gayda does not state the size of the forces, which consisted of between five and six millions at the beginning of the war, of whom the Russians accounted for over two and a-half millions. The Serbians, with their small armies of three hundred thousand, likewise accounted for four hundred thousand. This leaves, say, three millions, of whom at least five hundred thousand were left to guard the Russian front and the Balkans, consequently there were only about two and a-half millions on the Italian front against five millions two hundred and fifty thousand Italians. Well, there is nothing for Italy to boast or to complain of, and Serbia, who is not ungrateful, will thank those to whom thanks are due.

Signor Gayda also states that the Italian claims in the Adriatic are to Austrian territories. Now Croatia, Dalmatia, and Slovenia have been inhabited by Slavs, Serb Croatians, and Slovenes, different names, but all one people, since 620 A.D.; therefore this was Slav country under Austrian rule until last year, and is now united to Serbia, just as the Sicilians have thrown off the yoke of the Bourbons and united with Italy.

The statement that the Croats and Slovenes fought strenuously against the Allies is also a misrepresentation. True, against Italy they did their best, because they knew Italian aims. But after the disastrous Italian defeat, they were informed by means of pamphlets that Italy had no desire to conquer their country, and they could choose their own future; whereupon they immediately deserted and surrendered to Italy in tens of thousands; which step they soon regretted, for they surrendered on condition that they should go to the Salonika front to fight with their brother Serbs against their common enemy, but they are still kept as prisoners in Italy.

I should also like to draw the attention of the Italian writer to the fact that not less than one hundred and fifty Croats and Slovenes have fought in different Allied forces against our enemy in Russia, Roumania, France, and Serbia, amongst the Canadians, Australians, and New Zealanders, and there are still three thousand on the Murman front. I shall be pleased if Signor Gayda will give us the figures of Italians, formerly Austrian subjects, who have fought on the side of the Allies.—I am, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.

Polpuerro, Lyncroft Gardens, N.W.,
March 26, 1919.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

EMPHASISING THE OBVIOUS.*

Now that Bulgaria has been soundly beaten in war, it was inevitable that someone should take up the task of killing the Bulgarians with his mouth. The work has been done painstakingly and effectively by M. Victor Kuhne. The Bulgarians are nothing if not thorough. They are industrious workers; they are stubborn fighters; they are whole-hoggers in politics and in hatred, as friends and as foes. Consequently when they found themselves at war against Serbia on the side of the Germans, they could say nothing good enough for the Germans, and do nothing bad enough to the Serbians. Hopelessly elemental, no doubt; but it all took place in the Balkans, where they are wont to talk of "going to Europe," and where customs and methods in the field are not modelled on those of Mayfair or Boston drawing-rooms. For the conscientious compiler, therefore, who makes a study of Bulgarian newspapers and other publications during the war, it is an easy task to pile Pelion on Ossa in the matter of damning evidence regarding Bulgarian "megalomania, chauvinism, brutality, and baseness," and if anyone is interested to know what a bad case the Bulgarians in their Press have made out against themselves they will find it set forth in "Bulgaria Self-Revealed." From the preface written by M. Auguste Gauvain, formerly Minister Plenipotentiary of France, it is to be inferred that more than one of the Entente Powers contrived to be represented in Sofia by a diplomatist who cordially hated, and made no attempt to understand, the people to whom he was accredited. To what extent this circumstance influenced Bulgaria's attitude in the war will never be known, but it is evident from the character of Ferdinand of Coburg that he has had the satisfaction of venting his spite for various diplomatic lapses scored up in a vindictive memory against the Entente.

The Bulgarians thus being what they are, what is to be the attitude of the right-minded nations towards them? Are they to be classed with the professional criminals, such as Germany is, or are they fit subjects for a penitentiary in the hope that they are capable of being reformed and of becoming useful members of the Balkan community? The reader will answer the question according to his inclination. The wise student of Balkan affairs will refrain from arming himself with a whitewash brush, for if he condones the "stab in the back" of 1885 he must overlook the counter-stab of 1915; if he picks out the terrible excesses of the last three years he must examine their predecessors over two generations in the same part of the world. Those who know the most about them are inclined to say the least; but they are consumed with a keen desire to be able to write in the year 1919 the word *Finis* at the close of the ugly chapter in regard to which the Great Powers share some of the responsibility attaching to the junior perpetrators.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Through Eastern Windows." By A. J. Marris. (London: Religious Tract Society. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Les Massacres d'Armenie." By Rene Pinon. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 5 frs.)

We have received the second number of the *Balkan Review*, edited by Mr. Crawfurd Price. It contains interesting matter on the problems of peace as they concern the Balkans. Anatole France (in an article translated from *L'Humanité*) and the Editor both write in defence of the Greek claims in Asia Minor; but to the Italian claims in the Adriatic the Editor is opposed, and stresses the point that "Italy's security lies in the friendship of Yugoslavia, not in its enmity."

The "Bulletin" of the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, contains several papers of strong interest. Perhaps the one that will appeal to the widest circle of readers is Professor D. S. Margoliouth's "The Russian Seizure of Bardha'ah in 943 A.D.," which contains much curious information culled from the Arabic chroniclers. It seems to show that the Russian character has not changed greatly in the last thousand years, and that such change as there has been is not necessarily improvement. Sir George Grierson, K.C.I.E., contributes a paper (or the first part of a paper) on "Indo-Aryan Vernaculars," and Mr. J. D. Anderson writes on "The Sounds of Bengali." A lecture delivered at the School by Mr. J. Withers Gill on "Hausa Speech, its Wit and Wisdom," provides some interesting reading; and other contributions are: "Swahili Poetry," by Miss Alice Werner; "Notes on the Nestorian Monument at Sianfu," by Lionel Giles, M.A.; "A Hindu 'Paradiso,'" translated by L. D. Barnett, M.A.; and "Further Poems by Po-Chü-i," translated by Arthur Waley. The "Bulletin" also contains several valuable reviews of books, and it is in all ways a production on which the School of Oriental Studies may be heartily congratulated.

* "Bulgaria Self-Revealed." Documents collected by Victor Kuhne. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. Price 4s. 6d.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Sir William Vincent states that a considerable increase in the salaries of Indian Civil servants is likely, owing to the increased cost of living

Messrs. Yarrow and Co., Glasgow, have presented to the Imperial War Museum a model of a small Tigris gunboat constructed by them.

Last Thursday, at Buckingham Palace, the King inspected a detachment of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Captain H. C. Clogstoun, Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France.

Reuter's correspondent at Delhi telegraphs that the Indian Gaol Commission, which is about to be appointed to sit in England, will pay a visit to the United States. It is reported that Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise will be the chairman.

General Victor Dousmanis, formerly a member of King Constantine's entourage, has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment as an accomplice in the murderous attempt on the editor of the Athenian journal, *Nea Hellas*, three years ago.

The Ceylon papers report that a movement is on foot to send Suriyagoda Sumangala, Chief Priest of the Mount Lavinia Temple, to Oxford University to qualify as a lecturer on Oriental Science and Philosophy.

Prince Othman Fuad Pasha, who claims to be a son of the ex-Sultan of Turkey, Abdul Hamid, and was for about eight months in command of Turkish forces in Tripoli, has surrendered at a French frontier post. In conformity with the armistice terms, he has been handed over to Italian troops.

A Government of Burma resolution issued recently states that steps are to be taken to lay out on definite and suitable lines the Mandalay Palace gardens in accordance with suggestions made by the Director-General of Archæology in India, who also recommended that a committee of persons specially interested in the subject should be placed in charge of the operation.

The Indian contingent of competitors for the "Inter-Theatre of War" athletic championships, to be held at Aldershot in April, has just arrived in this country. All Imperial troops, they comprise teams for Association football, boxing, and cross-country running. In the Egyptian cross-country team several native Indian runners will be included.

Reuter's Delhi correspondent, writing on March 10, in a message delayed in transmission, says:—The Government of India's views on the Montagu-Chelmsford reform scheme were despatched to England last week after consideration of the local Governments' opinions and views. The Southborough Franchise Committee's reports are expected to leave at the end of March.

At the Marylebone Police Court, on March 26, before Mr. d'Eyncourt, Yassa Sudks, 23, an Egyptian medical student, of Maida Vale, was charged with having failed as an alien to notify the police of his change of address, or to obtain an identity book. He pleaded that when he attended at Bow Street Police Station he was told that he need not register as he was a British subject. The defendant was fined 40s. on each charge.

A Reuter's message from Delhi announces that the All-India Moslem League has elected eight delegates to proceed to London in connection with reforms. They are mostly younger men belonging to the Pan-Islamic school. The Rajah of Mahmudabad has resigned the presidency of the league, Wazir Hoosain has resigned the secretaryship, and Dr. Ansari Mohammed Ali, who is still interned, and Abdul Bari have also resigned.

An address on "Jerusalem During the War" was given at the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Aldermanbury, last Tuesday, by the Rev. A. S. Hichens, formerly Canon and Sub-Dean at St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem. He said that the behaviour of the Turk and of the German finally turned the populace towards the British, and that they most earnestly hoped we should win the war.

A Reuter's message from Rome, dated March 27, says:—Reports have been received here from Durazzo, Berat, El Bassan, Scutari, and other Albanian centres of imposing demonstrations in favour of the unity and independence of Albania, claiming the return of national territories subjected to Greece and Serbia, and strongly condemning the actions of Essad Pasha. Messages were sent to Baron Sonnino, President Wilson, and Turkhan Pasha.

Three Roumanians and two Serbians were recently stranded in Colombo. They arrived by a steamer which had on board 400 Italians, Serbians, Roumanians, Armenians, and Czecho-Slovaks, who were returning to their native countries. Most of these men had seen fighting on the Russian front and were invalided to Vladivostock, from which place they were going back to their countries. The three Roumanians and the two Serbians went ashore, and on going back to the harbour they found the steamer steaming out of port.

According to a telegram from Tangier, an enthusiastic mass meeting of several thousand members of every class comprising the Spanish colony in that town took place at the Teatro Cervantes on March 26. After eloquent speeches demanding the inclusion of Tangier in the Spanish zone of Morocco, an address was drawn up and solemnly carried in procession to the Spanish Diplomatic Agent in Tangier, requesting that any alteration in the present local *régime* should not be carried out without previously consulting the Spanish colony in Tangier, that Tangier should be included in the Spanish zone of Morocco, and protesting against the assertion made in certain newspapers that the Spanish colony in Tangier is opposed to the inclusion of the town in the Spanish zone

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. April	1919. March.		1337. Rejeb	5679. Nissan
4	22	Friday	3	4
5	23	Saturday.....	4	5
6	24	Sunday	5	6
7	25	Monday	6	7
8	26	Tuesday	7	8
9	27	Wednesday	8	9
10	28	Thursday	9	10

H.H. the Agha Khan has left London for Paris.

Lord Sinha has become a Vice-President of the League of Empire.

M. Robert Naville is leaving Paris next Monday, April 7, for Belgrade.

The Maharaa of Cooch Behar and party arrived last Monday in London from India.

M. Danielopol, the Roumanian jMinister at Washington, arrived in London on March 31 from Paris.

Madame Capsambelli, the wife of the Greek Minister at The Hague, arrived in London on Sunday from Holland.

Reuter's messages report that Admiral and Lady Jellicoe arrived at Bombay on March 14, and left for Delhi the following day.

Essad Pasha, President of the Albanian Government, accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is now in Paris on business.

The marriage of Miss Elizabeth Asquith with Prince Antoine Bibesco will take place at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Tuesday, April 29.

Prince Christopher, the youngest son of the late King George of Greece, has renounced Greek nationality in order to become a Danish subject.

We understand that Miss Gertrude Bell, lately Assistant Political Officer, Baghdad, is at present in Paris in attendance on the Peace Conference.

Dr. M. Micic, of the Yugoslav Committee, has arrived in London from Paris. The object of his visit is to bring to a close the work of the Committee in London.

It was recently announced that Commdr. Talbot, Naval A.D.C. to M. Venizelos, was instrumental in saving the Greek Premier from drowning during the war.

It is understood that M. N. Misu, the son of the Roumanian Minister in London, will compete in the Covered Court Lawn Tennis Championships at Queen's Club next week.

Mr. Chas. James Weir, I.C.S., of Moorcroft, Cobham, and of Morthoe, Devon, formerly Chief Secretary and member of the Revenue Board of Madras, left property valued at £3,279.

Prince Sourtzo gave a dinner in honour of the Queen of Roumania in Paris on March 30, the guests including M. Bratiano, M. Venizelos, M. Briand, Marshal Foch, and General Berthelot.

General Sherif Pasha has resigned his representation at Paris of the Liberal Turks, and has been appointed President of the Kurdish Delegation defending the claims of the Kurds only at the Peace Conference.

The marriage arranged between Major Arthur Ridings, Royal Marine Artillery, and Mollie, widow of Captain Herbert Brand, H.L.I., and Indian Army, will take place at St. James's Church, Spanish Place, Manchester Square, at 12.30 on April 3.

The marriage took place on March 26, at St. Matthew's Church, Denmark Hill, of Captain Norman Ingerfield Graham, Indian Army, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Graham, of Newcastle, Northumberland, and Helen Dunbar Bowman, elder daughter of the late Mr. John Dunbar Bowman, of Broughty Ferry, Scotland. The Rev. O. S. Ward officiated.

At a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society to be held at 22, Albemarle Street, on April 8, at 4 p.m., Dr. Stephen Langdon will read a paper on "Gesture in Prayer in the Religion of Babylonia and Adjacent Lands." The lecture will be illustrated by slides. After the lecture a special general meeting of the Society will be held for the purpose of electing the Rev. A. H. Sayce as Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

The engagement is announced between Hugh Kynaston Briscoe, I.C.S., of Cuttack, Orissa, India, youngest son of Sir John Briscoe, Bt., Bourn Hall, Cambridgeshire, and Noël, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Worrall, Langstones, Oxton, Cheshire.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that Mr. Shearer, Principal of the Higher School of Agriculture, is shortly being transferred to a high post at the Ministry of Agriculture, and will be succeeded by Mr. Cartwright, Inspector of Agriculture in Gharbieh Province.

Queen Alexandra gave her patronage to the Serbian matinée which was given last Friday at the Palladium in aid of the Royal Horticultural Society's War Relief Fund. The net result of the entertainment is that £1,000 will be handed over by the committee.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Henry Thomas Rendell, D.S.O., only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Rendell, of Slough, and Evelyn Feltrim, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. F. Fagan, Indian Army (retired), and Mrs. Fagan, of Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Miss Vivian Edwards, whose name is familiar to many of our readers, will give a song recital on April 4 in aid of the Manchester Y.M.C.A. Reconstruction Fund, at the Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, Manchester. The programme will include Armenian, Greek, and Serbian Folk Songs.

The engagement is announced of David Malyon Allan, lieutenant, R.A.F., son of Alan Leslie Allan and Mrs. Allan, 27, Hollingbourne Gardens, West Ealing, and New Zealand, and Florence, daughter of the late Mr. G. M. Ogilvie, I.C.S., and of Mrs. Dundas, wife of Captain L. L. Dundas, C.M.G., R.N.

On March 27 the Queen of Roumania, accompanied by Princess Marie, and attended by Madame Jean Procopiu, Madame Simone Lahovary, and Captain Sir Charles Cust, Bart., R.N., specially attached, was present at a luncheon given at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress, in honour of her Majesty.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Charles J. Nevile, third son of the late Mr. R. H. C. Nevile, of Willingmore Hall, Lincoln, and Muriel, second daughter of the late Right Hon. Sir Nicholas R. O'Conor, G.C.B., formerly British Ambassador at Constantinople, and Lady O'Conor, of Dundemot, Roscommon, and 29, Chester Square, S.W.

Bishop Montgomery has been asked by the relatives of the late Bishop Lefroy, Metropolitan of India, to undertake a record of his life. Bishop Montgomery would be grateful if anyone who has important letters of the Bishop will grant him the loan of them. All documents will be returned in due time. They should be directed to him at Morton's Tower, Lambeth Palace. S.E.1.

On March 31 Princess Marie Louise presided at the Royal Automobile Club at a meeting in connection with "Slavo Day, 1919," in aid of the Funds for Disabled Serbian Soldiers, promoted by the Hon. Mrs. Evelina Haverfield and Sergeant-Major Flora Sandes. The Serbian Minister, M. Yovan M. Yovanovitch, was unfortunately prevented from speaking by indisposition.

At Marlborough House, on March 27, Queen Alexandra, in her capacity as President of the British Red Cross Society, presented to the Queen of Roumania the gold medal of the society in recognition of her war work. The medal bears the following inscription: "To her Majesty the Queen of Roumania, in recognition of her devoted and unselfish services in the relief of suffering during the war, 1914-1919."

Princess Ileana of Roumania, who was unable to leave with the Queen of Roumania on Saturday, has, states Reuter's Agency, been seriously ill, with a high temperature. Her malady has now been diagnosed as influenza, and on Monday morning the doctors in attendance at Buckingham Palace expressed the hope that, should no complications arise, her Royal Highness will be able to leave London in about ten days' time.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (March 19).—Rear-Admiral Sir E. S. Alexander Sinclair has just arrived. Admiral the Hon. Sir Somerset A. Gough Calthorpe, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.V.O., has left Malta for the East in his flagship, the Superb. He is expected to be absent for six weeks. During the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Savile, D.S.O., the duties of A.A. and Q.M.G. are being carried out by Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Norris, R.G.A.

A marriage will take place at All Saints' Church, Marlow, on May 3, between Major C. E. Sladden, D.S.O., M.C., 9th Worcesters, son of J. Sladden, Esq., Badsey, Evesham, and Alice Amelia (Mela), elder daughter of the Rev. A. E. and Mrs. Brown Constable, and granddaughter of the late Colonel Charles Brown Constable, of Cheltenham, and Wallace Craigie, Dundee, J.P., D.L., Forfarshire, and of Mr. J. Wall, of Cheltenham, and Lucknow, India. No invitations. Friends are welcome at the church.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. Kimon Collas, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has been transferred to Washington.

Gholam Hussein Khan Ferid-es-Saltaneh has been appointed honorary Attaché to the Persian Legation.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has appointed Mr. Charles Ambrose Storey to be Assistant Librarian at the India Office in place of Mr. Alexander George Ellis, retired.

The King has granted to the following officials of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior authority to wear the Insignia of the Order of the Nile conferred on them by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—First Class: J. Haines. Second Class: A. Granville, C.M.G., M.R.C.S. Third Class: A. F. T. Atchinson, J. E. Creswell, M.B.E., M.R.C.S., M. Moberly, D.S.O. (Miralai Maurice Moberly Bey). Fourth Class: F. H. Butler, E. V. Oulton, M.B., M.R.C.S., B. C. Paxton (Kaimakam Basil Charles Paxton Bey).

The King in Council has approved the issue of Letters Patent constituting a High Court at Lahore for the Provinces of the Punjab and Delhi, in place of the existing Chief Court of the Punjab. His Majesty has also approved the appointment of the following to be the first Judges of the new Court:—Chief Justice, Sir H. A. B. Hattigan, barrister-at-law. Puisne Judges: Mr. W. Chovis, I.C.S.; Mr. H. Scott Smith, I.C.S.; Rai Bahadur Shadi Lal, barrister-at-law; Mr. W. A. le Rossignol, I.C.S.; Mr. L. H. Leslie-Jones, I.C.S.; Mr. A. B. Broadway, barrister-at-law.

Among the names of those mentioned for valuable services in connection with the military operations in Arabia are:—Commander D. G. Hogarth, G.M.C., Major K. Cornwallis, D.S.O., and Captains T. Guillaume and T. Mackintosh, of the Arab Bureau; Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. Lawrence, C.B., D.S.O., Major Sir L. O. F. Slack, K.B.E., C.M.G., Captain H. Garland, and Lieutenant L. Bright (officers attached to the Egyptian Army); Colonel J. Falconer, Egyptian Civil Service; Mr. J. W. Harrison, Mr. J. G. Matthew, and Captain C. McKey, Sudan Civil Service; Dr. J. E. Creswell, Miss M. B. James, and Mr. R. C. Cowling.

OBITUARY.

SEC.-LIEUT. W. HARTY.

A correspondent writes:—Sec.-Lieut. William Harty was born in Constantinople on November 3, 1896. On the outbreak of the war he had to leave Turkey, and took refuge with his parents in Greece, where he became attached to the Commercial Intelligence Section of the British Legation in Athens. In January, 1917, he came to London, having decided to join the Army, notwithstanding that, as a British subject domiciled abroad, he was not liable to serve. He joined the Artists' Rifles O.T.C. in April, 1917, and after receiving a training as a private in the camp at Gidea Park, and as an officer in the Cadet School at Pirbright, he obtained his commission as a second lieutenant in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. In April of the same year his battalion was ordered to France, when it rendered such services that the President of the French Republic, in acknowledgment of its "dash and gallantry under very difficult and critical conditions," bestowed upon it the Croix de Guerre (Palm en Bronze). On September 30, 1918, Lieut. Harty was killed at Aubers Ridge by the bullet of a German sniper, while leading his platoon at the head of his men. He was hit in the head, and death was instantaneous. So passed away, in his twenty-second year, "Willie Harty," whom to know was to love. He will be missed from among the British community of Constantinople, by which much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents. He was buried with full military honours in the Communal Cemetery at Bethune on October 1, 1918, and the pioneers of his regiment put up a cross to his memory.

In communicating the sad news of his death to his sorrowing parents, his major wrote: "He was a splendid young fellow, and much loved by both officers and men. He will be a very great loss to the battalion, and you may very justly feel proud of him."

VICE-ADMIRAL HERBERT LYON, C.B., R.N.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (March 19):—The greatest regret has been awakened throughout the whole island by the death of Vice-Admiral Herbert Lyon, C.B., R.N., which has taken place at Righi Hospital. Whilst in his position as Commodore of the Escort Base, he made many friends, and was deservedly popular. What adds to the poignancy of the event is that the late Admiral had just finally retired, and was to make Malta his home.

On March 6, John M. Calvocoressi died at Constantinople in his seventy-fifth year.

The Bombay correspondent of *The Times* reports the death from heart-failure of Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Hojel, M.B., C.I.E., of the Indian Medical Service, who throughout the war has commanded the Lady Hardinge Hospital for Indian troops in Bombay. *The Times* adds that Colonel Hojel joined the Indian Medical Service in 1888 and was appointed resident surgeon of St. George's Hospital at Bombay in 1895. In 1906 he was appointed to the Gokuldar Tejpal Hospital in Bombay, and, during the war, in addition to Lady Hardinge's Hospital, he commanded the Gerard Freemen-Thomas War Hospital. He was created C.I.E. in 1917.

Major-General Sir Francis H. R. Drummond died, on March 27, at the age of sixty-one. In the Afghan War of 1878-80, he served with great credit at the Jugdalluck Pass and at Kabul. He was mentioned in despatches and received the medal, with clasp. Sir Francis held the Afghan Order of Honour, and became a C.B. in 1908.

Major-General Francis William Ward, C.B., died last week, aged seventy-eight. He entered the Bengal Artillery in 1857, and attained the rank of major-general in 1895. He served during the Indian Mutiny, in the North-West Frontier of India campaign, 1863-4, and during the Afghan War, 1879-80. For some time he was colonel and staff commanding R.A., Punjab. General Ward married in 1862 Alice, daughter of the late General S F. Macmullen, Bengal Cavalry.

On March 29 the death occurred of Brigadier-General E. R. Courtenay, C.B., C.M.G. Born in 1853, he entered the Army as a subaltern in the 20th Hussars. After being adjutant of this regiment for five years, he exchanged to the 11th Hussars, of which he was in command from 1896 to 1900. General Courtenay saw much active service. In the Zulu campaign of 1879, in the Sudan expedition of 1885-6, and in the fighting on the North-West Frontier of India, he served with great distinction. In the European War General Courtenay served from 1914 to 1917, and had been Deputy Adjutant-General of the Second Army Central Force, and on the General Staff. For his last work he received the C.M.G.

Reuter's Rome correspondent states that Prenk Bib Doda, chief of the Mirdite clan and Vice-President of the Provisional Government at Durazzo, has been assassinated by the adherents of Essad Pasha. Prenk was the son of Bib Doda, a very warlike chief who gained renown in the Crimean War. He did not, however, inherit his father's characteristics, and preferred political intrigue to fighting. For 28 years he was a captive in exile with the Turks, and when in 1908 he returned to Albania he was too broken in spirit to make use of that enthusiasm with which his State was prepared to welcome him. To the end a mere intriguer, he failed entirely to win or hold the regard of any section of the Albanians except the Mirdites, and was much under the influence of Primo Dochi, the Abbot of Mirdita.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1919.

THE CONFERENCE AND THE EAST

Time was when President Wilson and possibly others pictured to themselves the world in council drafting the conditions of peace that were to mark the end of the war. When invitations were issued to the Paris Conference a judicious discrimination was exercised; neutral States were excluded, and a distinction was recognised between belligerent countries and those that had merely broken off relations with the Central Powers. A further division followed, with the concentration of executive authority in the hands of the Council of Ten; but the process of narrowing responsibility did not end there, and now the more fateful decisions rest with a Council of Four. Unless these are able to bring about an early peace they are likely to be confronted with the general desire that they should in turn yield place to the ideal number for rapid decision and quick action—a committee of one. Unfortunately this tendency towards unification has not yet been applied to the settlement of the affairs of the East, although a welcome departure has been made in the appointment of General Mangin to the supreme command of the Allied military forces in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. In Russia itself all the evils of divided counsels and divided commands are apparent. At a time when the Allies need most to present a united front against the Bolshevists, the Japanese Government is forced to admit that the Allied Commander-in-Chief in Siberia, General Otani, can count upon exercising effective command only when his plans are consonant with the principle of American national policy. Little wonder that the Red Army of Bolshevism is reported to be making serious headway, while the Ten or the Four in Paris are still undecided whether they should ignore it, parley with it, or suppress it. With regard to the Balkans, the same policy of drift appears to have prevailed. In all their earlier statements of war aims or peace terms the Allies were careful to lay down certain guiding principles; but they have taken no steps to ensure that these principles should be enforced with the transfer of the liberated countries to Allied rule. Italians and Yugoslavs, Serbians and Montenegrins, Roumanians and Serbians have been left to quarrel amongst themselves, and practices have been freely resorted to which could find no justification outside the German code of fair dealing in peace or war. By a liberal distribution of Allied Missions in the disturbed countries an outward semblance of peace has been secured; but the policy of trusting to a settlement evolving itself appears to find more favour than the dictation of equitable terms which would hold the balance even in the common interests of all concerned.

To Constantinople has been accorded the peculiar honour of probably the most bizarre experiment in heterogeneous control ever devised. Four High Commissioners, British, French, Italian, and Greek, are installed in the Turkish capital; but room is also found for two Commanders-in-Chief, one French, the other British; the former nominally supreme in Turkey in Europe, while exercising his authority through his British colleague, and the latter in command in Asia Minor. It is not suggested that the officials in question with their different staffs have not made the best of the situation; but it can hardly be claimed for the system that it is ideal even as a temporary expedient, or that it reflects credit on the master mind which created it. Yet there was a strong case for the immediate introduction in Constantinople of a regime that would compare favourably with the administration of the Committee of Union and Progress under its German overseers. The inhabitants have suffered much from misgovernment, an oppressive bureaucracy, and the profiteer. They would have been impressed by a strong paternal rule that gave them security and justice, relief from exactions, and simple regulations on which they were expected to model their daily existence. It is possible that they have all these things; but the methods by which they are attained must confuse those whose intentions are good, while they afford an unrivalled opportunity for those who make it their business to fish in troubled waters. The multiplicity of authorities cannot fail to add to the difficulties of each, however resolved they may be to allow nothing to affect their cordial co-operation. It is, moreover, far from certain that they can impose the same self-denying ordinances upon their own nationals. If the report be true that the concession hunter has found his way to Paris, he is not likely to be kept altogether out of Constantinople. He may find no scope for his capital at the moment, but there will be ample scope for the patriotism that will prompt him to see a better future for Turkey and for himself, if his own Government has a paramount voice in the ordering of the country's destinies. Herein lies the occasion for intrigue, in which there will be many Turks ready to take a hand. Thus, the system which the Allies have devised for the temporary government supplies its own machinery to help to make that government impossible.

The obvious determination of the Council of Four to hasten the dictation of peace terms to Germany gives rise to the fear that, to achieve this end, they may be willing to delay the final settlement in the East. If the dispatch of a Commission to Syria is persisted in, that settlement may be postponed for several months longer. But the dangers of delay are not confined to the East alone. Political exigencies require the British Government to accelerate demobilisation; but it is unjust to the naval and military authorities to ask them to reduce their strength in the Eastern Mediterranean when the situation is becoming almost daily more and more precarious. That an attempt to introduce Bolshevism into Turkey should be made is by no means improbable; but even if there is no danger from this quarter, it is evident that the divided character of the Allied control in Constantinople and its failure to carry conviction into many parts of Asia Minor are encouraging certain undesirable elements of the Turkish population to reassert themselves. This at least would seem to be the explanation of the outrages still perpetrated on non-Turks. It is not difficult to see how the anomalous position on the Bosphorus arose; but the explanation does not justify the retention of a system inherently bad. In the draft Covenant of the League of Nations the Allies have pronounced against joint international control, and in any given territory there is to be only one mandatory Power. This system combines responsibility with authority. The present state of affairs in Constantinople eliminates both. The authority of each Power is restricted, and there is the inevitable incentive to evade responsibility, whether by leaving decisions to others or by looking to others to incur burdens that one seeks to avoid for oneself. A mandatory Power has its whole duty clearly before it, and has no excuse for shirking it. Nothing is more calculated to undermine the prestige of the Allies, and especially of Great Britain, in the East than the perpetuation of a policy that is administered without conviction and that lends itself to the intrigue which has always proved the curse of these lands. For this reason, if for no other, there should be no further delay in the settlement of the problem presented by Constantinople and Asia Minor.

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THE ARABS OF NORTH AFRICA.

The Arabs of Arabia were discussed in an article that appeared in THE NEAR EAST of February 8, 1918. It is now proposed to consider those of Africa, but at the very outset the difficulty must be faced that the great mass of the Arabised natives of Algeria and Morocco, the so-called Arabs of almost every anthropologist from the time of Broca onwards, present little or no evidence of Arab blood, and are to be regarded not as Arabs, but as Arabised Berbers. Such at least is the conclusion of MM. Bertholon and Chantre, and although an important reservation may have to be made, there seems little doubt that the majority of these so-called Arabs are no other than Berbers, who, adopting the Arab language and Arab ideas, have become more thoroughly Arabised than their Berber-speaking brethren. There is, of course, historical evidence that considerable groups of Arabs migrated towards Western Mediterranean lands in the first few centuries after the Hegira, but at the present day it seems that they have been absorbed into the general population, and that there is no generally valid method of distinguishing their descendants. This result might have been expected, seeing that the immigrants, if of the North Arabian type, would be long-headed and of medium stature, and so not readily distinguishable from the mass of the North African population.

Probably the conditions which prevail in Algeria and Morocco do not apply, at any rate with the same force, to parts of Tunisia; and there can, I think, be little doubt that Tripoli stands on a different footing. Apart from the littoral belt, the greater part of the country east of Tunis is desert or poor steppe, with an annual rainfall varying from three inches or less to ten inches, and only exceptionally attaining the latter figure. When in a sparsely inhabited area such as this are found groups of pastoral or semi-sedentary folk, such as the Aulad Ali, calling themselves Arabs, living the life of Arabs and claiming descent from Arab ancestors, there seems to be no sufficient reason to suppose that they are not predominantly of Arab blood. So far then as our present knowledge goes, it would seem the nomads or semi-nomads west of the Nile Valley stretching to Tunis are predominantly Arab, but even here it must be observed that the oases, at least in part, constitute an exception. Thus the measurements and photographs of men of Kharga Oasis published by Hrdlicka show that its inhabitants are, for all practical purposes, Egyptians, differing in no essentials from the inhabitants of the Nile Valley. The question naturally arises how far have the African Arabs maintained the physical characters of the tribes from which they have sprung, *i.e.*, have they undergone any considerable modifications in their new surroundings? No general answer can be given, but in the case of the Arabs of the Nile Valley, it seems that they have not. The evidence in favour of this view is too intricate to permit of a rapid summary, but it may be stated that measurements taken by different observers in Lower Egypt and its western marches, in Upper Egypt and in the Sudan (Kordofan), show a general agreement which is the more significant when it is remembered that the Aulad Ali, the strongest nomad tribe on the western border of the Delta, claim to be descended from the very tribe (the Beni Okba) to which the Kababish, the proudest and richest Camel Arabs of the Sudan, trace their origin.

It should now be possible to appreciate the significance of certain brachycephalic skulls from the ancient Arab graveyard near Abassieh, in the neighbourhood of Cairo. Their form is but an expression of the roundheadedness of the inhabitants of Southern Arabia persisting in new localities to which they had migrated. In other words, the burial ground near Abassieh was the last resting-place of a family or clan from Southern Arabia. If this explanation be accepted, the smaller group of roundheads from a Tripolitan burial may be explained in the same way, though there is nothing, so far as I am aware, to show that these skulls are of mediæval date. And it may then be asked, how far are the "islets" of short roundheads found along the North African littoral, and even inland, susceptible to this explanation?

In considering this matter it must not be assumed that the same influences have been equally in action throughout Northern Africa, alike inland in the Kabyle hills and in the coastal zone. With regard to the latter, it must not be forgotten that for a period of 200 years from the end of the fifteenth century onwards, the North African coast was the adopted home of the Barbary pirates, who, at the height of their power, were so strong that, though occasionally defeated by the Christian Mediterranean Powers, they were never broken. Moreover, it is known that the island of Gerba, with a predominantly roundheaded population, was one of their strongholds. Yet even if the Turkish pirates recruited from all over the Levant exerted some influence on the head form of the littoral, their dominion did not extend inland, and they could have had no part in producing the brachycephaly of certain mountain tribes of Kabylia. Further, the photographs published by Bertholon and Chantre in their great work show that Armenoid noses occur in a certain number—not, it is true, a large one—of Algerines, natives of districts remote from the coast, and this would seem to point to Arab influence. Again, the average stature in Tripoli, Tunisia, and Kabylia points in the same direction, while certain historical considerations are in its favour. The conquerors of Spain came from North Africa, and so large a number of the invaders were of South Arabian origin that the Yemenite party in their new country were able to carry on the tribal wars of their old home on a considerable scale. It seems safe to deduce from this that at least a part of the Arab colonisation of North-Western Africa was due to settlers from South Arabia, reinforced, no doubt, by a proportion of Southern Arabs or their descendants, when the Arabs were driven out of Spain. On the physical side the suggestion in favour of the North African brachycephals being the descendants of Arabian immigrants is supported by the observations of Bertholon and Chantre. These authorities note that the heads of the African brachycephals are not globular, as are those of European roundheads (the Alpine race of Central Europe); that the anterior part of the skull is less developed; that the occipital region is flattened; and that the cranial vault is often very high—all characters which suggest the influence of Asiatic rather than of European roundheads. Yet the fact that tall, longheaded blondes, undoubted descendants of the Nordic race, occur in the Atlas Mountains, and that representations of blonde, fair-haired, light-eyed Libyans are found in Theban tombs dating to the second millennium B.C., show that Northern Africa has been influenced by an essentially European stock. And if barbarians from the far north could colonise the Atlas, there is no reason why the roundheads of mid-Europe should not also have played a part. We may indeed presume that both European and Asiatic roundheads have contributed to the population of the southern shore of the Mediterranean, and that the blood of both runs in the veins of at least some of the "Arab" tribes of Northern Africa.

C. G. S.

INDIAN SOLDIERS' BOARD.

With the object of safeguarding the welfare of Indian soldiers after their release from military service and assisting the families of those still on active service, the Government of India have established an Indian Soldiers' Board. Sir George Lowndes, K.C.S.I., has been appointed president, and the new board will work in connection with the Army Department of the Government of India, and advise on all questions affecting the interests of Indian soldiers and non-combatants and their dependents.

THE WOES OF ARMENIA.

The Armenian Delegation in Paris, of which M. Aharonian is president, has just addressed an urgent Note to the Peace Conference respecting the present alarming state of Armenia, where, according to the latest reports, famine and disease are decimating the people. It is urged that to remedy an insupportable state of things the Allies should facilitate the transport of grain from the Northern Caucasus by way of sea to Batum and thence by railway to Erivan, the capital of the Armenian Republic. Also that the return of the refugees to the Armenian provinces formerly under Turkish rule be permitted, so that the soil may at once be brought under cultivation. To this end the Armenian Republic places its regular army at the disposal of the Allied Command, should the troops of the Entente not be available for the necessary occupation. The organisation of a sanitary service to combat the diseases now prevalent is also mentioned as being of immediate necessity.


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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Roumanian Army. March 27.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, replying to Colonel WEDGWOOD, stated that the Roumanian Army had crossed to the north of the River Maros, but they had no information as to the revision of the line of demarcation between Hungarians and Roumanians. The situation which had arisen was at present being discussed in Paris.

Syrian Central Committee.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, in answer to a question by Mr. MOSLEY, asking for the component elements of the Syrian Central Committee and their claims to represent Syrian opinion, said the Committee in question was under the chairmanship of M. Chekri Ganem, and its council was composed of an Orthodox Greek, a Moslem, a Greek Melchite, a Maronite, and a Hebrew. He understood that the Committee claimed to represent a number of other Syrian and Syrian Lebanese committees and associations in the United States, Europe, Australia, and Africa. The Committee's claim to represent Syrian opinion was contested by various Syrian bodies, both in Syria itself and in other parts of the world.

Albania. March 28.

Major JAMESON asked the Secretary of State for War whether the Peace Conference proposes to apply the principle of self-determination to Albania?

Mr. C. HARMSWORTH: In delimiting frontiers in South-Eastern Europe the delegates at the Peace Conference are in all cases endeavouring to ascertain and carry out the wishes of the populations concerned.

Affairs in Egypt. April 1.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Prime Minister what steps were being taken to send out a Commission of Inquiry to Egypt to inquire into the causes of the recent rioting; and would such an inquiry be authorised to inquire into the treatment of the Egyptian fellaheen who enlisted for service as well as into the causes of Moslem unrest.

Mr. HARMSWORTH replied that the attention of the Government for the present must be concentrated upon the establishment of law and order in Egypt, and he was unable to state whether a Commission of Inquiry would be despatched or not. He should like to make it clear that his Majesty's Government intended to institute at the earliest possible moment the fullest inquiry into the causes and extent of the disturbances.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked whether it was possible to re-establish law and order in a country if the authorities did not get down to the root causes accounting for an outbreak.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: We must restore law and order before we can get on with the inquiry.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

UKRAINE.—ROUMANIA: Destruction of British Property.—CONSTANTINOPLE: St. Sophia Church.—RUSSIA.—EGYPT.—SERBIAN ARMY: British Mechanical Transport.—AFGHANISTAN.—RUSSIA. (March 25.)

INDIA: Civil Service Kabul. Mohammedans (Newspaper Comments). Rowlatt Commission Bills. Steamship Accommodation.—ARMENIA: Food Shortage.—CAUCASUS: British Mission.—NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST: Special Sub-Commission. (March 26.)

TIFLIS: Pay of British Troops. (March 27.)

INDIA: Uncovenanted Services (Pensions).—EGYPT: Enlisted Fellaheen (Medical Service). Commission of Inquiry. CONSTANTINOPLE (Postal Facilities).—EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. SALONIKA FORCE. OCCUPIED ENEMY TERRITORY (Agricultural Work).—INDIA: Civil Servants (Homeward Passages).—EGYPT: Ministry of Health. Surplus Army Transport. (March 31.)

EGYPT OF THE FUTURE.

In the course of his presidential address to the African Society last Friday, Sir Harry Johnston said that now that the Germans were driven out of Africa and Western Asia there were signs of native discontent with the rule of European Powers. What would Egypt be in the near future? Never again an appanage of Turkey. Egypt proper ought gradually to be educated, and educate itself to reach the status of an independent Mediterranean kingdom. But the Sudan to the south of Egypt must remain still longer under British control, because it was inhabited preponderatingly by negroes, and could not be trusted to the sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons of the Egyptian and the Turkish Pashas. For the safety of the British Empire and of the League of Nations we should have to occupy indefinitely the Sinaitic Peninsula and defend the Suez Canal: but with these reservations—once we were assured that Egypt had become too modernly educated to give way to religious fanaticism, persecution, dishonesty, or waste in finance, we should not be eager to continue our military occupation or our control of the internal government.

The Greek Generalissimo Paraskevopoulos, accompanied by his General Staff, left Salonika on March 30 for Constantinople, with a view to conferring with General Franchet d'Esperey as to the future action of the Greek Army.

ALLENBY and his Crusaders in Palestine.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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A correspondent points out that there is no unwillingness on the part of traders to enter the Levant markets, and that it is the exchange question which is the main hindrance to the resumption of trade. "The difficulty," my correspondent adds, "is for the Turk to get exchange on London to pay for goods he has bought here. This uncertainty naturally makes people inclined to hang back. One of the reasons for the lack of exchange is that there is considerable difficulty in obtaining permits on this side to import goods from Turkey. Therefore it would be to the interest of the British exporters to get the restrictions on imports from Turkey removed, thus enabling the Turkish merchant to pay for his imports of British goods by his export of the merchandise that he has in hand."

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The recent visit of Queen Mary and the Queen of Roumania to the Sonic works at West Drayton, where Mr. George Constantinesco is elaborating his inventions, has brought the work of this inventor into prominence. A Roumanian by birth, and now a naturalised British subject, Mr. Constantinesco has achieved fame by the Sonic system of transmission, which is briefly a method for obtaining energy by the to-and-fro motion of particles of liquid. This system rendered possible what is known as the c.c. sychronising gear, which greatly contributed to the British supremacy in the air, since, by it, it became possible to fire as many as 2,000 bullets a minute through the propeller.

***

A six per cent. loan for 75,000,000 drachmæ (£3,000,000) will, I understand, be issued in Greece on April 15. This loan, which will be repayable in 1939, will be issued at 95 per cent., and the service of the loan will be secured on the surplus of the revenues assigned to the International Financial Commission and of the Customs' receipts of the ports of Corfu, Patras, Vola, Salonika, and Kavalla. National Defence bonds will be accepted for the new loan at 101 per cent.

***

The report of the Department of Statistics in India on India's trade in 1917-18, which is only now available, throws valuable light on the extent to which the growing demands of the Allies gave a great impetus to industry, and stimulated the export of commodities of vital importance. The pre-war average of manufactured goods in the export trade of 24 per cent. had increased in the year under review to 31 per cent., a fact which speaks volumes as to the change which has taken place. The shortage of shipping and the restrictions on trade had the result that India, which before the war held the second place in the Empire's trade, had to give place to Canada. The value of India's overseas trade in merchandise was Rs.393 crores, or rather less than the previous year, and made up of imports Rs.150 crores and exports Rs.233 crores. The effect of the continued rise in values in this trade may be estimated from the fact that if the prices of the previous year had obtained the value of the imports would have been Rs.122 crores, and of the exports Rs.216 crores.

***

One effect of the war was to increase India's trade with other parts of the British Empire. In the pre-war quinquennium the share of the Empire was 53 per cent., and this had risen in 1917-18 to 57 per cent. Another feature is the remarkable increase in India's trade with Japan and America. In the year under review the total trade with Japan gives that country second place to the United Kingdom. In this case the increase has been mainly in imports, which, as compared with the pre-war average, have increased by 400 per cent., the corresponding increase in exports being 103 per cent. Trade with Japan consisted as to imports of matches, metals, silk manufactures, and glassware, and as to exports of raw cotton. The value of the trade with the United States was double what it was in the pre-war period, and half of the imports consisted of iron, steel, and mineral oil. Finally, it may be noted that in regard to the frontier trade reference is made in the report to the increase in importance of the Shan States in the production of lead and silver.

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I understand that Sir Adam Block has arrived in London from Constantinople.

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The reports of the Eastern banks for 1918 all show results of a most satisfactory character. Thus the net profits of the Chartered Bank of India amounted to £409,221, as against £402,795 in 1917, and £381,200 in 1916, and the carry forward was £167,260, making a total of £576,261, of which £84,000 was absorbed by the interim dividend. Out of the disposable balance of £492,484 it is proposed to pay a final dividend at the same rate as the interim declaration and a bonus of 25s. per share, making 20¼ per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, as against 19 per cent. in 1917., and 17 per cent. in 1916, to place £100,000 as before to the reserve fund, making it £2,100,000, and to carry forward a balance of £168,483.

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The National Bank of India made a net profit of £403,635, as against £353,139 in 1917, and £297,474 in 1916, and to this has to be added £139,828 brought forward, making the total £543,464. The interim dividend accounted for £100,000, and it is now proposed to pay a further dividend at the same rate, making 20 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. The reserve fund is raised to £1,550,000 by the addition of £200,000, and the balance left to be carried forward is £123,464.

The net profits of the Imperial Bank of Persia amounted to £83,136, as against £85,066 for the previous twelve months, and £54,170 for 1915-16. The dividend is again 8 per cent., free of tax, and £30,000 is again placed to the reserve, making that fund £220,000. £5,000 is allocated to bank premises account, as against £10,000 the previous year, and the carry forward is £27,388, an increase of £3,100 on the previous figures.

***

With the results of the working of the line during the war not available, the report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin naturally conveys a very inadequate survey of the company's position. There is a debit balance, owing principally to interest charges, of £631,900, as against £448,100 the previous year. As regards the outlook, the line is now in the hands of the British military authorities, and the members of the Smyrna staff, it will be remembered, left England at the end of February to take over the working of the line. For the resumption of traffic, rolling stock and materials and capital to meet current expenditure will be needed, and in this connection it may be noted that it is expected that expenses will exceed receipts for some time, which will readily be understood in the circumstances. The council have prepared for the necessary expenditure by raising £140,000 by a banker's advance at 6 per cent., secured by the deposit of £100,000 4 per cent. and £100,000 5 per cent. debenture stocks (the unissued balances of these stocks), and as the available borrowing powers are thus exhausted, it is pointed out that if further capital is required the shareholders may be asked to sanction the creation of new capital.

***

A general investigation of the fibre resources of India is now being conducted by Mr. Finlow, fibre expert with the Government of Bengal. During the war the necessity of developing the fibre resources of the Empire was made very clear, and naturally India offers a most promising field for research. None of the fibre crops of India, apart from jute and cotton, have so far been exploited from the industrial standpoint, and the possibilities of the other crops cannot be compared with those of the crops mentioned. Still, in some cases they possess valuable qualities, as was pointed out in the report of the Indian Industrial Commission, and their utilisation should not be a matter of great difficulty.

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CYPRUS IN 1917-18.

Continuance of War Time Prosperity.

The White Paper on the Cyprus Blue Book for 1917-18, which has just been issued, shows that the marked prosperity of 1915-16 and 1916-17, has been more than maintained. In that year the revenue was the highest on record and the collection of taxes satisfactory, indications which, it is pointed out, prove that the Island is steadily progressing, and that its inhabitants are becoming, generally, more prosperous. The main factor responsible for this gratifying state of affairs has been the exceptional demand arising out of war conditions for the products of the Island, which has enabled merchants, farmers, and stock-breeders to obtain excellent returns for their goods. The military authorities in Egypt and Salonika, for instance, have been ready purchasers of Cyprus products, and special efforts have been made in the Island to meet their requirements by increased production. As regards the continuance of the Island's present prosperity the question obviously depends on whether it will be found possible to replace markets due to the war by other and more permanent outlets for trade. Whether this can be done or not is a question that only the future can decide, but this much can be said, that if it is possible the administration, which has so successfully guided the Island's destinies during the war period, will find ways and means of doing so. Before turning to the results of the year it remains to be noticed that in the period under review the rising cost of living had an increasing incidence in the Island, and came to press very heavily on Government officials and people of fixed incomes. This was met as regards officials by an increased war bonus, and, generally, by arrangements for the manufacture of a cheap loaf from grain issued from the Government grain stores, and by tariff prices for most foodstuffs.

Finances and Trade.

The revenue less the Imperial grant in aid amounted to £498,460, as against £332,584 in 1916-17, and £363,692 in 1915-16, hitherto the highest revenue recorded. It was thus £165,876 in excess of the figures for the previous year, but it includes £75,267 13s. on account of tithe grain of 1916-17, but against this there is 1917 grain of the estimated value of £55,000, which is not included as it had not been disposed of by the end of the financial year. The increase in revenue was, it may be mentioned, widespread, as no less than thirteen of the nineteen heads of revenue showed an increase on the figures for the previous year, the principal increases being under Customs, tithes collected by Revenue Department, tobacco duties, forest revenue, and railway. The local expenditure, not allowing for the share of Cyprus of the Turkish debt charge, was £382,598 as against £318,378 in the previous year, and including everything there was the very satisfactory surplus of £73,062.

The value of imports during 1917 was £958,168 an increase of £388 on the figures for the previous year, while the exports totalled £787,922, an increase of £79,476. In both imports and exports the trade was mainly with the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire. Thus of the imports the United Kingdom and British Colonies were responsible for £839,887 or 86.8 per cent. of the total, while the United Kingdom took exports worth £108,293, and the figures for British Colonies were £374,343. Italy came second in the list of importing countries with imports valued at £33,971, while in the list of exporting countries Greece and France with £137,584 and £130,987 respectively both pass the United Kingdom's total.

Industries.

During the war mining activities have been restricted in the Island, but it is thought that the industry possesses considerable possibilities. The exports of the Cyprian Mining Co.'s asbestos mine at Amiandos in 1917 amounted to 21,386 cwt. of the value of £14,072 against 25,812 cwt. of the value of £14,661 in 1916. Owing to it being impossible to obtain explosives in the prevailing conditions the Cyprus Mines Corporation had to limit its work at the Skouriotissa copper mine. During the year 1,881 tons of terra umbra to the value of £3,746 were exported as against 4,702 tons, valued at £7,821, in the previous year; 490 tons of gypsum, valued at £319, were also exported.

The wine industry, which is of considerable importance, has received a great impetus owing to the good prices obtainable. The exports during the year were 1,309,440 gallons of ordinary Cyprus wines, valued at £76,538, and 14,568 gallons of the heaviest desert wine known as Commanderia, valued at £1,913. There were also exported 128,587 gallons of vinegar, valued at £2,550 and 92,169 gallons of spirit, valued at £22,173. As a result of the demand for Cyprus wines there has been an extension of the vine area and a number of new vineyards have been established.

Agriculture.

Useful work was again carried out by the Department of Agriculture, and among other things several varieties of cereals and other plants obtained from England, South Africa, New Zealand, and elsewhere were tried on the experimental plots of the Department.

The olive oil extracted from the olive crop of the last year was insufficient for the Island's requirements, and the hope is expressed that in the near future there will be a great increase in the number of olive tree plantations, as there are many suitable areas available, so that the local requirements may be met, and an export trade also developed. Potato growing was stationary owing to the lack of new seed and to the tendency on the part of agriculturists to turn to tobacco cultivation. The bee-keeping industry continued to develop, and the same must be said for sericulture.

The revenue of the Forest Department amounted to £59,624, as against £27,182 in 1916-17, two-thirds of the amount being obtained from the timber and fuel supplied to the military authorities. An additional saw mill was erected during the year, and the quantity of timber cut at the saw mills amounted to 101,221 cubic feet, roughly the same as in the previous period.

The gross earnings of the Cyprus Government Railway were £27,866 as against £19,914 in 1916-17, and £15,785 in 1915-16. Working expenses also increased from £16,608 to £20,748, but the excess of receipts over working expenses rose from £3,306 to £7,118. The practice of the previous year of mixing wood fuel with coal to save the consumption of coal was again carried out as far as possible.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director, Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 20 (received March 26):—

General rain at Chota-Nagpur. Local in Orissa and Mysore. Rain required in Assam and unirrigated Punjab crops.

Second wheat forecast acreage 23,733,000 (February forecast gave 23,472,000. Last year this time 34,469,000).

Bombay cotton market fairly steady. Fully good Broach April-May delivery quoted at 477 rupees. Piece goods market very quiet. Calcutta jute, gunnies market steady. Rice no change.

Modasa Dungarpur Railway Survey by Guzerat Railway Co., Ltd., sanctioned 44 miles Metre Gauge Railway.

Reuter's Agency learns that arrangements have been concluded by the British Government for the opening of credits with Roumania for the purchase of immediate necessities, especially railway material. A complete equipment for 150,000 men will now also be sent.

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		(31st DECEMBER, 1918)	
AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£33,000,000	Current, Deposit and other Accounts ...	£262,857,781
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	27,323,960	Cash in Hand and at Bank of England ...	47,476,604
PAID-UP CAPITAL	6,830,990	Money at Call and Short Notice ...	36,970,158
RESERVE	7,430,086	Advances and Discounts	141,501,912

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EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

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OUTLOOK IN MOROCCO.

Question of Exports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, March 14.

There has been no visible effect on the markets yet of the liberty to re-export imported goods. A few bales of cotton and a small quantity of wooden matches were reshipped to England recently; some wooden matches were also consigned to Algiers, but quotations are nominal, as no sales are being effected. Permission to re-export from the French zone has not yet been granted, though it is hoped it will be before long. The authorities are still taking stock, as they wish to make sure that five months' supply is retained in the country. I don't think they need have any fear of re-exports taking place to such an extent as to reduce the reserve below this margin, as the existing stocks appear to be too large, and the possible markets too scarce.

Most articles of this country's produce may now be exported; wheat, barley, and maize, which are by far the most important, are excepted, even the 1919 crop is bespoke by the Intendance. Naturally, this has caused severe disappointment to British exporters. There is an idea that cereals may be exported from Algeria without restriction, and if this be so, the question is asked, Why should the same things be requisitioned in Morocco?

Future of Tangier.

Everyone is anxiously awaiting the decision of the Peace Conference on the subject of Tangier, and are wondering just what is the meaning of a "special status, with French preponderance." Meanwhile, the little flutter in land which I mentioned has quietened down without a great deal having changed hands. When the rumours of the change of influence in the Spanish zone were at their highest some local speculators turned their attention to land at Larache and Alcazar, but the owners had also heard the rumours, and, intending to make the most of it, raised their prices extravagantly, especially round Alcazar, but I have not heard of any sales resulting.

There is still a very considerable quantity of imported goods lying in the Customs stores; warehouse rent is accumulating and increasing someone's loss. A case regarding some of these goods was tried in the British Consular Court recently; the goods arrived at Gibraltar before the slump in prices, but for some reason did not reach Tangier until after that unhappy event. The consignee refused delivery, and pleaded they were not according to sample, and the decision was in his favour. I am told the shipper has appealed.

The British Mission.

The British Commercial Mission's report on the prospects of agriculture in Morocco seem rather more discouraging than, it is thought here, is altogether justifiable. Those who may be thinking of trying agriculture in Morocco should certainly not give up the idea without obtaining all possible information and studying the possibilities seriously.

Mr. Mulock, head of the Mission, left here for England via Gibraltar on the 13th inst.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Damage During Disturbances.

The Egyptian Markets, Ltd., has received the following cable from the general manager in Egypt:—"Report received of eight markets damaged and stocks robbed, but information incomplete; several markets officially closed; are working markets with native staff only where communication is possible." No further communication has come to hand, either by letter or cable, with reference to the rising in Egypt.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

An English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

JAFFA TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jaffa, March 8.

Jaffa Vice-Consulate.

It was a great pleasure to see safely back at Jaffa Mr. N. H. Fiani, the former British Pro-Consul, who, until the rupture of relations between Great Britain and Turkey, had charge of the British Vice-Consulate at Jaffa. Mr. Fiani worked with great devotion and zeal for British interests until the last moment, when the Turkish authorities had him arrested and interned at Jerusalem. Later he was sent to Nazareth and Tiberias, and finally was exiled to Konia, in Asia Minor, whence he has returned after an absence from Jaffa of over four years. Doubtless, now that Mr. Fiani is available, there will be little delay in taking advantage of his valuable services, his long experience, and his thorough knowledge of the country and its inhabitants.

Sufferings During the War.

No part of Palestine has probably suffered more financial and economic damage in this war than Jaffa. The city was depopulated and the inhabitants dispersed in Syria and Anatolia as exiles and refugees, where they suffered greatly at the hands of the Ottoman Government, being regarded as traitors, and as they had no money and living was extremely dear a large number of them died of hunger. Those who returned bear traces of their experiences.

Before the Turks evacuated Jaffa they reduced a large part of the city to ruins, and when the British troops occupied the place in November, 1917, they found it in a most pitiful state.

Jaffa has begun to flourish under the new régime, and the inhabitants are beginning to forget the great suffering and hardships they have endured in the war under the old régime. They are very grateful to Great Britain and the Entente.

Future of the Port.

It goes without saying that the future will see many important developments at Jaffa. To take the harbour, for instance. Jaffa is a leading port and commercial centre of Palestine, and as such it needs must have a good harbour and quay for the ships. Before the war a British company was trying to obtain the concession for the construction of a harbour at Jaffa from the Ottoman Government. It is the wish of the population that the O.E.T.A. should bring into effect this scheme of constructing the harbour.

The provision of a water supply is of great importance to Jaffa. It is not that water is scarce, but that the means are lacking. We have the Aujah river, one hour from Jaffa, which could supply the city and district with water for drinking purposes and for watering the orange groves. Here, also, is a question which calls for the attention of the O.E.T.A. What is needed is the construction of a large reservoir for the water of the Aujah river, as by that the city could be supplied with water not only for drinking purposes, but also to provide power for electric light and tramways.

Commerce and agriculture are the chief features of Jaffa. As an agricultural centre many things are lacking, notably machines for tilling the ground and for harvesting, etc. Also, the country being poor, financial help is necessary to make the improvements that are required.

EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IN MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, March 13.

There is what may be termed national concern in Malta regarding the economic future of the Island. The various labour battalions are being demobilised and discharges on a big scale are expected from the dockyard. The authorities seem unable to grapple with the situation, although a committee to deal with immediate emigration has been formed and seems to be acting at a quicker rate than is usual.

Strong feeling is expressed against the local capitalists who do not encourage local industries by investment. A quiet demonstration occurred the other day by which the demand for the local management of financial affairs was brought to the fore. Broken glass has been the only result up to the present.

EGYPTIAN STATE FINANCES IN DECEMBER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 7.

During the month revenue amounting to £E2,225,673 was collected, and the expenditure came to £E1,821,681. For the nine months, revenue totals £E20,931,843, and expenditure £E17,270,955 against £E17,088,271 and £E13,732,346 respectively a year ago. There is therefore an increase in revenue for the nine months of £E3,843,572, and in expenditure of £E3,538,609, and the surplus of revenue is now £E3,660,888, compared with £E3,355,925 at the end of December, 1917.

The principal items of revenue during the month were land tax, £E465,211; customs, £E322,893; tobacco dues, £E186,575; railways, £E651,744; judicial fees, £E143,354; whilst the main items of expenditure were irrigation, £E92,454; railways, £E360,734; ghaffirs, £E146,912; war office, £E264,966; war gratuities, £E114,629.

Compared with the corresponding nine months of 1917, the main increases under revenue are customs, £E1,109,262, about 50 per cent. on last year's figures; tobacco, dues £E251,030; excise, £E213,277; railways, £E1,652,000, about 45 per cent. on 1917; telephones, £E147,027, these did not appear in last year's accounts; ghaffir tax, E155,965; miscellaneous receipts, £E235,549; sale of land, £E139,164. The chief item showing decrease was sale of Domains' produce, which fell by £E117,712, a hint of what will take place in the near future in all budgets dependent on prices of agricultural products. Under expenditure, the chief increases during the nine months have been railways, £E948, 146; telephones, £E99,557; ghaffirs, £E127,511; war office, £E479,463; war gratuities, £E620,483; and extraordinary expenditure in connection with the war, £E391,306.

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN OF ROUMANIA.

The following address was presented to the Queen of Roumania on behalf of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce:—

On behalf of the council of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, formed in 1917, with the object of promoting "the extension and development of trade, commerce, industry, shipping and transportation pertaining to the United Kingdom or the British Empire and Roumania," we venture to offer our respectful greetings, on the occasion of your Majesty's first visit as Queen of Roumania to this country—the land of your Majesty's birth. We desire to convey the assurance of our profound sympathy to his Majesty the King of Roumania, your Majesty and the Roumanian people in the unexampled trials endured by reason of loyalty to the Allied cause in the great war; of our admiration for the sacrifices thereby sustained; and of our fervent hope that the blessings of an assured peace will shortly be attained in the fullest measure. We look forward with every confidence to the time when the friendly relations, always existing between the two countries—tested under most adverse conditions until the hour of victory—will be still further cemented by a closer intercourse, by the achievement of common aims and the development of an era of economic progress in their mutual interests. In furthering these objects the British Roumanian Chamber of Commerce will cordially co-operate with the Roumanian people and their rulers.—Bessborough, chairman of the council; H. Locke, honorary treasurer; and Charles E. Musgrave, honorary secretary.

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THE F.B.I. ATHENS EXHIBITION.

Major Kennard, the Commissioner to Greece of the Federation of British Industries, who is shortly to be established permanently in Athens, has been touring the country giving manufacturers the benefit of his experience. A reference in his address to the coming exhibition is given below :—

I would point out to you that the exhibition which we propose to hold will be in its way unique. Big exhibitions of various kinds have been an almost common annual event in all parts of the world in pre-war days, but I think I am right in saying that this exhibition of British industries will be extremely practical. It will be a purely *selling* exhibition. I venture to assert that every exhibitor who can guarantee immediate, or at all events quick, delivery of bulk to the samples which he exhibits, will not only pay his expenses, but will make a very large and immediate profit without undue expense or risk. Further than that, he will have the comfortable feeling that he is doing his bit for his country in the great economic war upon which we are now embarked.

We will hold this exhibition on such a scale that it will attract all classes of buyers, not only from Greece but from many or all of the Balkan States and the Levant. As I said before, all these countries need everything, and need it at once. The Greeks have plenty of money, and—born traders that they are—they are longing to turn it over, and they *want* British goods. Are you going to supply them? I should like to see British products in every shop and every home in the Near East. It is up to you manufacturers to bring about this very desirable state of affairs. To show you that the Greeks themselves have a similar feeling, I may tell you that I brought with me from Greece an offer from a Greek gentleman to put up the sum of £40,000 towards the erection of a depot for purely British goods in Athens, on the understanding that it would be organised and run by Englishmen.

Remember that in arranging this exhibition the Federation has no axe of its own to grind; its one and only object is to promote the interests of its members, and, through them, the interests of British industries as a whole. I have studied the conditions, and, although I frankly confess that I started as a pessimist, I equally frankly confess that I have returned to this country a real optimist as to the possibilities for British trade in the Near East, using Greece and our exhibition as a stepping-stone.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields share registers will be closed from April 4 to 17 inclusive.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company, Ltd., will be held at Cairo on April 10.

The recent issue of 1,150,000 £1 Dunlop Rubber Company 7 per cent. "C" Preference shares has been fully applied for.

Warrants for the interest in respect of the 4 per cent. debenture stock of Barsi Light Railway Company, Limited, due on April 1, have been posted.

The directors of the Assam Railways and Trading Company have declared an interim dividend of 2 per cent. on the "B" stock, payable on 31st inst. to holders registered 26th inst.

The directors of the Assam Oil Company have declared a final dividend for the year 1918 of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares, payable on 31st inst. to holders registered 26th inst.

Hope Tea.—A second interim dividend on account of 1918 of 10 per cent., less tax, has been declared, making a distribution of 20 per cent. to date, the same as a year ago, payable now.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons announce that the coupons and drawn bonds of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway 4½ per cent. bonds, due April 15, will be paid on and after that date at their office, Austin Friars House, E.C.

Inclusive of Rs5,55,283 brought down, the accounts of the Bank of Bengal for the half-year ended December 31 show an available balance of Rs28,60,167. After providing for a dividend and bonuses amounting to 17 per cent. per annum, the same as for the second half of 1917, adding Rs5,50,000 to reserve fund, and transferring Rs50,000 to gratuity and pension fund, there remained Rs5,60,167 to be carried forward.

Alliance Bank of Simla.—Balance-sheet at December 31 :—Liabilities.—Capital paid up, Rs87,56,200, reserve funds, Rs50,00,000; deposits and current accounts Rs11,75,23,135; sundry liabilities, Rs8,25,400; dividends payable and credit to profit and loss Rs7,36,614. Total, Rs13,28,41,350. Assets.—Cash in hand and with other banks, Rs1,81,12,425; bills discounted, loans, cash credits and demand advances, Rs7,88,22,426; bank premises, etc., Rs61,72,135; Government securities, Rs1,70,94,564; other investments, Rs1,26,39,799. Total, Rs13,28,41,350.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the supply of 250,000 old rails, two metres long, in connection with boundary pillars required for this year's survey of Egypt. Tenders will be received at the offices of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Inspecting Engineer, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1, up to noon on April 25, 1919. A copy of the specification and the conditions of tender may be seen at that office.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended March 10 were £E10,298, making the total for the year £E350,919. The corresponding figures for the previous twelve months were £E8,613 and £E266,364.

Cox's Shipping Agency (in connection with Messrs. Cox and Co.) have removed from 16, Bishopsgate, E.C., to 4, Corbet Court, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

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Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
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The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
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Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Putties, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Undeveloped Marble Quarries.

In view of the existing demand for high-class and coloured marbles for building and decorative purposes, a few notes on some rare marble quarries that exist in Thessaly may be of considerable interest to enterprising British firms who may be in search of such quarries. As is known, some of the beautiful vert antique marbles that adorn the interior of the famous church of St. Sophia in Constantinople were brought from Thessaly. The reason that the quarries from which they were extracted have remained unknown or neglected in later years, may be attributed to the fact that under the Turkish rule that province was for centuries rendered impossible for any kind of enterprise. Twenty kilometres from Larissa on the north slopes of the chain of mountains at the foot of which winds the river Pinios, there are some large quarries of vert antique marble, very rare, and which on account of its beautiful appearance is much sought after. The green colour is due to the ophites which form the base of all these mountains. The extraction of these marbles is rendered easy for there are some superior seams on high level, the incline of which is from 35 to 40 degrees, and the extracted blocks can be rolled down into the plain of Pinios, there to be embarked on river barges which will take them to the sea. The transport to Salonika or to the Piræus is also very easy by the Piræus-Larissa-Salonika Railway, as the district roads are in good condition for transport to the nearest station to the quarry. A quarry was worked in ancient times at a spot offering more facilities for transport, but it would be preferable to open a trench to the west of the old works at the contacts of the river windings, and as the marbles in that spot are virgin it can be realised that success in extracting some large blocks of marble of good quality would not be difficult. There is no lack of workers in that district as very competent miners and quarrymen can be found near the spot, and only some special men and personal direction would be required to carry out the work.

A Cotton Harvester.

The cotton harvester is a new machine which is designed to carry the human picker and the bag in which he places the cotton as he picks it. The inventor claims that after the opened cotton has been picked there is a large quantity of unopened bolls remaining on the stalks. In these there is much cotton that can and should be saved as there is good market for it. It is impossible to pick and save the unopened bolls by the old method because of the weight of the bolls, and the picker is unable to drag the heavy sack on the ground. With this harvester all the unopened bolls can, it is claimed, be saved; the work is easy for the picker, and is done rapidly. The cotton saved in two days' work will, it is said, more than pay for the machine.

"One-Man" Tramcars.

Tramways, as a rule, are not paying concerns in the East. The cost of working them is often higher than is the case in Western Europe or elsewhere. Probably the new "one-man" tramcars would prove suitable to reduce the cost, if adequately employed, for these cars reduce the ratio of operating costs to receipts and permit more cars to be kept in operation on a shorter headway. The seating capacity is twenty-nine to thirty-five passengers (three-fourths that of two-man cars), but 25 to 50 per cent. more cars are operated. The latest one-man car weighs about 400 lb. per seat, compared with 700 to 1,200 lb. per seat in two-man cars. The safety equipment is arranged so that doors will not open until the car has stopped; the car will not start until doors are closed; power is cut off, brakes applied, and the track sanded directly the dead-man's handle is released. The brakes and doors are actuated by compressed air. Experience in a number of American towns, ranging from 21,000 to 400,000 inhabitants, shows that one-man cars make higher schedule speed and consume only half as much energy per car-mile as in the case of two-man cars, and reduce the accident rate very appreciably. About 700 modern cars of this type are now in use in America, and it is estimated that at least 30,000 could be applied advantageously. In view of the extensive schemes for the construction of new and the reconstruction of old tramways in Roumania, Serbia, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and further east, the respective Governments would do well to communicate with competent British firms on the subject, or, still better, these firms should make known their existence to these and other Governments.

Electric Fans.

A large quantity of electric appliances for domestic use were annually exported from Germany to the Near and Far East. In this class of goods it must be admitted that cheapness was more responsible for the commercial results than either the quality of the goods or the energy of German manufacturers or merchants. The idea has prevailed in the Eastern markets that British electric appliances were rather expensive, and in the absence of efforts on the part of British manufacturers to prove the contrary, German goods were more readily bought. Germany is not in a position to replenish those markets with cheap goods, and there is a very large opening for electric appliances of all kinds, and especially for fans for the forthcoming hot season. America, Italy, and Japan are, it is said, rapidly preparing large stocks which they mean to push by all possible means in the Eastern markets. Circulating and ceiling fans of British manufacture should have a preference and meet with a ready sale if properly pushed. A fan, with its steady, cooling effects, in a room in summer is a blessing, which only those who have lived in the East can appreciate. The "punkah," which is a ceiling fan, gives a fixed direction of breeze spread over a considerable area, and owing to its relatively large size and the places in which it is used, its appearance is of considerable importance. The usual number of blades is four. Their width is from 6 in. to 12 in., and they sweep out a circle of 40 in. to 60 in. diameter. The speed is about 200 revolutions per minute. It is this slow speed which constitutes a great difficulty in design. Were one at liberty to design a motor of the required power without any restrictions as regards speed, one would naturally design it to run at about 3,000 revolutions per minute. As it is, it has to be designed to run at less than 10 per cent. of this amount. Gearing down is hardly permissible. Efficiency must be sacrificed to reliability, appearance, silence, and small size. The motor may be supplied with either direct or alternating current. There are many splendid punkahs on the English market which could compete with any of the best foreign designs; but, strange to say, they are little known even in the places where British manufacturers are entitled to expect a good sale.

INTERNATIONAL AND BALKAN TRADING CO., LIMITED.

We are able to give further particulars of this company, brief reference to which was made in a previous issue. The directors are Mr. Ross Smith, managing director of Grecian Marbles (Marmor), Ltd.; Mr. John McDowell Barbour, head partner of John McDowell Barbour and Co., engineers, of the Piræus; Mr. John Mackechnie, banker; and Mr. L. W. Farrow, senior partner of Sissons, Bersey, Gain, Vincent, and Co., chartered accountants. The directors have decided to extend the organisation considerably, and are proceeding to Greece at an early date to make the necessary arrangements. The company will have representatives at Athens, the Piræus, and Salonika, and further offices will be opened at Bucharest and Belgrade. The company will deal in machinery—notably engines, tractors, and agricultural machinery of all kinds, motor-cars, motor lorries, and marine and stationary petrol engines. It will also trade in engineers' accessories, food supplies, woollen goods, and fabrics of all kinds. Insurance and banking will also be undertaken, as well as steamship agencies. It is understood that the capital will shortly be increased.

The pre-war customs tariff will be levied in Serbia as from April 1.

The revenue of Ceylon for October—the first month of the new financial year—amounted to Rs4,979,108 as against Rs6,065,183 in the corresponding month in 1917.

The current issue of the *Empire Mail* fully maintains the high standard achieved by this well-known journal. The contents include leading articles on "How to Meet Bolshevism" and "A 'Transitional' Trade Policy"; the subject of "Housing in its Bearing on Industrial Unrest" is dealt with by Lord Morris (late Prime Minister of Newfoundland), and another informative article is one on "Manufacturers and Credit Facilities," by Mr. George H. Stock.

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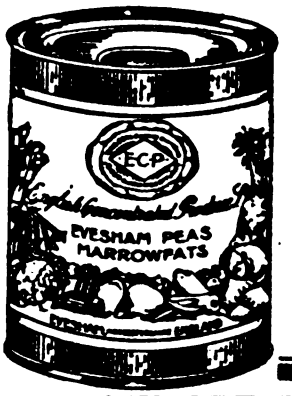
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Produce.

The C.E.B. report for January states that during the month 430,344 kilos of hashab gum, of the value of £14,154, was exported via Port Sudan. Exports via Halfa amounted to 21,122 kilos of bleached gum, of the value of £831, 89,959 kilos of hashab gum, of the value of £2,960, and 32,152 kilos of talk gum, of the value of £798.

13,448 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market, as against 18,077 kantars in the same month last year, at an average price of £1,137 m/ms per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 6,905 kantars, as against 5,946 kantars last year. At Um Ruaba 5,631 kantars were sold, as against 3,283 kantars in the same month last year. The average price was £1,140 m/ms. per kantar.

Cotton Crop Prospects.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: The Agricultural Inspector reports that measurement shows that some 30,000 feddans are under cotton, of which about 20,000 have been well watered. The east wind referred to in the December report continued to do much damage during the first half of the month. Moderate rain fell on 14th, light on 22nd, and very heavy on 26th, and did much to improve the prospects of the crop. In spite of this, the damage done by wind probably means that the figure of 31,000 kantars (315 rottles) given in December's report as the probable amount of the crop, is too high, and 25,000 would seem a safer estimate. There should be sufficient labour for picking, which should become general about the middle of February, and the market will probably open at the end of February or beginning of March.

White Nile Province.—Experiments with American and Sakellaridis seed on the river and in the valleys between the goz lands gave unsatisfactory results. The soil seems to lack the necessary richness.

Kassala Province.—The Kassala crop will be a good deal smaller than last year, as many of the people who cultivated cotton last year have concentrated all their energies on growing dura this year. The earlier sown cotton is already ripe, and the first picking has commenced; the first market will be held about the middle of February. The Gedaref rain-grown American cotton crop is somewhat smaller than was at first anticipated.

Bombay Cotton.

A final memorandum on the cotton crop of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind and Native States, for the season 1918-19, states that the total area under the early as well as the late varieties of cotton amount to 3,758,600 acres in British districts, and to 2,391,100 acres in the Native States, the total thus being 6,149,700 acres, 30.7 per cent. below last year's area and 11.3 per cent. under the decennial average.

The export of ground nuts has been prohibited from French West Africa, except those shipped by the Administration for the account of the French Ministry of Supply.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Cunard's New Capital.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Cunard Steamship Company at Liverpool on March 31 a resolution was adopted to increase the capital of the company to £6,000,000 by the creation of £1,500,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each. The chairman, Sir Alfred Booth, said the proposal was simply to provide additional capital, which was required to turn the reserve fund into shares.

The Cunard War Record.

The Cunard Steamship Company has just issued an account of its activities during the war. At the outbreak of war the Cunard fleet consisted of twenty-six sea-going steamers, with a tonnage of some 330,000. Of these ships fifteen were lost, with two exceptions, by enemy action. Of ships acquired subsequently, eight were lost. They comprised 56 per cent. of the fleet's total tonnage. In addition, seven of the ships chartered by the company were lost, making a total of thirty-two. In this way 650 seamen laid down their lives in the national cause.

Cunard liners served as armed cruisers, transports, hospital ships, and carried men, munitions, and food to and from all parts of the world, steaming 3,500,000 miles. They transported just under a million soldiers and sailors, over ten million tons of foodstuffs and cargoes, and 100,000 tons of fuel oil for the Navy were carried in their double bottoms. In addition, the company, during the last two years, undertook the management of nearly 400 ships other than their own. Nearly 500,000 American soldiers were brought to Europe by Cunard vessels, being 40 per cent. of the total carried in British ships from America. Most Cunard officers belonged to the R.N.R., and, in addition to those serving on Cunard ships, they were to be found on warships in all the seven seas. Upwards of 1,500 of the sea-going staff joined the Forces; and the company's chief offices contributed over 500 men to the Army and Navy and Flying forces of the Allies. Their honours include one V.C. and over sixty other decorations.

But to provide men and ships was not enough. Cruisers, transports, seaplane ships were fitted out for the Government; American howitzers were assembled; gun-beds, artillery wheels, parts for submarines and mines were manufactured. In July, 1917, the company commenced construction and managed for a time, on behalf of the Government, what was then the biggest aeroplane factory in England, employing thousands of hands. In 1915 they started a shell factory, from which nearly half a million shells were turned out.

There were many other activities, such as the work of the great engine, furnishing, and catering departments. Perhaps the magnitude of the Cunard Company's labours will be best appreciated when it is stated that over and above all this immense war activity reconstruction and development plans have been carried so far that the Cunard services, with those of its associated companies, now form a close network linking up every continent. They extend to India, Australia, and New Zealand, and include, of course, most of the chief ports of Europe and North America.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Anglo-Egyptian Oil.

The directors of Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., have resolved to pay an interim dividend of 15 per cent., less income-tax, on the "B" shares in respect of the year 1918. The arrears of interest on income bonds and of dividend on the preference shares, also dividends on the "A" and "C" shares, in accordance with their respective rights, will also be paid. These dividends will be payable on 4th instant, and warrants will be posted as soon as possible after that date.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The report of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 20 last states that the profits, after making provision for expenses of management and general charges, income-tax, excess profits duty and bad and doubtful debts, amount to £83,137; £24,240 was brought forward, making £107,376, and after deducting £4,988, the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the concession, there is left £102,388. This the directors have appropriated as follows:—First interim dividend for the year, at the rate of 3s. per share, paid June 18, free of income-tax, £15,000; transfer to reserve account, £30,000; to bank premises account, £5,000; second interim, being final dividend, at the rate of 5s. per share, paid December 30 last, free of income-tax, £25,000; carried forward, £27,388. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., 7th proximo, 12.30 p.m.

Chartered Bank of India.

The report of the Chartered Bank of India Australia and China for the year ended December 31 last states that net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to £576,483, inclusive of £167,261 brought forward. The interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £84,000, leaving £492,483. The directors propose to pay a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 25s. per share, making 20½ per cent. per annum for the year, free of income-tax; to add £100,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £2,100,000; to add £25,000 to the officers' superannuation fund; to write off premises account £40,000, and to carry forward £168,483. Dividend and bonus will be payable on and after 16th proximo. Meeting, 39, Bishopsgate, E.C., 9th proximo, 2 p.m.

Mercantile Bank of India.

The report of the Mercantile Bank of India for the year ended December 31 last states that the net profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts and including £58,432 brought forward, amount to £239,544. The directors have added £50,000 to the reserve fund (making £700,000), £10,000 to the officers' pension fund, and written £15,000 off freehold banking premises. They now recommend a final dividend on the "A" and "B" shares of 8 per cent., less income-tax, making 14 per cent. for the year, leaving £85,794 to be carried forward. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., 4th proximo, noon.

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Tunis Tramways.

The receipts of the Tunis Tramways amounted to 4,642,778fr. last year, against 3,834,464fr. in 1917. Working expenses were, however, much higher at 3,603,254fr., against 2,738,934fr., and the profits show a slight decrease at 1,039,527fr., against 1,095,530fr. The net profits amounted to 626,102fr., out of which is being paid a dividend of 4fr. net, the same as last year. This distribution will absorb 550,347fr.

Sudan Gold.

The report of the Sudan Gold Field Company for 1918 states that 20,880 tons of quartz were milled, yielding 11,248 oz. of bar gold, an average of 10.8 dwt. per ton. 15,025 tons of sands treated produced 1,021 oz. of gold, an average of 1.4 dwt. per ton, and 1,535 tons of slimes dealt with gave 150 oz. of gold, an average of 2 dwt. per ton. The total production of bar gold was 12,419 oz., or 11,248.299 standard oz., of a realised value of £43,945. To this has been added the difference between the realised and estimated value of the gold for December, 1917—namely, £15—and other receipts amounting to £114, bringing the total revenue up £44,074. Expenditure on revenue account was £45,411, leaving a balance of expenditure of £1,337. From the previous year £1,649 was brought forward at credit of profit and loss. To this is added refund of deposits in respect of excess profits duty, £12,048, making £13,697. Deducting balance of revenue account for 1918, £1,337, income-tax £2,447, depreciation of buildings, machinery and plant, etc., less amount received under insurance claim, £3,170, written off surface and mine works £2,000, a balance remains of £4,743 to be carried forward. Liquid cash assets at December 31 show a net sum of £7,834. For the first time since 1910 the working of the mine has resulted in a loss, which, although small in amount, is to be regretted. The contributing causes have been a continuous shortage of labour, seriously accentuated for some time owing to a severe outbreak of influenza, abnormal working costs, and the less productive character of the reefs in the stoping areas, with a consequent reduction in the output of gold. The installation of a slime treatment plant, capable of dealing with 1,500 tons of current and accumulated slime monthly, which was in progress at the date of the last annual meeting, was, owing to unavoidable delays, not finally completed until December last. The trial run proved satisfactory, inasmuch as an extraction of 90 per cent. of the gold contents of the slime, estimated at some 2 dwt. per ton, was reached. The operation of this plant will, it is expected, result in a substantial addition to the gold otherwise recovered from the mill and sands plants. The profit accruing from this source, however, will be much less for the time being than would be the case under ordinary conditions, due to the high prices which have to be paid for materials required in connection with cyanidation. The development work during the year has been on a very restricted scale, and almost entirely confined to Garland's section. This arises from the continued shortage of labour. Meeting, 6, Queen Street Place, E.C., 9th proximo, 3 p.m.

Great Western Tea of Ceylon.

The report of the Great Western Tea Company of Ceylon for the year ended December 31 states that the profit amounted to Rs.114,054; Rs.20,621 was brought forward, which, with Rs.3,166 surplus proceeds of last season's crop, makes Rs.137,841. The directors recommend a final dividend of 12 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward Rs.21,041.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a Meeting of the Board held this day it was resolved to PAY an interim DIVIDEND of 15 per cent. less Income-tax, on the "B" shares of the Company in respect of the profits for the year 1918.

The arrears of interest on Income Bonds and of Dividend on the Preference shares, also Dividends on the "A" and "C" shares, in accordance with their respective rights, will also be paid.

These dividends will be payable on the 4th April, 1919, and the dividend warrants will be posted as soon as possible after that date.

The SHARE REGISTERS will be CLOSED from the 4th to the 17th April, inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
J. Y. KENNEDY, Secretary.

St. Helen's-court,
Great St. Helen's, London, E.C.,
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EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Ration System Abolished.

The Board of Trade make the following announcements in regard to Egyptian cotton:—Any registered orders for Egyptian cotton which have been placed with the Cotton Control Commission in Alexandria prior to March 31, 1919, can be cancelled at the option of the purchasers if and in so far as they have been unfulfilled for a period of five months from the date of application to the Commission. Any registered orders which may be placed with the Commission after March 31, 1919, can be cancelled at the option of the purchasers if and in so far as they have been unfulfilled for a period of two months from the date of application to the Commission. The system of rations for individual British spinners has been abolished, and there is therefore no restriction on the quantity of Egyptian cotton which any British spinner or merchant may purchase.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

The prospects in the market are no worse, and in certain quarters the tone appears to have been rather better this week. The feeling is growing that after the dull state of affairs which has now existed for practically six months buyers will be compelled before very long to place orders on a freer scale. Prices in manufactured goods are now steadying somewhat. A good deal of interest has been taken by Egyptian cotton spinners and merchants in the official announcement by the Board of Trade relating to operations in Egyptian cotton. The system of rationing has been abolished, and it is now possible for orders placed with the commission which are late in being completed to be cancelled. Operations in Egyptian yarns continue restricted, and owing to lack of support prices continue to favour buyers. The purchasing of cloth for Egypt is being checked by the uncertainty as to trading conditions abroad, and until things are more settled there is no probability of trade of importance being done. Scattered sales have been put through for Persia and Turkey. Shippers of piece-goods to India have shown increased interest in prices, and some speculative purchasing has been reported in light fabrics such as dhooties. The big firms, however, have not yet enterel the market. Useful lines have again been booked for China in a variety of cloths. Rather more activity has been mentioned for South America, chiefly in printing descriptions. It is said that a few more looms are being started in Burnley and district. The stoppage of machinery in Blackburn is still on a very large scale. In view of the depression in American yarns the decision to adopt short-time working in the mills has caused no surprise, and it is hoped that the policy decided upon will be a means of bringing relief. Only small lots have been sold in shipping yarns. Interest has been taken in inquiry for China in numbers which have not been dealt in for four or five years back.

Mr. Hogg, Mr. Ironside, Sir F. Currimbhoy, and Sir G. Chitnavis, in a note of dissent to the report of the Excess Profits Select Committee in India, urge that any excess over £6,000,000 should be refunded.

ECONOMICS AND FRONTIERS.

Trade Avenues in the Balkans.

"In defining international boundaries," says H. K., in an article on "The Changed Balkan Question" in the *Yorkshire Observer*, "nationality and self-determination must, of course, be the guiding principles. Economics, however, have to be taken into the reckoning, and sometimes strategic points cannot with safety be ignored. As Mr. Balfour lately remarked, 'It would be poor statesmanship to so arrange frontiers as to permit of the strangling of new States at their birth.' The remark is as applicable to the Balkans as to the newly emancipated nationalities of north-eastern Europe. . . Free ports, free waterways, and freedom of transit over railways—in other words, equality in the use of trading facilities—must certainly play a large part in the ultimate settlement of the Balkans. One of the hardships of Turkish rule arose from impediments placed in the way of commercial intercourse and exchange. Usually the Turk levied toll on the most necessary traffic.

"Trade routes in the Balkans must be dealt with on the same comprehensive scale as territorial adjustments. The downfall of Austria has changed the whole aspect of the Adriatic question, and, however the controversy between Yugo-Slavia and Italy ends, it is unthinkable that the new united Balkan kingdom should again be cut off from the sea. The freeing of the port of Fiume would appear to be essential to the commercial prosperity of Yugo-Slavia, Czecho-Slovakia, and Hungary. Now that the Dual Monarchy is ended the Danube River is bound to become an international highway of enhanced importance and value, especially with the Dardanelles out of the hands of the reactionary Turk. With Russian Imperialism removed from the Black Sea, and the Straits opened —presumably internationalised—Roumania looks forward to a period of increased prosperity. Likewise, of course, does Serbia foresee the development of her Danubian trade. . . . The nature of the stranglehold which the Central Empires kept of the commerce of the Balkans may be realised when it is remembered that they controlled the ports of the eastern shore of the Adriatic, the Danube, the Dardanelles, and to a large extent, the principal railways. The commercial release of the Balkans is indispensable to national liberation. The States must cease to be economically dependent on the Central Empires. That consummation may best be effected by giving to all the fullest possible rights of access to the sea.

"Given political equality and tranquility, the economic advancement of the Balkan States would seem to be assured. The western impression that the peninsula is poor and unfertile is a delusion. It is a land of little money and great natural resources. Recovery ought to be rapid. The Balkan peoples, with the exception of Roumania, are peasants with holdings of their own. War does not involve the same measure of disintegration among agricultural communities as in a highly organised industrial State. Their land, from which they draw their sustenance, may be devastated; it cannot be destroyed. In due season it will bear crops again. It is interesting to reflect in passing that the soil is in peasant occupation by virtue of Turkish Imperialism having swept away the native ruling classes and substituted foreign landlords, who, in their turn, were driven out, letting the peasants into possession."

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has again been less doing this week, and prices in a general way have shown a tendency to weaken in view of the rather disquieting reports appearing in our press with regard to the political unrest in Egypt. The result of all this has been to keep off the market prospective buyers who are hoping to get in at lower prices, and, on the other hand, nervous holders have to make concessions in price if they wish to sell.

Amongst Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds have remained very firm, and are only ¼ easier at 92⅞, whilst the 3½ per cent. Loan has also lost a like fraction at 77⅞.

In Bank shares there has been some selling of Nationals, with the result that the price has dropped ⅝ to 21⅝. Agriculturals have been comparatively firm, and are only 1-16 easier at 6 11-16. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are ⅛ down at 15⅝.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ¼ easier at 8⅛.

Amongst Land descriptions, Aboukirs have remained a firm spot round 28s., but Béhéras are ¼ down at 13¼. Delta Lands have receded 6d. to 15s., and Foreign Trusts 3d. to 15s. 3d. Gharbieh Lands and Sidi Salems are both 1-16 lower at 2 11-16 and 2¾ respectively. There has been a fair amount of profit taken in New Egyptians, with the result that the price has receded 1s. to 25s. 6d. Union Foncières are also ¼ down at 3⅝. Exceptionally, Sudan Plantations have been active, and a strong market, and are closing 5-16 higher at 5 15-16. United Egyptian Lands have been a firm spot all the week, and at to-day's meeting the various resolutions for the reconstruction of the company were passed unanimously.

In Miscellaneous shares, Markets are rather quieter at 28s. Salts have remained a firm spot round 3, but Khedivial Mails are ¼ lower at 5⅝. Khedivial Mail Prefs. are unchanged at 4⅛ x.d.

In Greek securities the 1881, 1884, and 1890 Loans are 1½ points higher at 72½. Fundings recovered the whole of the dividend deducted at 66 x.d. Current bonds are 1 point down at 95. The Rentes Loan has been strong, and is closing at 58 x.d., a rise of about 2¼.

Oil Shares.

Among active features in the market have been Anglo-Egyptians B, which closed at 93s. 9d., after being up to 95s., and Burmahs, which after touching 9¼ dropped the fraction. Roumanian Consols have been weaker at 15s. 6d.

ROUMANIAN BANK NOTES.

The following communiqué has been issued. The British Government has been requested by the Roumanian authorities in this country to state that it has come to the notice of the Roumanian Government that the enemy are circulating bank notes issued by the "Banque Generale Roumaine," which, in view of the fact that the plates are now in possession of the enemy, can be printed in great numbers. The Roumanian Government protests against these proceedings, and wishes this protest to be made public, as it does not recognise the notes issued by the Banque Generale Roumaine.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Mar. 25	April 1
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	93	92⅞
Do. Pref. 5% 1890	88	78	77½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	71	72½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	71	72½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57	58xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	71	72½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66	66xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	83	83
Do. 5 % Currant	—	97	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	—
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6 11/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7⅜	7⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅝	15⅝
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11xd	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	75	77½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7 1/16	7 1/16
London County and Westminster	—	17⅛	17⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13½	22½	21⅝
National Bank of India	43	52	55
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt, Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8¼	8⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅝	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	28/-	28/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	5	5
Béhéra Co.	8½	13½	13½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝x	4⅝xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/6	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅜	2 1/16
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	26/6	25/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2 1/16	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	—	5⅜	5 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	75/-	3⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/3	2/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12
Anglo-Egyptian B.	—	—	93/9
Egyptian Markets Ord	1 3/16	28/3	28/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	3	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½xd

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£85,000*

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RESERVE - - - - -	**£190,000**
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Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) ..	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,350,000**

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 414.—Vol. XV. THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

From Paris this week comes the news that the Greek territorial questions have been practically settled, and that the southern frontier of Bulgaria has been laid down on general lines. Unless, therefore, present intentions are modified, it is to be expected that the Treaty of Peace will give the northern littoral of the Ægean to Greece, but Bulgaria will have an outlet to the sea on this coast through Kavalla, Dedeagatch, or Salonika. The choice of the port is apparently to be left to the Bulgarians, who, under this agreement, are to be guaranteed full liberty for trade communications. Such an arrangement, it is obvious, is a compromise between the original Greek claims, which demanded the whole coast line without any concessions, and the claims which were put forward before the war by Bulgaria, based on the principle of nationality.

In recording this decision the correspondent of *The Times* pays a tribute to the moderation of M. Venizelos, who has agreed to Bulgaria receiving an outlet on the Ægean Sea. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Greek Premier has made a great impression on all the members of the Conference. He has shown a statesmanlike grasp of the problems of the Near East, and it is, perhaps, unfortunate that he has not had a larger part to play in the deliberations in Paris. With regard to Bulgaria, he will be well aware that the present decision is based on the events of the last three years, and is not strictly an equitable one—that is to say, it would not have occurred to any member of the Balkan League in 1912 to propose it as a settlement of the claims of the different States. Since that date, however, Bulgaria has made war on Serbia and her Allies, and has been defeated. The penalty for this action is embodied in the terms of peace that will seemingly take from her the stretch of the coast line on the Ægean that was given her in 1912.

The proof of the wisdom of this decision will be supplied by the future. The Great Powers ought to have only one aim in regard to the Balkans, and that is to effect a peaceful and lasting settlement. If this is to be achieved by the means proposed, well and good. On the other hand, if the Powers place any credence in the reports of Bolshevism in Bulgaria or in the intentions attributed to the Bulgarians of designs upon Roumania, they have adopted a fairly safe method of aiding and abetting the unrest. We trust, however, that the Bulgarians will adopt a philosophical attitude towards the verdict. No territorial adjustment one way or the other is likely to hold back a country that has it in itself to forge ahead. Bulgaria will gain far more in the next few decades by living at peace and in friendship with her neighbours than by perpetuating the enmities of the past. The mineral wealth of the country and the industry of its inhabitants are greater assets than any territory that the country may lose, provided always that unfettered access is provided to the Ægean Sea.

The announcement that General Mangin was to go to South-East Europe, to assume the command of the Allied forces there, was followed almost immediately by the announcement that he was to do nothing of the kind. As no explanation of this change of plan has been vouchsafed, it is impossible to comment upon it with profit. We can only hope that such changes will not serve further to hearten the Bolsheviks. It is not surprising, however, to learn that Roumania, with the Bolshevik menace nearer at hand than it is in Paris, is beginning to experience some of that sickness of heart which comes, proverbially, from hope deferred. Her anxiety is rendered graver by observing symptoms in Bulgaria which appear to threaten an outbreak of Bolshevism in that country in the immediate future. It is probable that the alarm is groundless. The reports that have caused it may be spread by those who wish to see Bulgaria hopelessly committed to folly. But even so the plight of Roumania is sufficiently bad to call for the promptest action on the part of the Entente. Her sufferings, her war record, and her comparative modesty in putting forward her claims entitle her to better treatment than she has thus far received.

The melting away of the Turkish army in Asia Minor—such a process cannot be called demobilisation—has been attended by much looting and disorder, as was to be expected. This appears to have provided Italy with an excuse for landing a force at Adalia "to protect Italian subjects." On March 29 two companies of sailors occupied the town, but they have since been replaced by Bersaglieri and other troops. A semi-official statement issued by the Italian Government says that the landing was effected at the request of a number of distinguished Moslems. If measures of the kind were actually necessary, Italy would certainly have resented their being taken by any other Power. Since pre-war days she has taken a lively interest in Adalia and the southern portion of Asia Minor, to which, it is perfectly well known, she considers herself entitled in the case of any division of Turkish territory. The claim, such as it is, rests upon the old and now discredited "pegging out" methods pursued before the war. It is

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therefore a heritage of an evil system, and it is difficult to see how it could possibly be justified before any tribunal such as the League of Nations. That it would find any support from the natives of the region concerned is not to be conceived. In her present mood, however, Italy appears to attach no importance to considerations of this kind.

Before the war, it will be remembered, travellers to Jerusalem sometimes brought home tales of unseemly squabbles, and even, occasionally, of actual fights, between the adherents of rival sects in that city. Unfortunately, the war has not removed the spirit of rivalry, as might have been hoped. From high places there have already come several expressions of opinion regarding the liberation of the Holy Land and the guardianship of the holy places that savour strongly of a fanaticism not to be ignored. Now, the Rome correspondent of *The Times* reports the existence of "a certain nervousness in the Vatican in regard to an alleged proposal to entrust the principal Christian monuments of Jerusalem to the Greek Orthodox Church." The same message also refers to strong pressure being brought to bear in favour of the French Lazarists at the expense of the Italian Franciscans, "who have hitherto had a special position in regard to the holy places." The fact that such reports and rumours are abroad already is in itself sufficiently painful when we recall the spirit in which the British advance in Palestine was watched and the exalted sentiments expressed at the time of General Allenby's entry into Jerusalem. If nothing else will serve to allay the nervousness referred to above, the suggestion that Moslem guards should be provided for the monuments might have some effect. Talaat Bey, it may be remembered, at the time when the Turks were driven from Jerusalem, suggested that Europe would have to call them back for this very purpose.

Egyptian news is better, though reports of the early disturbances, which continue to come in slowly, seem to show that the outbreak was of a much more serious character than was realised at first in this country. Perhaps the most satisfactory item of news is that General Allenby, so long ago as March 31, gave it as his opinion that the time had come "when responsible Egyptians, with the interest of their country at heart, should submit to him a statement showing what steps they consider necessary to restore tranquillity and content." This referred to a promise he made in an address to the Notables on March 26, to inquire impartially into all grievances; and as the Special High Commissioner is not the man to let the grass grow under his feet, we may reasonably hope that progress has already been made towards "tranquillity and content." It is pleasant to note that many reports refer to the loyalty of the native police and other minor officials. On the other hand, the native Government officials in Cairo embarked upon a three days' strike, to prove to Lord Curzon that they are not in fact out of sympathy with the Nationalist movement. It is suggested that intimidation has had much to do with the bringing about of this strike, which, after all, was probably not nearly so inconvenient to the authorities as the strikers hoped. The Cairo cab-drivers very soon returned to their work, but the native barristers appear still to be enjoying their idleness.

The more closely the matter is observed the more evident does it become that the half-settled Bedouin constituted the most dangerous factor in a disturbing situation. Here and there they remained loyal and rendered useful service, but on the whole they have demonstrated clearly that they require a severe lesson. They will doubtless get it in due time, and meanwhile aeroplanes and armoured cars are proving to them that modern inventions render the desert a less secure place of refuge than, from their point of view, it used to be. The true, Desert Arab appears to have behaved well; but the attitude taken up by the fellaheen provides a puzzle which has tempted many people to look for solutions of it. In some quarters it is suggested that the high prices of food have driven the Fellah into the arms of the agitators; in others, that our soldiers have earned his contempt by their familiarities with him; while a third group of solvers suggest that the conscription of men for the Egyptian Labour Corps was the beginning of the trouble. Numerous other solutions of the mystery have been suggested, but at present it is impossible to say which, if any, of all the suggestions is correct. The very human document describing the outbreak at Beni Suef, which we publish this week, shows that, whatever made him so, the Fellah has been in a very ugly mood indeed.

The Pope, it is announced, has received a letter from Lord Curzon thanking him on behalf of the King for his successful intercession with the Ottoman Government on behalf of British officers who, taken prisoners by the Turks, were by them condemned to death. The officers in question undoubtedly had a narrow escape, and had it not been for the fact that the wife of one of them was in Italy at the time and appealed to the Pope for help as soon as she heard of her husband's peril, there would probably have been another crime for Turkey to answer for. The officers referred to, were in Baghdad when war broke out between Turkey and Great Britain, and were made prisoners by the Turks; but were subsequently set at liberty by Jemal Pasha, who had known one of them in former years. No parole was demanded from them; and eventually they returned to Mesopotamia, and were again captured, this time after going through the siege of Kut. The Turks tried hard to obtain evidence that they had "broken their parole," but not even Turkish ingenuity could do that in face of the facts. The two officers, who were transferred first to Mosul and then to Constantinople, were, however, subjected to exceptionally rigorous treatment. Their captors, acting apparently on German instigation, "examined" them over and over again; and finally, failing to find any just excuse for venting their wrath upon them, trumped up a charge of conspiracy so complicated that even the prisoners failed utterly to understand it. And on this charge, it appears, they were in due course found guilty, sentenced to death, and would have been executed but for the Pope's intervention.

Such, very briefly, is the story. It is bound up with that of other prisoners from Kut and of the British ladies and children who were taken prisoners at Baghdad and thence sent on to Mosul. It is not an entirely depressing story, thanks to the courage displayed by our countrymen and countrywomen; while if the Turkish authorities exhibited a desire to gratify the petty spite of their German allies rather than to treat their prisoners with consideration, many instances of genuine kindness shown them by individual Turks and Arabs are mentioned by various members of the party of captives. In some cases these acts of benevolence involved those who performed them in a certain amount of risk, and at least one official appears to have been disgraced by his Government on account of his friendliness to and care for the unfortunate British ladies and children. It is to be hoped that when the reckoning with Turkey is made these acts will be remembered and adequately rewarded, just as it is to be hoped that the infamous deeds of other Turks in that region will in time be brought home to them—and suitably requited.

As the time approaches for Parliamentary discussion of Indian constitutional reforms the need becomes more apparent for some organised expression of the great mass of middle opinion which undoubtedly exists in this country. At present the Right and the Left are vocal, but the Centre is dumb, and politicians without first-hand knowledge of the subject naturally infer that there is merely a clear-cut issue between the Indo-British Association on the one hand and the British Committee of the Congress on the other. The truth is that a large and important mass of opinion lies between these extremes; many men who know India well, and think that the strong wine of the Congress would be most injurious, think also that the cold water proffered by

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the Association is equally unsuitable in existing circumstances, and the impending discussion would gain greatly in reality and in value if this attitude was prominently brought before the public.

Something may possibly be effected in this direction by the small committee which has now been formed in the House of Commons with Sir J. D. Rees as chairman and Mr. T. J. Bennett as honorary secretary. The members of this group are apparently not committed either to the Chelmsford-Montagu scheme, or to any of the various unofficial alternatives, but stand by the announcement of August, 1917, and are disposed to co-operate in the passage of a Bill on those lines, and that is, we take it, an attitude which commends itself to the bulk of middle opinion. At the same time it must be recognised that the group committee as at present constituted is somewhat lacking in weight, and the attainment of its objects might be considerably facilitated by the organisation of opinion outside as well as inside the House of Commons. We should like to see also a corresponding body in the Lords, where the Right is at present very much in evidence.

The forecast of the report of the Indian Cotton Commission, which appeared in a recent issue of *The Times*, indicates that no great or revolutionary measures are contemplated, and that the recommendations are likely to follow the lines justified by the experience gained during the last decade. A large scientific staff, increased expenditure on irrigation, control of the ginneries to minimise fraudulent and injurious practices, provision of sound seed, and the organisation of the market so as to secure price for quality—all these measures may almost be described as obvious, and most of them are already in practice on the limited scale permitted by skeleton cadres and inadequate Budgets. The appointment of the Commision will, however, be amply justified if its labours result in the provision of more men and more money; those are the essential needs if India is to gather the full harvest of the admirable spade-work which has been done since 1905.

It is noteworthy that Lancashire continues to lay special stress on improvement in the quality of Indian cotton. English spinners have no desire for the coarse product which used to go in such quantities to Germany, and is now taken largely by Japan; they want India to grow fibre equal to the standard grades produced in America, and they want this fibre to come to England raw, to be worked up here, and to be returned largely to India in the form of clothes. India agrees with Lancashire in wanting to produce better cotton, but she does not accept the remainder of the programme; she aspires rather to make her own clothes from her own raw material, to dispense with Lancashire's services as far as possible, and ultimately to regain the position she once claimed, when, according to the traditional account, " everyone from the Cape of Good Hope to China " wore the products of Indian looms. We are not disposed to venture a conjecture as to the prospects of these conflicting ideals, but the conflict itself is of sufficient importance to be borne in mind.

As things stand at present, an increased supply of better cotton is not likely to promote industrial harmony. Competition between Lancashire and India is now effective in regard to only a small range of goods, but with finer raw materials available the range of competition is certain to extend, while the question of protective duties will assuredly be forced to the front in the more representative political bodies which will soon be in existence in India. The International Labour Office is likely, therefore, to have its hands full, and the question whether Indian local conditions permit of the application of the " conventions " arrived at by that body will provide some delicate problems for the contemplated Department of Industries, but such considerations as these cannot be permitted to affect the work immediately in hand—the enabling of the Indian peasant to make the greatest possible profit out of his principal money-bringing crop.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 25.

The Wave of Insurrection.

Since my last letter the agitation which so suddenly swept over Egypt after the arrest of Zaghlul Pasha and his colleagues has developed into a general insurrection. Reports have been received from all parts of the country showing that the same spirit of lawlessness is everywhere animating the people, who have continued to attack and destroy Government property and vent their fury on all Britishers. Serious disturbances have taken place in the northern part of the Delta, in the Behera, in the Fayoum, and in Beni-Suef and Assiut Provinces. At Damanhur, the Mudir, who attempted to remonstrate with the rioters was badly injured by them, and the disturbance had to be quelled by the troops. (I am glad to be able to say that the latest news of Halim Pasha shows that he is on the high road to recovery.) At Rosetta, Damietta, Port Said, Mit Ghamr, Mansura, Zagazig, Zifta, to mention only some of the places, disturbances more or less serious have been recorded during the past week, and in almost every case the assistance of the troops has had to be called in. At Mansura the infuriated mob tore down the escutcheons of the British and French Consulates; Zifta, according to the last reports, was in the hands of the insurgents, who had hoisted the Turkish flag; Mit Ghamr was reported to have declared its independence, but the Government police were guarding the public buildings; whilst at Kom Hamada the authority of the Sultan of Turkey was proclaimed. To add to the troubles in Lower Egypt the Bedouin from the western desert flocked in and invaded the Behera Province, looting and pillaging wherever they went.

Cairo itself has been to all intents and purposes quiet. On Tuesday last it was announced that a demonstration very much larger than that of the previous day was going to take place in spite of the prohibition of the authorities. The latter took very elaborate precautions to ensure that any attempt to disregard the orders should be severely punished. A strong force of troops was posted at the most important points with machine guns, and instructions were given them to stop any attempt to make a demonstration. The organisers, recognising that the authorities meant business, wisely decided to abandon their project. On the same day the Cairo *Arbaggis* struck work, and we had the extraordinary experience of being able to walk the streets without being hailed by a single cab, though in view of the cessation of the trams the absence of horse-vehicles was very inconvenient. The strike was, however, not of long duration, and on Saturday last the *Arbaggis* resumed plying for hire. From inquiry it transpired that they were intimidated into ceasing work, but that



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they plucked up courage to defy the agitators when they found that the strike allowance made to them was barely sufficient to pay for the fodder of their horses or for their own food.

A Feminine Demonstration.

The only other event of the week in the capital worth mentioning, and then only because of its humorous side, was the demonstration attempted by the women of Cairo. They had asked permission to proceed through the streets of Cairo in the same manner as the Azharites had done on Monday, but this had been refused them. Nevertheless, at 10 a.m. about four hundred native women, mostly of the better class, assembled outside the house of Saad Pasha Zaghlul. They were soon "attended" by some British soldiers, who good-humouredly prevented them from moving down the streets in a body, and finally convinced them that they could not possibly carry out their intention. No force was used. The Tommies looked upon it more as a joke than anything else, and their efforts were as much directed towards protecting the ladies from the importunities of the rabble which began to collect as soon as the news of the demonstration got about, as to preventing the good dames from emulating their misguided menfolk. There is reason to believe that this feminine demonstration was intended as camouflage for another student and Azharite manifestation, it being thought that the presence of the women would baulk any efforts at stopping the demonstration. Fortunately the quiet determination and good humour of those entrusted with the task of preventing the demonstration frustrated this attempt at evading the prohibition. Beyond these instances and the fact that several attempts have been made to cut the railway between Embaba and Bulak Dakrur, which are the first stations on the Upper Egypt line almost parallel with the capital, nothing else has taken place in Cairo district, which is quite quiet, but is still patrolled by troops.

In Upper Egypt.

From Upper Egypt, however, the news continues to be very disquieting. Last week I reported the affair at Wasta, where the station was sacked and the train very much damaged, and one Englishman was killed and the rest of the Europeans narrowly escaped with their lives. At Beni-Suef the British colony and the officials appear to have had an exceedingly anxious time, and I refer your readers for further particulars to the extract from a letter received from one of the party, which I send herewith. At Minia the lives of all the English people were threatened, and it was only the decision to concentrate in one house that saved them. In the Fayoum a determined attack was made by the mob and Bedouin, but was fortunately repulsed, with a loss of over four hundred to the attackers. At Assiout things appear to have been comparatively quiet up to the end of the week, when a large body of armed Bedouin and Fellaheen was reported to have appeared at the west end of the barrage, and a severe fight was going on when the last news came to hand. South of Assiout the situation appears to be fairly satisfactory, with the exception of Deyrut, where a violent fight is going on between the people themselves. Practically all the Europeans in Upper Egypt have been evacuated, some to Wadi Halfa and the rest to Cairo by water. It is exceedingly difficult to say whether any have lost their lives, but it is believed and hoped that the only cases are the Englishmen at Wasta and the nine Britons who were murdered in the train from Luxor.

The latter incident seems to have been a very gruesome one. The men in question, who comprised eight members of the British Army and Pope Bey of the Prisons Department, left Luxor by the night train, the only other passenger being an Egyptian official. The train was stopped at Deyrut by a crowd of natives, who stoned the first-class compartments and attacked the passengers with *naboots*. After a while the train was allowed to go on, and another attack was made at Deir Mawas. The men, who, presumably, had no firearms, were all done to death, and their bodies, when the train arrived at Minia, were found in the guard's van, stripped of every stitch of clothing. The Egyptian official had not been touched by the mob beyond being bound. So far it has not been possible to identify the murdered officers and men, and it will only be possible to ascertain who they are by a process of elimination. Stern reparation will, of course, be exacted for this outrage; and it is understood that sufficient information is available to implicate three villagers. In this case the victims were unarmed men, but there have been several cases during the last fortnight where men on duty have been attacked and murdered in Cairo and other parts.

Punitive measures have already been started in various directions, one is glad to say. Certain Bedouin encampments in Western Behera, the inhabitants of which had looted the cultivated area, have been visited by aeroplanes and severely bombed; to others, armed car patrols have given their close attention. Again, in other parts policing troops have been quartered on certain offending villages, the inhabitants of which have been ordered to provide for all their wants. Armed columns have been sent into the districts for the purpose of restoring order, of rounding up and punishing offenders, and of providing the civil authorities with whatever protection may be necessary. These columns will penetrate into the remotest parts of the country, and they should in a very short time quell all the disorders and bring the rioters to their senses.

Need for Drastic Action.

There is no question but that the situation calls for the firmest and most drastic action, and it has been with very great satisfaction that we have learnt this morning of General Allenby's appointment as Special High Commissioner, with full powers to restore law and order and maintain the British protection over Egypt and the Sudan. Whilst condign punishment must be meted out to the rioters and insurgents in the provinces, who have been guilty of acts of violence unprecedented in the annals of Egypt, the responsibility for all this Bolshevist wave must be brought home to the members of the Zaghlulite Committee who encouraged and organised the agitation and arranged for its financing. A severe lesson must also be given the Bedouin who have not had the excuse of political aspirations such as the Egyptians themselves might possibly plead, but who have taken the opportunity of this insurrection to gratify their lust for loot and rapine. Considering that these tribes have always received special consideration at the hands of the Egyptian Government their action merits the severe punishment which they are about to receive.

TRAVEL TROUBLES IN PALESTINE.

The following extracts are from the account of an overland journey from Jerusalem to Beyrout made by one of the workers of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund at the end of January:—

The actual feeding and clothing relief being completed in Jerusalem and other towns in Palestine, the committee decided to move northwards to the Lebanon district, where help is most urgently needed. The conducting of the animal and wagon transport was entrusted to me, and I started on January 22, 1919, on a trip overland to Beyrout, with nine Arabs as drivers. Many of the experienced native travellers and muleteers said it was quite impossible to get through in the winter months owing to the absence of properly made roads; and the muddy marshes, they said, would be quite impassable. But the task had to be done, and with the feeling that the cause was a good one and trusting to Providence to be kind to us, we set off at 9. Some of the animals had never been in harness before and gave a good deal of trouble at the start, the mules kicking and refusing to move, but with perseverance they were induced to take to the collar, and we got over a very rough bit of road, or, rather, mountain side path—for the first few miles of road was up for repairs. At about 3 p.m. we came across a carriage-load of natives on their way to Nablous who had met with a terrible accident. Their carriage, horses, and passengers had tumbled over an embankment about six feet deep—one man had his spine broken, a child was unconscious, and others badly injured. We picked them up in the wagons and took them to the nearest resting place, Khan Lubban, where we left them in charge of the innkeeper and promised to have an ambulance sent for them the next day, which was kindly done by the P.M.O. of Nablous.

This caused us a considerable delay, and the night came upon us while we had nearly five hours' journey ere we reached Nablous. To make matters worse the road was all churned up and we could not tell which was road and which was ploughed fields. Consequently I rode my horse in advance in order to pick out the more solid track, and the wagons followed after me. We had much difficulty in passing through a muddy part where the bridge was broken down. At length we arrived at Nablous at 10.30 p.m., all feeling fairly tired.

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PROGRESS AT ES SALT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 18.

The work of reconstruction undertaken by the British in Palestine is familiar to readers of The Near East, but it may be of interest to them to have a few local items of news extracted from the Arab Press, some of which indicate a movement from within towards progress. Thus, at Es Salt the local authorities, realising the importance of education as a fundamental factor of progress, formed a commission and sent invitations to the notables and representative persons among the inhabitants to a big meeting to discuss the subject. At this gathering speeches were made which so stirred the audience that a sum of £720 was collected there and then.

Save for a few cases of robbery, originating with some Bedouin of the desert, and ably dealt with by the local chief of police, order may be said to be firmly established.

Thanks to the generous assistance of the Red Cross, which sent to Es Salt large quantities of roof and door timber from Damascus, the returned emigrants have practically completed the repairs to their houses. The British authorities have also helped much in relieving distress by the distribution of wheat among these emigrants, General Allenby having ordered several motor lorries to be devoted to the transport of grain from Amman Station to Es Salt. The military have also distributed 250 mules among the emigrants to help them take up anew the cultivation of their fields.

Already a commission has been formed for studying and reporting upon the question of loss and damage sustained by the inhabitants of Es Salt, consequent on the emigration that followed the first British attack and withdrawal.

A sign of the times is that in the general movement towards educational reform the Arab woman is not lost sight of. The Literary Club of Jerusalem arranged for a cinematographic show to be given, at its own expense, for the benefit of Arab ladies. The selection of the films was judiciously made to suit the taste and upbringing of Arab women, and the organising committee of this maiden fête was composed of ladies belonging to the leading families of Jerusalem. Speeches were delivered bearing chiefly on the education of the women of the East.

MACEDONIAN PLEA FOR AUTONOMY.

We have received from the Conseil-Général des Sociétés Macédoniennes en Suisse the copy of a telegram which they have forwarded to the representatives of the Allied Powers at Paris, with the request to publish it.

After referring to the Council's telegram of December 19, 1918, and the memorandum of January 11, 1919, requesting the Peace Conference to apply the principle of self-determination to Macedonia, the telegram goes on to state that the population of Macedonia, having fought more than forty years for deliverance from the foreign yoke, protests energetically against any projected dismemberment of their country. Such dismemberment, it is urged, can only be a repetition of the fatal fault committed by the Treaty of Bucharest of 1913, whereby the Macedonian population was treated like a herd of cattle. The overwhelming majority of the Macedonian people earnestly desires the creation of an autonomous State, placed under the protection of one of the great Allied Powers and with an internal administration similar to that of the Swiss Cantons. Such administration (the telegram adds) would bring with it a durable peace for the Balkans, and it is the only way of assuring the economic and spiritual development of all Macedonians without distinction of faith or creed. The motto of the Interior Revolutionary Committee during the past quarter of a century, "Macedonia for the Macedonians," is not only highly popular among the Macedonian people, but is their only guiding principle. Moreover, the autonomy of Macedonia was formally recognised by Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria in the ultimatum to Turkey in 1912. The message concludes by calling the attention of the Conference particularly to this recognition, and begging that it will not cast into slavery and mourning an entire innocent nation, which has paid heavily for its aspirations for liberty.

Reuter's Rome correspondent, writing on April 6, states that the Pope has received a letter from Lord Curzon thanking him very sincerely in the name of King George for his kind intercession with the Ottoman Government on behalf of Major Cree and other British officers belonging to the Mesopotamian Army, who were taken prisoners by the Turks and condemned to be shot as *francs-tireurs*, but whose sentences were repealed through the kind offices of the Pontiff.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Haj Thami Glaoui has been promoted Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

At Mitrovitza, 45 miles west of Belgrade, a new bridge is being built over the River Save into the new Yugoslav territory.

A Lloyd's telegram from Patras, dated April 4, reports that the British transport "El Kahira" is ashore in Patras Bay; weather fine.

The rates of postage on parcels for Greece have been reduced and are now :—For parcels not over 3 lb., 2s. 4d.; not over 7 lb., 2s. 8d.; not over 11 lb., 3s.

The Greco-Armenian Committee opposes the recent appeal made by Indian Moslems to Mr. Balfour, as Foreign Secretary, for the preservation of the Turkish Empire.

The gallery at the British Museum containing collections of Early Christian Art has been rearranged. The Buddhist section includes the fine pottery statue of a Lahan, or apostle of the Tang Dynasty.

Reuter's Delhi correspondent, in a delayed message, states that Sir Mohammed Ali Jinnah has resigned from the Viceroy's Council as a protest against the passing of the Rowlatt Bills. Rao Bahadur Sarma Garu had previously resigned, but has withdrawn his resignation.

A very interesting song recital was given at the Houldsworth Hall, Manchester, on April 4, by Miss Vivian Edwards, a singer who knows the Near East well. Miss Edwards sang extremely intelligently and convincingly twenty-four songs, including Serbian, American, and Greek songs.

The War Office published on April 7 a list of the names of officers, ladies, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who have been brought to notice for gallant service rendered in connection with the military operations at Aden during the period from August 16, 1917, to January 31, 1918.

In a message delayed in transmission Reuter's Delhi correspondent states that in response to the Viceroy's recent appeal on behalf of the Imperial Indian Relief Fund the Maharaja of Mysore has given one and a-half lakhs of rupees and the Nizam of Hyderabad one and a quarter lakhs of rupees. About twelve lakhs of rupees have already been received from the Indian Princes.

The Postmaster-General announces that postal packets addressed to any part of Turkey-in-Europe and Turkey-in-Asia can now be admitted to registration. It is recommended that correspondence for Constantinople, whether registered or unregistered, should be addressed "Poste Restante, British Army Post Office, Constantinople." Correspondence so addressed must be called for by the addressees.

A Pontifical celebration of the Serbian Orthodox Liturgy took place at St. Augustine's, Queen's Gate, South Kensington, last Monday, in the presence of Bishop Bury, the English Bishop for North and Central Europe. The Mass was conducted by Bishop Zeremsky, Vicar to the Patriarch of Karlowitz, and amongst the other clergy present was the Greek Prelate of Cyprus. Bishop Bury, in a short address, offering welcome on behalf of the whole English Church, said we were living in great days, especially for the Yugoslavs, and the English Church hopefully and confidently gave them good wishes for the future.

The Berne correspondent of *The Times*, describing the extreme difficulty of travelling in Central Europe, states :—The Bulgarian delegates to the International Socialist Conference held at the beginning of February were only able to leave for home on March 29. They are attempting to reach Bulgaria through Italy. Another party of Bulgarians who left Berne three weeks ago tried to travel to Bulgaria through Austria-Hungary, but were overtaken by the revolution at Budapest and detained there. A third party who essayed to reach Bulgaria through Germany were similarly overtaken by the Bavarian revolution and similarly detained at Munich.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has decided to nominate five Indian gentlemen for cadetships at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, to enter in August next, with a view to obtaining permanent commissions in the Army. A qualifying examination will be held in Simla, but candidates in this country will not be required to proceed to India for examination, but will be interviewed by a Selection Board at the India Office. Candidates must be under nineteen years of age on July 1 next and must pass the medical examination prescribed by the War Office for admission to the Royal Military College. Candidates in this country should apply to the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, for the necessary form of application, which must be sent in not later than May 15.

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LENIN'S EASTERN DREAM.

By J. CLIVE ROOME.

The high priest of Bolshevism in Russia is said to be training Indian, Chinese, and Japanese acolytes in his doctrines, to send them out later as evangelists of his creed. Whether these disciples of Lenin will succeed in spreading Bolshevism broadcast in Asia is, however, very much open to question. The greatest obstacle in the way of Bolshevism in Asia lies in the Asiatic temperament itself. Asia has passed through its Bolshevist stage, and realises the defects of Bolshevism more clearly than Europe or America. The overthrow of each despot in Asia has been followed time and again by the establishment of Bolshevist rule in one form or another, only to be uprooted in its turn by the iron discipline of a powerful autocrat. Latterly, in China and Persia, the rule of a masterly oligarchy has been given a trial under the nomenclature of a Republic in place of the autocracy of a despot. In India, the communal system of the Hindus at one time was more Bolshevist in character than Lenin's doctrines, but it crumbled away, leaving the oligarchy of Caste supreme. Bolshevism is no revelation, at least as far as Asia is concerned. It is, therefore, unlikely that Asia will succumb to its doctrines when its preachers begin their propaganda.

Of all the countries in the world, those with a large Moslem population are the least likely to pay heed to Bolshevism, and, as it happens, Moslem States bar the way of approach to India for Russian Bolshevists. Before they proselytise among the Indians they must, if Bolshevism is to be a political force, first convert the Moslems of Samarkand, Bokhara, Teheran, and Constantinople, and the conversion must be complete, not merely a matter of lip service, or a temporary one dictated by the greed of loot. Islam stands as a mighty antagonist of Bolshevism, and yet offers all that even Lenin can offer to its adherents. The mental achievements of the Islamic peoples in the South of Russia may be almost negligible, but their conception of Islamic democracy is profound. There is no freedom that Bolshevism can give them which Islam denies. Moslem paternity is more real in actual practice than the philosophic ideal of the French Revolution: there is more genuine Communism in Islamic countries than even in the books of Communist philosophers. Islam, moreover, is the only religion in the world that expressly places the Sultan on the same level as the beggar in the community, from a legal point of view, without any personal rights over and above those enjoyed by the poorest among his subjects. In a community reared on such traditions, and accepting them without any mental reservation as articles of faith, the prospects of Bolshevism gaining adherents are not very promising.

In Persia, however, Bolshevism may perhaps find a few supporters, not because of its teachings, but because the intellectual Persian is always willing to give any new idea a trial and is, more or less, in a spiritual revolt against Islamic dogmas. Moreover, there is in Persia an element dissatisfied with the existing political conditions, which may, in its despair, clutch at Bolshevism "as a drowning man clutches at a straw." The bulk of the population is, however, solidly against political or religious upheavals, and will not support Bolshevism.

India does not present fruitful soil for the propagation of Bolshevist doctrines. To her these doctrines make no appeal on account of their novelty. One has only to follow the historical course of the social evolution of the Hindus to realise that at one period of their history they accepted Communist ideals as the highest good, only to abandon them as impracticable in the light of experience. They gave Communism as fair a trial as, later on, they allowed to Individualism. Their social organisation has assimilated, what may be called, the workable doctrines of both; so that while the Hindus recognise communal obligations in some directions unintelligible to others, they also allow the individual a freedom which, in some cases, amounts almost to license. Bolshevism has little to offer to the Hindus in India either as a philosophic or as a political system. In fact, politically it is diametrically opposed to the ingrained ideals of the Hindus.

The only response to its teaching Bolshevism is likely to meet in India is from the Untouchables; but even the Untouchables, in spite of the low place accorded them in Hinduism, are Hindus in thought. They are, moreover, negligible politically, not only on account of their numerical inferiority, but also because of their backwardness. They are just beginning to realise how British rule has placed the fruits of life within their reach; and they are not likely to throw them away for the shadow of Bolshevism.

In Japan and China the whole tenour of life for centuries has been in a direction opposite to that of Bolshevism; and Lenin's disciples are not likely to be hailed in these countries as prophets. While disbelieving in the possibility of Bolshevism gaining a firm foothold in India, Persia, China or Japan, one cannot entirely ignore its capacity for serious mischief. It makes its direct appeal to the discontented mind, and bases it on the allurement of materialistic gain; and in the East, as in the West, there is discontent and selfishness. It provides the irresponsible politician with a ready means of mustering the forces of disorder in any country at his command, and for this reason is acceptable to those Indians who now claim Lenin as their *guru*. To crush the movement, even at its birth, the people in India and the other countries in Asia should be taught exactly what Bolshevism means.

THE STORY OF KUT.

Speaking on April 2 at the Fly Fishers' Club, Major-General Sir Charles Townshend said that his force in Mesopotamia advanced 300 miles and fought three battles—the last one a very desperate one, and they had to retreat upon Kut. They retreated over ninety miles, with the Turkish Army on their heels, but his disciplined veterans never faltered. He did not lose a single man, did not leave a wounded man behind, and did not lose a single gun, and in the retreat he turned round and wiped out the whole of the Turkish advance guard of 10,000 men. He described the terrible days of the siege, when his men were dying of starvation at the rate of twenty-five a day, and he could not get reinforcements. Finally he had a wireless from the Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia: "I cannot relieve you; make the best terms you can."

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Jews and Palestine.

The February issue of the *Menorah Journal* is largely composed of discussion on the proposed Jewish State in Palestine. In an article entitled "Jewish Hopes at the Peace Table" Mr. Julian W. Mack thus summarises the aspirations of most thinking Jews :—

Two rights : justice for the Jewish people as a whole through the re-establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jew; justice for the Jew in all of those lands of eastern Europe and the newer countries that are to be recognized at the Peace Congress—justice for the Jew in those lands in which justice has heretofore been denied to him.

But though the writer has high hopes of the fulfilment of the long dream of the Jew, he sees that his suggestions cannot be realised in a day. He says :—

We do not want an independent State for the Jewish people in Palestine *at this time*. And why not? Because at this time the Jews form only one-sixth of the population, and an independent State under such conditions would be both impracticable and undesirable. We are entirely content that the land shall now be placed by the League of Nations under the trusteeship of Great Britain, with the obligation there to lay the foundations of and, by proper land and immigration laws and administration, to promote the development of the Jewish Commonwealth. Only when the Jews shall be in the majority will they be ready for the Jewish Commonwealth.

In another and very interesting article, "Is a Jewish State Desirable?" by Sir Charles Walston, sympathy is expressed for the views and efforts of those who are fighting for the Jewish cause, but support is withheld. The writer says :—

I object to the formation of a Jewish State, because it must needs be theocratic and racial in character. History has proved to me that theocracy, the translation of the supernatural world of religion into the practical life of politics, has been most disastrous and degrading to human society, degrading to religion as well as to politics. Moreover, religion, when taking this outer tangible form in life, must needs develop into sectarianism *à outrance*. On the other hand, a State built up upon the idea of race must engender that form of antagonism within its body which is the enemy of all humanitarian charity, and which is the cause of all the evils in modern anti-Semitism. *A priori* I am opposed to all that keeps human beings apart, to all separatism. The reasons for separate corporateness must appeal to the sense for what is universally reasonable and good, and must be tested by their final conformity with the universal welfare of human beings as such. This I recognise in human communities in the idea of a nation, which means the inhabitants of a State.

Islam and the War.

In the March number of the *British Empire Review* Mr. Roland L. N. Michell, C.M.G., thus begins an article called "The Attitude of Islam" :—

The war has put all Moslem nations, more or less, to the test, and has settled in its course a few questions regarding which some doubts existed. The first related to the effect which Turkey's entry into the struggle would have upon the more powerful and homogeneous communities.

He then discusses the German attempt to bring about a Pan-Islamic movement against the Entente :—

Considerable regret was felt in Britain for the people of Turkey; for it was clear that the "suicidal folly" which betrayed the nation and Islam at Constantinople was the act of the self-styled "Committee of Union and Progress," *i.e.*, the corrupt, pro-German, Enver clique, which controlled the army, and consequently the Sultan and his people, as clearly seen by the best men of the Ottoman Empire. The reply was prompt and decisive. The action of Turkey was universally denounced, and it was realised that there were but two alternatives: either the Germanisation of Turkey or, should the Allies prevail, the ruin and further dismemberment of the Ottoman dominion.

But the writer points out that many Moslem leaders condemned the action of Turkey. After referring to the attitude of other Moslem nations, he continues with this informative paragraph :—

One matter of considerable interest related to the Senussi bodies in North Africa. Some years ago alarmists drew pictures of the vast armed forces and latent power of the Senussi Sheikh, who only awaited the right moment to strike a spark which would kindle all the northern countries into a blaze of fanaticism that would sweep all Europeans out of the continent. The Sheikh was no doubt a "dark horse." But the Senussi were no friends of the Turk. Their aim was to drive the semi-infidel Ottomans out of Africa. "The Turks and the Christians," they said, "are all one; we will destroy them all together." For a time it appeared that Sheikh Ahmed's policy was to maintain friendly relations with Egypt and Great Britain, just as his father had refused to join the Mahdi and his "dervishes." Turco-German intrigue and gold, however, brought about an apparently half-hearted movement, which confirmed the views of those who were sceptical as to the fighting qualities of Senussi warriors, when opposed to modern arms. They learned a lesson from British troops. An agreement was arrived at between Britain and Italy in the summer of 1916. The Allied forces in North Africa suffice to keep the tribes in order. According to the latest accounts the Senussi desire to be on friendly terms with both France and Italy.

He concludes with a discussion on the Khalifate, and says that "there can be little doubt that the question will be settled satisfactorily."

"Servants of India."

In the April number of the *Asiatic Review* there is an interesting article by Mr. G. K. Devadhar on "Mr. Gokhale's Servants of India Society and Its Work." In a laudatory description of this society, he thus sets down the points of the scheme :—(1) To create a deep love of the motherland; (2) to organize the work of political education; (3) to promote goodwill among the different communities; (4) to assist educational movements, especially for women and the backward classes; (5) to promote industrial development; and (6) to elevate the depressed classes.

The British in the Middle East.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* prints some strong words on the necessity of British development of the Middle East. After stating that the British Army and Navy have been the pioneers in material progress in this region, especially in Mesopotamia, it urges us to make certain for ourselves what we have brought into the sphere of possibility.

Our soldiers and sailors have not only won this territory, as well as Syria and Palestine, by their valour and leadership, but they have in a few years laid a solid foundation for their conquests. Never again will our diplomacy in the Middle East be hampered by adverse economic considerations. The aid given by our Allies in these military and administrative triumphs was very small. They are almost entirely due to British, Australian, and Indian Armies, so that the sacrifices incurred by the complete victories, which carried the flag to Baghdad, Jerusalem, and Aleppo, were borne by the British Empire, whose prestige never stood higher in Asia. In these circumstances we have a right to expect that on naval, military, economic, financial, and political grounds our paramount position in Mesopotamia shall be recognised. To allow any foreign Power to reap where we have sown at such cost would be a betrayal of our interests so humiliating as to be incredible. On the Tigris we are, and on the Tigris we remain. But more is required to safeguard our position, for if Mesopotamia is on the flank of India, Palestine is on the flank of Mesopotamia, and that again on the flank of Egypt. From the fact that Colonel Lawrence is returning to civil life it is evident that he is satisfied as to the future of our Arab Allies, in serving whom so well he has served his country. Consequently the safety of Egypt on the north-east is probably secured. But with France in Syria, Greece in Asia Minor, and, perhaps, America in Armenia, we are not likely to go to sleep in Mesopotamia as we did for so long in the last century. In defiance of its own avowed principles the Conference is carving up purely Turkish territories, and we are consenting parties. But if rival Western Powers are to fall heir to Ottoman territories are they as likely to promote peace in Asia Minor as Turkey under proper tutelage? We have earned the right to a preponderating say in the settlement of the Middle East, and it is to be hoped that our delegates to the Peace Conference are making the utmost of our advantage.

Articles to Note.

"The Cultural Aspect of Zionism," by Bertram B. Benas, in the *Zionist Review* (April).

"Serbian Women Under the Yoke," by Mme. Elisabeth Christitch, in the *Queen* (April 5).



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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egypt. April 2.

Mr. HARMSWORTH (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs), in reply to Earl Winterton, said: There has for some time past been considerable delay in the transmission of telegrams from the East, including Egypt, due to the partial breakdown of the Mediterranean cables. In a telegram dated March 28, received yesterday afternoon at the Foreign Office, General Allenby reported that the Delta was practically quiet. Cairo was quiet also. In Upper Egypt the area north of Assiout as far as Mellawi was still somewhat disturbed, but 146 European civilians at Assiout were safe. The Fayoum had been cleared of the bands of Bedouin who had made inroads there. A force despatched from the Sudan had arrived at Luxor on March 26, and reported that all was quiet. A telegram dated April 1 was received at the Foreign Office this morning, in which General Allenby states that twelve columns are operating in Upper and Lower Egypt. No incidents are reported anywhere, except an attack on a construction train near Mazghouna, in Middle Egypt. There were a few casualties on both sides, but now all is quiet. In a further telegram dated yesterday General Allenby reports that the Sudan is unaffected, and that he is in touch with the force from the Sudan, which has arrived in Upper Egypt.

The Queen's in Mesopotamia. April 4.

Mr. EDGAR HORNE asked the Secretary of State for War whether it is the case that the 1/5th Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment has left Busreh for home, having transferred 280 men and nine officers to the 1/5th East Surrey Regiment; whether 190 of these men enlisted in 1914 and 1915 as volunteers; whether they have already spent three hot weathers in Mesopotamia and one in India; and when it is proposed they should return home?

Mr. CHURCHILL: The 1/5th Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment is being reduced to a cadre, but so far orders have not been issued for the cadre to return home. Personnel surplus to cadre establishment will be absorbed into other units affiliated to the same record office, to be either sent for dispersal in the normal manner if eligible for demobilisation or to be retained if not eligible.

Egyptian Situation. April 8.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, in reply to Mr. Albion Richardson, said that General Allenby, Special Commissioner in Egypt, had, in the exercise of his discretionary powers, issued the following proclamation:—

"Now that order has been in a great measure restored, I declare, in agreement with his Highness the Sultan that there are now no restrictions on travel, and that Egyptians who wish to leave the country will be free to do so."

It was understood that the Ministry had in course of formation a deputation of Ministers to visit this country in response to an invitation twice extended to them by his Majesty's Government.

Riots in Delhi.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, replying to Sir J. D. Rees, said the Secretary for India had received the following telegram from the Viceroy of India, dated March 31, regarding the riots in Delhi:—"Some rioting occurred in Delhi on Sunday, March 30. Many shops closed in sympathy with passive resistance movement against the Rowlatt Bills, and some of mob entered railway station with object of compelling sweetmeat sellers to stop business. Station staff failed to eject mob. Police were called for and arrested one man who was forcibly rescued outside station. Mob stoned police, and military had to be sent for. Owing to threatening attitude of mob military were compelled to fire in Queen's Gardens and again somewhat later on in the day near Clock Tower, in Chandni Street. Total casualties as far as can be ascertained, 5 or, possibly, 6 killed, and 16 others wounded and now in hospital. All quiet Monday morning, though large crowds remained in the streets. Most of the shops except those in Chandni Chowk and large bazaars have reopened. Military remain on duty in station. No further details have yet been received at the India Office. The Viceroy reported a few days later that there had been no trouble elsewhere.

Babylonian Antiquities.

Mr. FISHER, Minister of Education, replying to questions by Sir Martin Conway, said: It was decided last autumn to restrict archæological operations in Mesopotamia during the winter of 1918-19 to preliminary measures for the preservation of certain specified sites. This work has been entrusted to a trained architect, attached to the Civil Administration for the purpose, acting under the advice of an archæologist sent out by the British Museum. The Secretary of State is aware that researches were carried out by German archæologists in Mesopotamia before the war. Over 90 cases of antiquities, ready packed for despatch to Europe, were recovered by the British forces at Samarra. These cases, together with certain other items recovered in Baghdad, are now at Busreh awaiting the results of expert examination. The question of their ultimate disposal has not yet been decided. The late General Maude issued a proclamation in May, 1917, declaring antiquities, objects of historical interest, etc., to be the property of the Administration of the occupied territories, and prohibiting all unauthorised removal or destruction.

Topics in Parliament.

ALBANIA.—EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.—DEMOBILISATION: Soldiers at Kantara Camp. (April 1.)

INDIA: Consumption of Tea. Tea Planters (Travelling).—Proposed Legislation.—Army Officers (Home Leave). Retired Officers (Pensions). (April 7.)

ALLENBY and his Crusaders in Palestine.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE PROBLEM OF INDIAN LABOUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I am rejoiced to read your leading article on this subject in your issue of February 21. It is quite time that the attention of the people of Great Britain should be directed to this question.

I have recently had an opportunity of studying it on the spot, and of inquiring into the causes of Indian discontent.

Do people in England realise that India has a population of 325 millions? And that in a territory about half the size of Australia, with its four and a-half millions! Also do they realise that the Indian people, under our beneficent rule, are prohibited from emigrating to any of our colonies, except as indentured labourers? I fancy now that form of emigration has been stopped by the Indian Government, for very good reasons; consequently, the Indian may be said to have no outlet for the expansion of his energies, or for the increase of his wages. At present there are 4,200 Indian labourers in British Columbia, but the Government of that country has only allowed two wives to accompany these 4,200 men. One may imagine the disastrous consequences. Is it any wonder that Indian wages are so low? In Ceylon an Indian coolie receives 8d. a day; about the same wage is paid in the Malay Straits, and about the same in China; while on the American Continent the labourer never earns less than 12s. 6d. a day.

I read very carefully the report on recent Indian sedition; but while it rightly pointed out the criminal character of many methods used nothing was said as to the real cause or cure of the widespread unrest. An opportunity is now open to provide a cure. If white countries won't allow free Indian immigration, the British Empire can at least provide, with the aid of the League of Nations, an outlet for the surplus Indian population—in the Euphrates Valley and in German East Africa. The latter country could hold 100 millions—and it has seven million natives.

If Great Britain does her duty to her own dependency, then we may hope that the allied nations will consider the case of China and Japan, with their teeming populations of over 300 to the square mile. But our own Empire demands our attention, and Indian unrest will cease, not by giving power to a limited class, who would not care much for the interests of the labourer, but by ourselves seeing that the Indian has scope for his legitimate ambition to improve his condition.—I am, etc.,

BERESFORD POTTER,
Archdeacon in Cyprus.

Vicarage, Nicosia, Cyprus, March 15, 1919.

SOUTHERN ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The following telegrams have been sent by the Albanians of America to their delegates in Paris to protest against the claims of M. Venizelos:—

"Boston.—The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Holy Council of the Albanian Orthodox Church of America on March 16 and signed by the Russian Archbishop Alexander, by Albanian native clergy, and by 124 Orthodox Christian delegates, natives of South Albania now residing in United States and Canada. The undersigned clergy and laymen, representing fifty-two Albanian churches and communities of the United States—Boston, Lynn, Peabody, Quincy, Brockton, Taunton, Worcester, Outhbridge, Springfield, Fitchburg, Hudson Malboro, Framingham, Natick, etc. (names follow), and representatives of the Roumanian Church, all of them natives of South Albania, assembled in Convention for the purpose of election of Albanian Orthodox Bishop, and under the Presidency of His Grace the Russian Archbishop Alexander, protest with indignation against absurd allegation of M. Venizelos that Orthodox Albanians of Southern Albania favour union with Greece. We Christian Orthodox Albanians, faithful followers of the Church of Christ, appeal through your Excellency to Peace Conference for the restoration of Albanian independence and unification of all Albanians, Orthodox, Moslems and Catholics, under one flag, the illustrious banner of the Soldier of Christ, George Castriota Skanderbeg, and with ethnical frontiers of Albania including the districts of Tchameria and Kossovo in accordance with the demands submitted by delegates of the Albanian provisional government." Signed Kol Tromara. Signatures of 129 others follow.

Shorter telegrams to the same effect have been received from the fifty-two districts. This shows that where the Orthodox Albanians are at liberty to speak freely there is no doubt as to what they wish, and that that wish is not incorporation with Greece.—I am, etc.,

M. G. DURHAM,
Hon. Sec., Anglo-Albanian Society.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—By the Greek papers published in the island an argument is being used that is not quite reasonable. The statement is that the Moslems need be under no apprehension of illiberal treatment at the hands of a Greek Government. No one supposes they need be, but that is not the point. The Moslems object to coming under Greek control in any shape or form. That is their attitude.

I must ask pardon for obtruding myself again, and I am only induced to do so because those in England who, from residence, have known the island, are silent.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, March 24, 1919.

THE QUESTION OF THE DOBRUJA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of March 7 the writer of your Roumanian Notes touches on "The Question of the Dobruja." He states that owing to a "curious omission from the Armistice terms imposed upon the Bulgarians . . . the Dobruja remained for a time under Bulgarian occupation." As a matter of the United States—Boston, Lynn, Peabody, Quincy, Brockpoint, as it reads: "Immediate evacuation of the occupied territory *in Greece and Serbia.*" The Allies in allowing the Bulgarian administration to continue in Dobruja simply conformed to the agreement between Bulgaria and her allies, according to which Bulgaria's position in the province was unaffected. As soon, however, as the break up of the Central Powers took place, the Allies considered themselves free to restore the Roumanian authorities, as before the war.

Whether it was a "regrettable misunderstanding" that Dobruja was not handed at once to Roumania the Allied troops in occupation can best testify. One fact at any rate was made apparent, and that is that the Bulgarian population, mostly women, children, and old men would not have allowed the return of the Roumanian authorities if it were not for the intervention of the Allied troops, who were moved to tears at the touching scenes.

Dobruja, according to history, traditions, and geography, is Bulgarian. Economically it is more essential to Bulgaria than to Roumania. This was made patent in 1913, when the districts of Varna and Rustchuk had their commerce brought to a standstill.

But the most important reason why Dobruja—the "Third Bulgaria. Economically it is more essential to Bulgaria than the Mother Country is that were Roumania once on the other side of the Danube she would be always gravitating southward, and thus create causes for future conflicts in the Balkans, as has been the case ever since she took possession of that province. Before then the relations between Bulgarians and Roumanians were most neighbourly and friendly. It was the late and far-sighted King Carol who, in 1878, in protesting to the Russian Emperor, wrote that "the friendship of a people is more precious than a piece of territory." With the Bessarabian ports, the Danube internationalised, and free commercial access to Constantza, Roumania's most serious objection is fully met.

Roumanian statesmen of the type of Take Jonescu have always argued that Roumania is not a Balkan State. If that is so, the Danube is the safest, most natural, and traditional southern Roumanian boundary line.

The question settled, the ancient friendship between Roumania and Bulgaria would be renewed, and the two countries reunited within their ethnical and natural confines would be the greatest guarantee for Balkan and European peace.—I am, etc.,

CONST. STEPHANOVE.

Berne, Switzerland, March 25.

BULGARIA AND AUSTRIA.

The *Journal des Debats* recently published the text of two secret treaties between Austria and Bulgaria. In the first treaty (September, 1914) Austria guarantees independence and territorial integrity to Bulgaria, which promises to take action in the event of Austria's being attacked by a State bordering on Bulgaria (meaning, of course, Roumania). In the second (September, 1915) Austria gives to Bulgaria territories in Serbia in Macedonia and in Serbia itself.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

An officer who has recently returned from Egypt tells a most amusing story in connection with a native servant. This servant was very desirous of leave, and taxed his cunning brain to think of reasons for application. Spurning such effete inventions as the death of his grandmother or the birth of a daughter, or a host of impossible business reasons, he hit upon a most ingenious plan. He said he was wanted by the authorities on a charge of murder: could he have a week's leave to satisfy the wishes of the officials? Whether this reputed murderer's application was successful we are not told, but at any rate the probable effectiveness of it is high, and it would, I am certain, have been welcomed by many during the war as a ground for release from the weariness of fighting.

***

Some years ago, when Khartoum was reported to have added a second lawyer to its population, I ventured to hint in as delicate a manner as possible that the fact might not be an unmitigated blessing. To-day it seems to me that in the news of disturbances in Egypt there has been at any rate one pleasing item: the strike of the members of the native Bar at Cairo, and the calm way in which it was received by the authorities. The Commander-in-Chief issued a proclamation which, to put the matter briefly, made it possible for the Courts and the public to get along quite nicely without the lawyers. I only hope the "strike" will last long enough to show the public how much better off they are without the "help" of the legal gentlemen, who in that case are like to find their occupation, like Othello's, gone. If only we could have a similar strike here it would be hailed with delight by ninety-nine per cent. of the population. With the *bacillus brawlicus* and the *bacillus rowdicus* so active, we may do so yet. Meanwhile, we can, in this respect, only envy Cairo.

My references to poultry keeping in Mesopotamia, and my criticisms of the Irakian fowl as an article of diet, have reminded a correspondent of an incident which seems to show that those regions are not favourable to the preservation of strict honesty, though I am free to admit that the evidence on the point is not conclusive. However, judge for yourselves. A party of archæologists were at work on a site in Babylonia, and though they had plentiful stores of tinned (or "canned") foods, they found it difficult to get as much variety as they would have liked in their diet. Mutton they obtained easily, and of excellent quality, from a flock of carefully chosen and carefully fed sheep of their own, and the fowls served up to them were at least young and comparatively plump; for the caterer of the party gave thought to these things, and as a result his companions called him blessed. But, as I have said, it was felt occasionally that a change from mutton and fowl would be welcome. And one evening it came. Returning from work, the hungry scientists and artists were greeted by the savoury smell of cooking goose, and in due time the bird appeared on their table—to their agreeable surprise. "Where did it come from?" they asked. For their palates soon told them that it was no wild bird, but a pleasingly fattened one. The caterer, a man of unimpeachable honesty in his own country, looked pained when they suggested this. "How *could* it be anything but wild?" he asked. "Do you know of anyone who keeps geese near here? Besides, the Arab who sold it to me assured me that he shot it this morning." Then he changed the conversation quickly. Well, to cut a long story short, the party had four more geese in the next fortnight. And as they were picking the bones of the last one, the caterer remarked sadly: "Do you know, it has just occurred to me that these may have been tame geese after all. The Arab told me quite positively that he would never be able to get us any more; and I hear that old Hajji Hussein"—the sheikh of a village some little way off—"is bewailing the robbery of all his geese. . . . He used to have five, poor old fellow!" As I remarked above, the evidence is not absolutely conclusive, but——. And the story is true.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

DR. ELSIE INGLIS AND SERBIA.*

Among the women who have won a lasting fame in this war, no name stands higher than the subject of this memoir. Serbia has had examples of what British women can endure and suffer for the benefit of humanity more than any field in the war, and amid their efforts the splendid work of the Scottish Women's Hospital stands conspicuous. This very intimate biography traces the origin of this leader's force of character through several generations and follows her development through every stage until the war found her a well-forged instrument for a work requiring very special qualities. Born in India, the daughter of an Indian Civil Servant, Elsie Inglis was educated under the care of a peculiarly affectionate, sympathetic, and broad-minded father. Her medical studies were spiced by many a contest with the authorities in Edinburgh and Glasgow over the rights of women students, and it is only in the nature of things that in the acute controversies which just preceded the war over the question of Women's Franchise she was in the forefront of the movement. The outbreak of war brushed this all aside, but the same spirit of prejudice remained heavily entrenched in official circles, so that when Dr. Inglis in September, 1914, offered the services of herself and women colleagues to the War Office, "the historic sentence was uttered, 'My good lady, go home and sit still.'"

"The recognition so stupidly refused by her own country" (which, one may remark, has completely changed its official attitude now) "was joyfully and gratefully given by the French, and later the Serbian A.M.S. and Red Cross."

From this refusal arose the Scottish Women's Hospitals, whose fortunes it is impossible here to follow. They went out one by one to France, to Belgium, to Serbia, to Corsica, and Russia. The history of this splendid movement has yet to be written in full. In the organisation of the movement Dr. Inglis was one of the chief leaders. But she was not content merely to organise and stay at home. The story of the doings of the unit she herself took to Serbia, their great work at Kragujevatz, their capture by the Germans and enforced return home, is recounted here in a series of vividly written letters. Not content to desert the Serbians in their hour of deepest need, she again organised a unit, which she took out via Archangel and Odessa, to assist the Serbian Army with the Russians. The adventure of that unit was thrillingly told in "With the Scottish Nurses in Roumania," by Miss Fitzroy, reviewed here some months ago. Here we get further light on the desperate nature of this adventure. One cannot wonder that it wore Dr. Inglis out completely, so that when at length—in suffering and utter prostration—she again reached our shores November 25, 1917, it was but to "cut her moorings" for ever.

Her name will be an inspiration to many of the rising generation of women doctors, and it is proposed to perpetuate her memory by endowing a hospice in Edinburgh as a training centre for women medicals and a hospital in Serbia, to be run by the Scottish Women's Hospitals, in which Serbian nurses will be trained. This memoir should greatly assist this fund.

E. W. G. M.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Boy with the Guns." By the late Lieut. G. W. Taylor. Edited by his sister, Mrs. Roger Cookson. With an Introduction by Sir James Crichton-Browne. (London: John Lane, the Bodley Head. 5s. net.)

"Greece Before the Conference." By Polybius. (London: Methuen and Co., Limited. 5s. net.)

"My War Experiences in Two Continents." By S. Macnaughtan. Edited by Her Niece, Mrs. Lionel Salmon (Betty Keays-Young). (London: John Murray, 10s. 6d. net.)

"Slavic Europe." By Robert Joseph Kerner, Ph.D. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 15s. net.)

"Syria Reborn: An Appeal to the Friends of Small Nations." (Alexandria: Molco, Petrini, and Co.)

"The Chaos in Europe." By Frederick Moore. (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 6s. net.)

"Pourquoi la Roumanie a fait la Guerre." Par J. Ursu. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4 frs. 50.)

* "Dr. Elsie Inglis." By Lady Frances Balfour. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

ANCIENT EGYPT.

Lecturing before the Egyptian Exploration Fund (on March 28 at Burlington House), on Egypt during the period 1580-1447 B.C., Dr. Aylward M. Blackman said that until the end of the feudal period Egyptian civilisation had been allowed to develop without foreign interference. Then the country fell under the rule of the Hyksos, whose empire extended from the Euphrates to the first cataract of the Nile, and whose capital was at Avaris in the Delta. Of this line was King Apophis, under whom, according to tradition, Joseph became "wazir" of all Egypt and brought Jacob and the tribes of Israel into Goshen. A Semitic ruler would welcome such Bedouin settlers, for the more he could Semitize the Delta the more easily he could maintain his hold on the country round about his capital. A struggle for independence was begun under the Theban kings of the Seventeenth Dynasty, and was continued and brought to a successful conclusion under Ahmose I., founder of the Eighteenth Dynasty; and when Egypt finally emerged victorious she had become a military State, and her civilisation had entered on a period of magnificence previously undreamt of. After expelling the Hyksos from Avaris, the Egyptians pushed on and wrested the whole of Palestine and Syria from them; then they turned their attention to the south and reconquered Lower Nubia. In the course of this expedition a battle was fought in which the Egyptian king (Thutmose I.) killed the Nubian chief with his own hand. The official inscription engraved on the rocks at Tombos, just above the third cataract, described the result of this expedition:—"He hath overthrown the chief of the Nubians; the negro is helpless, defenceless in his grasp. There is not a remnant among the woolly-haired who come to attack him. The barbarians fall by the sword; their stench fills the valleys. The fragments cut off from them are too much for the birds carrying off their prey to another place." Thutmose returned to Egypt with the body of his victim hanging head downwards from the prow of his ship. A little later came Queen Hatshepsut, who spent her reign in architectural works, restoring the temples that had been ruined since the Hyksos' occupation, and in commercial enterprises. One episode of her reign was the sending of an expedition to Punt—now Somaliland. The fleet of five ships sailed down the Nile and along a canal which, running through the Wady Tumilut, connected the Nile with the Red Sea. The Egyptians were received with friendliness, and returned with their ships loaded with "marvels of the country of Punt, all goodly fragrant woods of God's-land, heaps of myrrh-resin, live incense trees, ebony and ivory, gold, cinnamon wood, incense, eye-cosmetic, baboons, monkeys, dogs, skins of the southern panther, and natives with their children." This queen was succeeded by her half-brother, Thutmose III., great both as a soldier and a statesman. During the latter part of the reign of Hatshepsut, northern Syria, backed by the great kingdom of Mittani, across the Euphrates, had practically disclaimed her rule. Thutmose put down the revolt in a series of campaigns carried on during the summers of seventeen years. Like the other Egyptian rulers, he did not treat his prisoners with severity. He took the sons of the conquered Syrian dynasts and had them brought up and educated at his court. Thus they learned to appreciate and understand Egyptian ways, and when the time came for them to succeed their fathers they went to the principalities as loyal subjects of the Pharaoh.

SOME RECENT WILLS.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, sixth Baronet, M.P., who died on February 16, has left £20,000, "so far as can at present be ascertained."

Mr. George Pringle Rose, C.I.E., of Tilthams, Godalming, late of the Public Works Dept., India, for many years managing director of the Hyderabad Deccan Mining Company (Limited), left property valued at £13,485.

Dr. Thomas Buzzard, M.D., F.R.C.P., of Grosvenor Street, W., who was surgeon on the British Medical Staff during the Crimean War, and who died on January 1 last, aged eighty-seven, left a fortune of the value of £194,595.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style)	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. April	1919. March.		1337. Rejeb	5679. Nisan
11	29	Friday	10	11
12	30	Saturday.....	11	12
13	31	Sunday	12	13
14	April. 1	Monday	13	14
15	2	Tuesday	14	15
16	3	Wednesday	15	16
17	4	Thursday	16	17

Lord Barrymore has left for the Continent.

Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Chetwode, Bart., has left for Egypt.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst returned to London from the Continent on Saturday.

A Reuter message states that Sir James Meston is leaving India for England on April 26.

Lady Oranmore and Browne, who has recently undergone an operation, is progressing favourably.

Mr. Justice and Mrs. Marten have arrived in town from Bombay, and are staying at the Langham Hotel.

M. Némanya Voukitchévitch, First Secretary to the Serbian Legation at The Hague, arrived in London on April 3 from Holland.

Colonel A. W. Sheen, having relinquished his appointment as consulting surgeon to War Hospitals, India, has returned to 23, Windsor Place, Cardiff.

Sir Roper Lethbridge, of Exbourne Manor, Devon, Conservative M.P. for North Kensington, 1885-92, left unsettled property of the value fo £6,566.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Saunders, on their return from India, have taken 40, Ovington Square, S.W.3, which will be their address in future. (Telephone, Kensington 2,302.)

Our readers will find in our advertisement pages particulars of the lectures on "Allenby and His Crusaders in Palestine," which will be given in the week before Easter.

Lady Marling, the wife of the British Minister to Copenhagen, left London on April 4 for Denmark. It will be remembered that Sir Charles Marling was recently H.M. Minister in Persia.

The engagement is announced of Harley Cecil Crump, only son of L. C. Crump, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner, Sind, and Sybil, younger daugther of H. T. Gordon, of Parkfield, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

The Queen of Roumania and Mrs. Wilson visited on Saturday the Franco-American workshop at Paris for wounded soldiers established by Mr. William Nelson Cromwell, the American lawyer.

Sir John and Lady Lavery are going to Tunis very soon with the Baroness d'Erlanger, to stay out there with the latter's brother, who is an artist. In the autumn they will be going out again to Tangier.

The marriage took place on March 15 at Jullundur, India, of Major Reginald H. Anderson, 11th Lancers (India), to Ellison Janet, second daughter of the late Robert Jameson Torrie, 1, Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh.

M. Yovanovitch, who has been during the last three years Minister to the Court of St. James, has retired from the Serbian diplomatic service. Mme. Yovanovitch will continue to act as President of the Serbian Red Cross.

The engagement is announced of Captain (Acting Major) Harold Gordon Canny Laird, D.S.O., 101st Grenadiers, Indian Army, second son of Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Laird, R.A., and Gertrude Gwendoline, only daughter of the late Mr. T. J. Taylor Rea, L.D.S., R.C.S., Queens Elms, Belfast, and of Mrs. Rea, Dyffryn, Cheltenham.

The marriage took place on March 27, at the Parish Church, Bowness-on-Windermere, by the Rev. F. B. Greenwood, C.F., brother of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. E. J. Nurse, of Basil P. Greenwood, of Cairo, second son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Greenwood, of Bankfield, Kendal, and Deborah Mucklow, younger daughter of Mrs. Mucklow, of Elton, Storrs, Windermere.

The engagement is announced between Captain Ronald George Seaburne May, the Sherwood Foresters, son of the late Mr. G. S. May, I.C.S., and the late Mrs. May, and Jaquetta May, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Fletcher, Holmwood, Hythe, Kent.

At Brompton Parish Church, Captain L. A. Leapingwell, M.B.E., R.E., second son of Colonel A. H. Leapingwell, I.M.S. (retired), and Mrs. Leapingwell, was married on April 1 to Ellen Augusta, younger daughter of J. Edward Hall, the Grange, Leamington.

The Queen of Roumania, Reuter's Agency learns, will leave Paris on her return home early next week. Princess Ileana, who has been ill at Buckingham Palace, has so far recovered that it is hoped she will be able to leave in a day or two in time to accompany her mother to Bucharest.

It is announced that under the provisions of the rule of the club, which empowers the annual election of "persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts, or for public service," the committee of the Athenæum have elected Sir Percy Cox, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., British Minister at Teheran.

The marriage took place on April 5, at St. Paul's Church, Upper Norwood, S.E., between Edgar Cumbo McWilliam, eldest son of W. C. McWilliam, Esq., of the Egyptian Civil Service, and Ethel Mildred Cole, B.Sc., eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cole, 5, Anerley Park, Anerley, S.E.20.

A marriage has been arranged, to take place early in November, between Reginald Norman Marsh-Smith, Indian Police, son of Capt. and Mrs. Marsh-Smith, of The Hall, St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Thanet, and Kate Winnifred Ellen, only daughter of the Hon. Mr. Pert, I.C.S., and Mrs. Pert.

A marriage took place on March 15, at Bareilly, India, between Walter George Banister, A.M.I.C.E., eldest son of Mr. G. H. Banister, C.B.E., M.I.C.E., and Mrs. Banister, Monks Croft, Barrow-in-Furness, and Elsie May, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David I. Lamb, 6, Playfair Terrace, St. Andrews, Fifeshire.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Henry Percy Chevallier Skingley, eldest son of the late Henry Skingley, of Wakes Colne Hall, Halstead, Essex, and Dorothy Ellen, only daughter of C. Constantinidi, of Sutton, Surrey, and formerly manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Cyprus.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Charles Manners, D.S.O., 104th (Wellesley's) Rifles, younger son of the late Colonel Manners, Royal Scots, and Mrs. Manners, and Maisie, eldest daughter of Mr. John J. Calder, of Ardargie, Forgandenny, Perthshire, and 45, South Street, W.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Captain Robert P. Mahaffy (late Devonshire Regiment), barrister-at-law, second son of the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, G.B.E., and Evelina, third daughter of the late Hon. Conrad Dillon, of 47, Oakley Street, Chelsea. Captain Mahaffy has just returned to England after two years' special service in the Sudan.

The engagement is announced of Wilfred F. H. Watson, Egyptian State Railways, of Ballingarrane, Clonmel, County Tipperary, eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel S. Watson, Royal Artillery, and the Hon. Mrs. Watson, and Evelyn Irene Hamilton, only child of the late Arthur J. H. Wills and Mrs. Macculloch, and niece of Brigadier-General and Mrs. Curteis, of 9, Southwell Gardens, S.W.

As blindness is so prevalent a disease in the East, our readers will naturally regard with sympathy any effort made to succour the blind in our own land. Such an effort is being made on Easter Monday, April 21, when at 2.30 p.m. a concert will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, in aid of St. Dunstan's Hostel. The concert is being organised by Mrs. E. Davidson, of 17, Park Avenue, Willesden Green, N.W.2, and tickets for admission are 12s., 10s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. (tax and tea included).

The marriage was celebrated on March 22, at St. Luke's, Richmond, by the Rev. F. L. Powys Maurice, R.D., vicar of Kimbolton, assisted by the Rev. G. H. Dix, of Major Archibald George White, 126th Baluchistan Infantry, attached 130th K.G.O. Baluchis, son of Col. G. A. White, late Commanding 1st South Lancashire Regiment, to Gertrude Mabel, daughter of the late H. A. Hallett, M.D., of Kimbolton, Hunts, and Mrs. Hallett, The Avenue, Kew Gardens.

The marriage took place on March 31, 1919, at the Church of the Holy Name, Bombay, by the Rev. Father Bennett, between Captain Arthur W. B. Gompertz, Indian Army, eldest son of Richard L. D. Gompertz, Indian Telegraphs Dept. (retired), "Elmwood," Kimbolton Avenue, Bedford, and Enid, third daughter of Rowland H. Coombs, M.D., D.L., J.P., of "Redburn," Rothsay Place, Bedford.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Dr. Koitch, the First Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires.

The dignity of a Pecrage has recently been conferred upon the Right Hon. Sir Robert Chalmers, G.C.B., who from 1913 to 1916 was Governor of Ceylon.

General Hadjitch has been appointed Minister of War and Marine for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, in place of General Rachitch, who has resigned on account of illness.

The King has granted permission to the following to wear the decoration of the Order of the Nile, as mentioned, bestowed upon them by the Sultan of Egypt:—First Class: Major (temp. Major-General) Sir L. O. F. Stack, K.B.E., C.M.G., Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan. Second Class: Capt. F. Burges, Major A. Cameron, Major (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) R. C. R. Owen, C.M.G. Third Class: C. P. Browne, Major H. C. Smith, Capt. C. McKey, K. C. P. Struve. Fourth Class: Major C. A. Barker, W. R. G. Bond, Majors S. M. Castle, A. Craufurd, R. N. Dobson, and D. A. Fairbairn, R. E. F. Fawkes, T. E. Fyers, Capt. (temp. Major) J. L. Garstin, E. G. S. Hall, Major (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) R. S. Hart, D.S.O., Capt. H. F. C. Hobbs, H. H. King, Major P. G. W. Maynard, D.S.O., Major D. Mills, A. C. Parker, Major (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) J. H. Pattison, D.S.O., Major C. W. W. Sandes, Capt. S. M. Saunders, R.A.M.C., A. Smith, Capt. B. H. H. Spence, M.B., M.A.M.C., Major (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) D. H. Thorburn, D.S.O., G. E. Warder, Capt. E. G. Warren. Fifth Class: J. A. Bristow-Jones, S. Evans, J. W. Heyward, W. R. J. Hiscock, F. S. Sillitoe.

The King has granted the following officials of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works authority to wear the Insignia of the Order of the Nile of the classes indicated against their respective names, which decorations have been conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—First Class.—Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Adviser and Under-Secretary for Public Works in Egypt. Second Class.—Mr. A. M. Adamson, Inspector-General of Irrigation, Lower Egypt. Third Class.—Mr. J. O'Sullivan, Inspector, Irrigation Department, Egyptian Ministry of Public Works; Mr. A. B. Buckley, Inspector, Projects Department; Mr. F. P. Watson, Inspector, State Buildings Department. Fourth Class.—Mr. FitzR. H. Darke, Director of Works, State Buildings Department; Mr. H. E. Hurst, Inspector, Physical Service; Mr. A. M. Alcock, Director of Works, Cairo City Service; Mr. F. B. Jacomb, Director of Works, Irrigation Department; Mr. P. H. East, Director of Works, Sudan Irrigation Service; Mr. C. C. Edgar, Chief Inspector, Antiquities Department. Fifth Class.—Mr. P. Robertson, Chief of Office, Sudan Irrigation Service; Mr. W. Hennings and Mr. J. Johnstone, Foremen Mechanics, and Mr. W. P. Hughes, Mechanic, Irrigation Department; Mr D. Luker, Mechanic, Sudan Irrigation Service.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Major E. D. S. Bennett, 60th Punjabis, while on Staff duty at Delhi.

The death is announced on April 5, at 71, York Mansions, S.W., of Knightley Grey Burne, late Burma Commission, aged 71 years.

The death is announced on April 5, at Whimple, Devon, of Lieut.-Colonel Kellow Chesney, late 18th Lancers, Indian Army, second son of the late Sir George Chesney, R.E., aged fifty-seven.

Major-General Charles William Dun, late of the Madras Army, died on April 3 at his residence, at Parkstone, Dorset, in his ninety-fourth year. He was engaged in Sangor and Nerbudda in 1843, and in the Chinese Riots at Singapore in 1854, and retired in 1876.

The death occurred on April 7, at a nursing home, of Alexander R. H. Murray, N.W.P. and Oudh Police, and Captain, Indian Army Reserve, beloved only son of the late General A. H. Murray, late Bengal Artillery, and of Mrs. Murray, Elm Cottage, Camberley.

Mr. Arthur Forbes, C.S.I., who has died at Lymington, Hants, at the age of seventy-five, entered the Indian Civil Service (Bengal) in 1867. He was a member and secretary of the Opium Commission, for which he received the thanks of the Government of India and of the Secretary of State, and was later officiating Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, and Commissioner of Dacca, Patna, and Chota Nagpur. He retired in 1902.

Colonel Thomas Cadell, V.C., C.B., has died at Edinburgh, in his eighty-fourth year. He joined the 2nd European Bengal Fusiliers (now the Royal Munster Fusiliers) in 1854, and served throughout the Indian Mutiny campaign, and was afterwards employed in the operations against the Bheels. He afterwards entered the Political Department, and held various appointments in Central India and Rajputana, and for thirteen years was Governor of the Andaman and the Nicobar Islands. Colonel Cadell won the Victoria Cross during the Mutiny when he was a lieutenant. He rescued a wounded bugler of his own regiment under a most severe fire, and on the same day, accompanied by three men, he rescued, again under a heavy fire, a man of the 75th Regiment, who was severely wounded.

Colonel Albert William Hazel was killed on March 24 whilst on duty in Upper Egypt. Formerly Mr. Hazel was an inspector in the Ministry of the Interior, and for his useful work in that office received the Order of the Medjidieh and the Order of the Nile. During the war he was placed in charge of the recruiting of native labour in Cairo, and in that capacity gained the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Stevens Nash, R.M.L.I., died last Saturday morning. He entered the Royal Marine Light Infantry in 1859, and 1860 to 1864 saw active service. He was in Syria during the Druse and Maronite fighting, and in Athens during the rebellion against King Otho. He served in the Zulu war, and in 1884-5 took part in the defence of Suakin, the capture of Tamer, and the reconnaissance to Handouh, for which he was awarded the Queen's medal and clasp and the Khedive's Star. He retired in 1890.

Major-General Herbert Charles Borrett, C.B., died at his residence at Reading last Friday, at the age of 77. He joined the old 4th Foot in 1858, becoming adjutant eleven years later and colonel in 1885. He served with his regiment throughout the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867-8, and was present at the action of Arrogee and at the capture of Magdala, for which he had the medal.

It is announced that Lieutenant-Colonel Hyla Napier Holden, D.S.O., 5th Cavalry, Indian Army, was killed in action on October 6. Colonel Holden passed into the Army through the Militia, was gazetted to the Oxford and Bucks L.I. in 1892, and exchanged into the 5th Bengal Cavalry in 1894. He was A.D.C. to Lord Curzon from 1899 to 1900. He took part in the Mohmand campaign. Later he was attached to the Jodhpur Lancers, and accompanied them to France. In 1918 his regiment was sent to Egypt, and it was near Aleppo that he was killed. Colonel Holden received the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal, and was appointed an Esquire in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1919.

INDECISION AT PARIS.

It was a cynic who declared that the fog of war was bright sunshine in comparison with the fog of peace, but it does, unfortunately, seem to be the fact that the end of secret diplomacy has intensified the secrecy at some cost to the reality of the diplomacy. A week or two ago, while the world waited impatiently for news of the terms to be imposed on Germany, it was informed that the elder statesmen of the Allies had been discussing the question of cable communications; in another month, when the Balkans show some legitimate desire to learn their destiny, they must be told that the triumphant leaders of the world's democracy are engrossed in the designs of postage stamps. When the Conference began it was announced that territorial boundaries were unimportant in the new world; when it ends—if it ever does end—it may have discovered that a little more attention to realities and a little less devotion to the contemplation of a millennium that has no actuality in the world as we know it to-day might have saved time and trouble in the postponed settlement. Mr. Lloyd George has indeed promised to return by Easter with a treaty of peace in his pocket; but scepticism is rife, not merely as to the date, but as to the scope of the treaty. If it deals, as is expected, merely with Germany, the Allied statesmen will have succeeded in performing in five months what need not have taken more than five weeks; but there will still remain the settlement, perhaps not less important for the future peace and security of the world, of the rest of Europe and of Asia Minor. Regarding these latter matters no details have yet been announced. It is certainly stated that complete agreement exists on all points, but the child has yet to be born who would be deceived by this assurance. The Polish question, which is vital to the future of Europe as a whole, is still open, as the indecision of the Allies over the problem of Danzig—in which the compromise they agreed to was in effect a recognition of the German attitude—and the sudden arrival of M. Paderewski in Paris sufficiently attest. The Adriatic question is still open, and when Italians and Yugoslavs refuse to meet in the same room, openly denounce each other as enemies, and flood inoffensive English homes with a daily increasing deluge of propagandist literature, it can hardly be maintained that agreement, far less cordiality, exists over this problem. The Conference has still to deal with the not less knotty questions of the Balkan States, and here it has apparently made no real progress whatever towards a definite settlement. It has assembled the experts and heard their reports, but here, as in other cases, it appears to find discussion more easy than decision. The facts are there, the deductions are there, but the will to give final form to those deductions is too clearly lacking.

Unfortunately, much the same paralysis appears to have overcome the Conference in its dealings with Bolshevism. After the failure of its invitation to Prinkipo had amused the whole world, the sudden spread of Bolshevism to Hungary very naturally alarmed the Conference, and it despatched General Smuts to Budapest. Now General Smuts has the mind of a soldier and a statesman, and he has done admirable work in the war. But unless he has been given plenary powers—and there is no indication that he has been given anything of the kind—he has been sent merely as an observer; he must observe, and make his report in Paris, where there will once more be delays and divergences of opinion as to the method of dealing with the plague. Meanwhile the proclamation of a Soviet Republic and the spread of Bolshevism are announced from Bavaria. There are numerous other disquieting signs that cannot be ignored. Bolshevism is increasing its hold in South Russia, Roumania is threatened, and the Allied garrisons in Odessa are in danger, yet it is suggested that assistance cannot be sent to either. The plea of impotence is, on the face of it, absurd from the victors in the war; and its absurdity is only made more manifest by the news that the Berlin Government are openly negotiating a treaty of alliance with the Russian Bolshevist Government. It would appear that while the Allies are discussing a League of Nations the enemy are forming one—and of the purpose of this rival League there can be no doubt whatever. It is not to regenerate the world, but to plunder the world. The one certain result of the war is that Germany has sacrificed her sea ambitions, and with it her colonial aims; the occasional demands for the restoration of the German colonies have evoked no response in Germany since the surrender of the German fleet. But that fact has merely led Germany to reverse her policy; instead of expansion westwards, she is now contemplating expansion to the East. It is full of significance that the one matter in which she puts up a firm front to the Allies, and succeeds in deceiving them over, is the Polish question; the contemplated alliance with Russia is intended to rivet the chains on Poland in perpetuity; her intrigues in the Ukraine, the centre of Russian wealth, are evidently done with a purpose; and from the Ukraine the road is open to Roumania and the Black Sea.

It is high time that the statesmen in Paris recognised the trend of events. Two sides can play at making a new world. It cannot be said that our efforts have so far been very successful, for a sudden chill seems to have descended upon the prophets of a League of Nations, and the Conference, which began by ignoring boundaries, now finds its attention, somewhat late in the day, obsessed by questions of boundaries; but meanwhile the Germans appear to be pursuing a definite aim in the reconstruction of their foreign policy, and that aim, when carefully examined, implies nothing less than the attempt to restore their hegemony over the East and the Near East. If the plan is to be thwarted, the Conference must bestir itself and grapple with facts in a more resolute spirit than it has yet shown. It would, for instance, be satisfactory to learn that it had faced the Fiume difficulty squarely, and intended definitely to solve the problem rather than leave it to solve itself. The Syrian question, again, calls for prompt handling, and since the precedent of acting upon second thoughts has been established in the case of General Mangin, it should not be impossible for the Commission of Inquiry to be recalled, if it has actually set out. It is admitted that the Conference was summoned to thresh out thorny problems, but the complaint of the peoples concerned is that after two months of discussion most of the questions are in reality no farther advanced towards solution than they were at the beginning.

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THE TROUBLE AT BENI-SUEF.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 25.

With regard to the trouble at Beni-Suef, referred to in my letter, the following extract from a letter received from one of the British officials who took part in the defence of the town may prove interesting:—

The affair commenced on Wednesday, the 12th. at the Courts, with the announcement that, in accordance with the Cairo Advocates' Order, the Bar had decided to ask for an adjournment of the cases. This the Court agreed to, but when the last case was called the demonstration was so serious that the judges had to take into their room for protection the one advocate who had refused to strike with the rest. A mob of 500 or more howled for this advocate outside the court. Eventually they were calmed down by an official. On Thursday similar demonstrations took place, and that afternoon an Effendi went down to one of the *ezbehs* and roused up the Fellaheen. Two hundred of them came out with *naboots*, but were dispersed by the *Mamur*. Friday there was a slight demonstration of the schoolboys. On Saturday morning there was a great uproar outside the court, and a procession with two banners appeared, headed by young Effendis and students, especially Azharites, who have been very active throughout; behind whom came a solid phalanx of Fellaheen in white, 300 to 500 strong, waving a forest of great *naboots*, and evidently out for blood. The writer watched it for some time from the roof; but they stopped and howled at him, and eventually he retired, it being obviously foolish to provoke them. Meanwhile they had invaded the court, smashed some windows, and ordered the officials to stop work under peril of being beaten. They also asked for the Assize Court Judge, Mr. MacBarnett, and were told that he had left.

The crowd had now gone off in the direction of the Mehkemah El Shariia; and their subsequent history is as follows:—

They crossed the canal and moved past (towards?) the Survey Offices. There they looted, doing great damage to plans and papers. They then moved west towards the Judges' houses. The Assize Judge's house first attracted them. They again asked for him, and not finding him, proceeded to destroy the place. They reduced everything to matchwood, glass doors, window-panes, furniture, destroyed all papers and looted practically everything. They did the same to the Native Judge's house and belongings. He locked himself in his room, but they went upstairs, and he came out and spoke to them. They did him no harm. They then went across to the English Judge's (Mr. Verner's) house, where Mr. and Mrs. de Wasme (his father- and mother-in-law) were, and smashed the ground floor. Seven *Ghaffirs*, who were there, bolted like sheep, but a police sergeant stood his ground and persuaded them not to go upstairs and to let the de Wasmes alone. They then went to the Irrigation Office, and did some damage there, but not much, and returned to the town.

The leaders were certain Effendis in European dress, especially one wearing a white waistcoat, and, it is said, the Fellaheen came from Beni-Haroon. Meanwhile Mr. MacBarnett had gone down into the square and joined Mr. Cobbe (the Interior Inspector), who was with the English officer and the Punjabis who had taken post on the square. (These had been sent for on Thursday, the last day communication with Cairo was open.) They had one Lewis gun. Cobbe was worried to know what had become of the crowd, so Mr. MacBarnett went in search of them and spotted them crossing the railway by the footbridge and on the west road. They also, he thought, must have crossed by the railway crossing. Mr. MacBarnett reported to Mr. Cobbe, and presently they were i nevidence advancing up the main road towards the Mudiria Square. As they refused to retire, a volley was fired over their heads without effect. It was then found that they were advancing by a parallel line threatening to take us in the rear. This advance continuing, they were again fired at, and this time a boy was killed. They continued to hold the end of the street and were very menacing. Presently they advanced again, and this time a native Syrian, or Copt, named —— ——, fired a revolver at them from a window of his house, and shot a Bedouin Omda. This had serious consequences later on. The crowd promptly fired this man's shop, and the troops cleared the street with the Lewis gun, and got the fire engine, which succeeded in checking the fire. Up to this time the total killed by the military was about four, and several wounded. It was now one, and, things seeming quieter, the writer returned to his house, which he found in the state described. He had a scratch meal with the de Wasmes, and after lunch it was decided to evacuate all women and children, and concentrate in the three houses near the military camp. This was done with the help of cars. The writer was out with the soldiers in the afternoon, but about 4 p.m. forty Bedouins came over, armed with guns, to avenge the Omda. They were looking for the man —— who shot him, and not interested in the original quarrel apparently beyond looting shops. They burnt this man's mill and looted a number of shops, but the most serious part of the business was that the English officer was severely wounded and more men hit. As he was the only man who could talk to the Indians, the position was very serious. Mr. Cobbe, therefore, about 6 p.m. asked Mr. MacBarnett to try and open communication with the Fayoum by car, with the idea of obtaining reinforcements. He gave him a letter explaining the situation, and Mr. Graeme (the Survey Inspector) and he started at 6.30 p.m. They reached Fayoum without event at 8.10 p.m.—twenty-nine miles.

The officer in charge was unable to supply them with an English officer, as he was alone, the other officer having been sent to Wasta with fifty men. He, however, offered them a Lewis gun and more men. They commandeered the Irrigation car, and after some difficulty got it going, and returned to Beni-Suef, arriving about midnight. The morning of the 16th a train from the South arrived, bringing eighteen ladies and about thirty officers and men on leave. After some hesitation, it was decided they should stay there. An aeroplane passed overhead about 9.30 a.m. and dropped a note asking them to report to Cairo, but no means were then available.

The writer understood an attempt had been made to get through by the east bank of the river telephonically and a battalion asked for; but this did not seem quite certain. The Wasta Bridge was reported destroyed, the line removed at Beba, and telegraphic communications cut at Maghagha. Looting of the town went on freely on the afternoon of the 16th.

17.3.19.—A party with Messrs. Cobbe and Clowes reconnoitring towards the native judge's house, which was being destroyed, nearly fell into a trap, and were shot at by Bedouin. The fire was returned, and about nine killed. Bedouin in to get —— ——, alleged to have shot their Omda. Greeks have taken refuge in Choremi's factory. Steamers have not arrived, and no news of help from Cairo. Rumours of attack of villages of Beni-Haroun and Tasmant. Our positions are going stronger, but have authorised the colonel to withdraw from town—force too small to divide. —— ——* and two sons have been arrested and lodged in Markaz Prison. This has pleased the crowd, and Mamur says no attack now likely.

18.3.19.—Quiet night. Mamur said he routed out 500 Bedouin and sent them across the river. Some had Mausers. Demonstrations this morning in streets. Telephone again cut, Lahun and Wasta. Fighting at Wasta; thirty natives said to be laid out. Villagers of Tasmant came in deputation this morning, but no conflict. News just in of murder of nine officers on Luxor train at Minia. Bodies stripped and thrown out. Our relief has arrived, and we are sending about ninety-seven men, women, and children off to-night to sail at dawn.

The letter closes with the following P.S.:—"Make people understand it's a case for root and branch action. The country is rotten from top to bottom, and all this has been organised. Have you arrested the rest of the gang who are working it from Zaghlul's house in Cairo? There must be the bitterest lesson."

THE EASTERN LEAGUE.

The Eastern League, composed of English and Indian ladies, has now been demobilised, after four and a half years of service in making garments and providing comforts for Indian troops on active service. No fewer than 35,210 articles of clothing have been sent to Indian soldiers and prisoners of war. At the concluding meeting the Hon. Lady Fremantle, the president, made commemoration presentations to Messrs. Whiteley, who lent a room to the League, to Mrs. P. L. Roy and Mrs. Bhola Nauth, the hon. secretaries, and to Mr. A. Chuckerbutty, the hon. treasurer. Certificates were presented to other workers. Arrangements have been made for the foundation of two scholarships for the sons of sepoys in India, in memory of Lady Hayes Sadler and Lady (Seymour) King, who were respectively president and hon. treasurer until they died in the autumn of last year. £100 has been subscribed for the purpose and another £100 is required. The address of Mr. Chuckerbutty is 34, Hurlingham Court, Ranelagh Gardens, Putney, S.W.

The Serbian Press Bureau at Belgrade issues the following:—"According to advices from Salonika, the Albanian leader Alit Leche and his followers, with some of Essad Pasha's troops, encountered a body of Italian troops at Bultchitza and threw them back to the other side of the Tchafa Buli Pass, which was occupied by the Albanians. One Italian was killed and two wounded. The Albanians took twelve prisoners and two machine-guns."

* The man who is alleged to have shot the Omda.—Ed.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The Egyptian Budget for 1918-19, which provided for a revenue of £E22,900,000, and an expenditure of £E23,250,000, established a record, but these figures have been far surpassed in this year's Budget, which shows the revenue at £E27,300,000, and the expenditure at £E28,850,000, a deficit being left of £E1,550,000, as against one of £E350,000. Items of special interest in the Budget are the provision of £E1,000,000 for the settlement of claims in connection with the recent disorders, and the provision of a credit of £E6,967,651 for a Ministry of Communications, which will cover railways, telegraphs, telephones, Post Office, ports and lights. The items from which increased revenue is anticipated are Customs and Excise, £E1,697,000; railways, £E750,000; interest on funds, £E928,000; and judicial fees, £E179,000, while on the expenditure side the main increases expected are for survey, £E139,889; public health, £E147,421; irrigation, £E849,574; State buildings, £E272,957; railways, £E799,161; ports and lights. £E419,774; and war gratuities, £E941,000.

***

In normal conditions, leaving out of account the sum allocated to meeting damage during the disturbances, it is extremely probable that once again it would have been proved that the Estimates were framed on much too cautious lines. Thus for the first nine months of the past financial year the revenue amounted to £E20,931,843 and the expenditure to £E17,270,955, giving a surplus of £E3,660,888. What is likely to happen in the current year cannot now be foreseen. It is, however, known that considerable damage has been done during the disturbances; but it is believed that it may be a matter of months before its exact extent has been estimated; in the same way, its incidence on the country's prosperity must for the moment be a matter of conjecture. I see that correspondents have not hesitated to state that Egypt's prosperity has been shattered. That is certainly an extreme view, but at the same time there is no getting away from the fact that what has happened is bound to have a very marked effect on conditions in the immediate future.

***

I learn that there is a very good opening in Mesopotamia for waterworks. In Baghdad the waterworks have been restored and extended with very beneficial results, and outside that city waterworks will be required in at least half a dozen towns, notably in Mosul, Kerbella, Nejef, Busreh, Mohammerah, and Koweit. Their construction offers an excellent opening to British contractors, and I trust that some of them will not fail to take advantage of it.

***

I hear that economic conditions on the east coast of the Adriatic are deplorable just now, unemployment being general and commerce non-existent. There is also the difficulty that at Fiume and elsewhere communications inland have broken down. What are required there are settled conditions, which will permit the renewed growth of industry and commerce.

Commenting on the economic situation in India, *The Times* Bombay correspondent states that although the failure of the autumn crops last year was perhaps the most widespread ever known, the results cannot be compared in intensity with the similar failure which caused the famine of 1899-1900. The situation, he points out, has been greatly relieved by a good north-east monsoon in Southern India, and by frequent rain since January throughout Northern and Central India, and the outturn per acre of the winter crops is generally well up to normal and, in parts, above. "Much distress is undoubtedly inevitable in Western, Central, and Southern India," the correspondent adds, "but, provided the next monsoon is normal, neither the people nor cattle will suffer to anything like the same extent as in 1900. The difference between the present conditions and those of 1900 is best illustrated by the following figures. In the middle of the current month of March the total number of persons receiving State relief on works or gratuitously was only 208,000. On March 17, 1900, the number was nearly 5,000,000. Improvement in the general prosperity and the higher wages obtainable account for the smallness of the distress compared with 1900. Other signs show increased resisting power of the population. Ordinarily such a monsoon failure would have brought rupees flowing into the Treasuries and causing the Government serious anxieties to meet sterling remittances. Despite the prodigious coining in recent years, the absorption of rupees continues. Savings banks deposits show great and continuing increases, aggregating in February three and a-half times the normal."

***

At the series of meetings of the United Egyptian Lands, resolutions were carried unanimously approving of the scheme of reconstruction. Under the scheme the assets of the company will be taken over by a new concern, which will have a nominal capital of £350,000 in 5s. shares, and the Mortgage Company of Egypt is to be granted a first mortgage on the properties in Egypt of the present company, which will be repayable in thirty annual instalments. The refusal of the Treasury's consent placed the realisation of the scheme in danger, but a further application after the armistice was entertained, and the Mortgage Company, which had throughout acted in a most generous spirit, readily arranged a fresh agreement with the company.

***

That remarkable profits were made by jute concerns last year may be seen from a comparison of the results of the Titaghur Jute, the Victoria Jute, and the Samnuggur Jute companies. The profits of the Titaghur Jute Company amounted to £969,200, as against £353,800, those of the Victoria Jute Company to £594,700, as against £232,400, and those of the Samnuggur Jute Company to £1,021,100, as against £353,100. Most of these profits went to the Government in the shape of excess profits, but all three concerns were able to make a considerably higher declaration. Thus the dividend of the Titaghur Jute Company is increased from 40 per cent. free of tax to 70 per cent. less tax, that of the Victoria Jute Company is increased from 35 per cent. free of tax to 60 per cent. less tax, and that of the Samnuggur Jute Company is raised from 35 per cent. free of tax to 50 per cent. less tax. Now that the war is over the profits of jute companies will be on a much smaller scale; certainly they are not likely to approach the level reached in the last year of the war.

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My readers will be interested to learn that two of the small tractors which did such useful service in hauling heavy weights behind the front have arrived in Karachi.

***

At the general meeting of the National Bank of India, the chairman made an interesting reference to negotiations last year with a London bank. They were approached, he said, to know if they would be open to consider an arrangement with a leading London bank on the basis of the purchase of their shares at a price to be agreed upon. The bank was to retain its identity under the same board of directors and the same management, but two of the purchasing bank's directors were to have seats on the National Bank of India board and two of the latter's directors were to join the board of the former. Protracted negotiations resulted in an offer being made which the directors considered they would be justified in submitting to the shareholders, but the Treasury veto put an end to the scheme. The chairman referred to the feeling of satisfaction among many of the bank's best customers that nothing had come of the proposals. "We were also not without indication," he added, "that many of our largest shareholders also shared that feeling and were not displeased to know that the National Bank of India was to continue on the old lines."

***

The Alexandria Municipality has arranged with the banks for the issue of a new loan of £E500,000. The loan, which is to bear interest at 5 per cent., will be issued at a small discount.

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PORT WORKS AT CEUTA.

History of the Scheme.

Considerable interest is being shown locally, says the Acting British Vice-Consul at Tetuan in a recent report, in the development of the harbour works at Ceuta. The question has grown in importance as the result of the construction of the Tetuan Railway, and the competition which is anticipated from other Moroccan ports—particularly in the French zone. A writer in the *Norte de Africa* recently reviewed the importance, both political and commercial, of Ceuta, and gave the following details of the history of the port improvement scheme. The Committee of the Port Works was founded in 1904, and the project approved in 1906. Work actually commenced in 1910. The works are being executed on behalf of the Spanish Government. The management is in the hands of the committee, presided over by the Military Governor of the fortress. The works have been handed over to an association of contractors. The estimated cost is 21,000,000 pesetas, of which 11,500,000 were obtained by the issue of shares and 8,000,000 are to be borrowed—permission having been conceded by Parliament in December, 1916. There is also to be reckoned a small subvention from the Government, the exact amount of which is not known.

The intention is to construct a port with a surface of 107 hectares, divided into an inner and an outer port. The inner port contains 50 hectares, the outer 57 hectares. Half of the docks will have a depth of 10-20 metres the other half four to ten. It is intended to construct, as soon as possible, big depot stores. These depots will have a ground floor and two stories above, and will be covered by a large terrace. They will be 80 metres long by 16 metres. Goods will be unloaded by the port cranes direct into each storey and on to the terraces. The latter will also serve for drying damaged goods, as is at present done at Marseilles. Work began in September, 1910, and should be over on December 26, 1920. It is considered, however, that it will not finish on that date, but that the depots at any rate will be completed.

Equipment.

The quarries for the stone used are at Benzu, 7½ kilometres from the port. They are connected with the port by a railway of one metre gauge and a total extent of over 14 kilometres. The rolling stock consists of six locomotives and 113 wagons. The plant for extracting stone consists of a compressed air perforator, six electric and three steam cranes of an average power of 100 tons. The employees number about 400. The electrical works belong to the port works. They are situated about four kilometres from Ceuta on the Benzu road. They furnish the motive power and lighting to the stone quarries, to the repair shops and port works. The force is 800 h.p., and they transmit a motive force at 4,400 volts. The machinery is composed of two Diesel engines, "a quatre temps" of 200 h.p. each, and a concentrated steam motor, Bellis-Morcom, of a surface condensation of 450 h.p ("condensacion de superficie de 450 h.p."). The staff consists of six persons.

For the discharging of the wagons two "titans," a sort of large horizontal crane, of English manufacture, are employed. One of these "titans" can unload twenty wagons, carrying ten tons, per hour. The hands employed on each "titan" are one mechanic and two men. Blocks of "hormigon" are used (a mixture of sand, lime, and cement, or "carbonilla," the proportions being, it is understood, three parts sand to one of lime and one of cement or "carbonilla"), The port works have a complete installation for making blocks of this material, but since the commencement of the war the manufacture has been stopped owing to the high prices of lime, cement, etc. At the commencement of the war the port works were obliged to transform their repair shops, as it was found to be impossible to get the spare parts necessary for the numerous pieces of machinery employed. These repair shops include at present:—(1) A foundry for casting new pieces; (2) a carpenter's shop for making the necessary models; (3) a complete modern outfit for effecting repairs and for finishing off the casts made in the foundry. In these shops a Diesel engine was cast and made recently for a 900-ton sailing vessel built at Ceuta. All the bollards, which weigh 1,200 kilos, were cast at the foundry. Stones transported from Benzu quarries to scene of work from September, 1910, to end of December, 1918, amounted to 2,847,000 tons. Total expenses from September, 1910, to December, 1918, have been 14,000,000 pesetas, of which 9,500,000 were spent before the war. While awaiting the construction of the goods depots, merchandise is deposited provisionally on the quay, and is preserved from damp by being placed on wooden chassis and from rain by tarpaulins.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The Atlantic Transport Company, the Cunard Steamship Company, Messrs. Furness, Withy, and Co., and Frederick Leyland and Co., Ltd., announce that the additional 5 per cent. charged on all freight and charges made payable abroad in the United States by all steamers sailing on and after February 1, 1916, will no longer be collected.

Swedish Morocco Line.

The first steamer of the Swedish Morocco Line of Messrs. Sandström Stranne and Co., Ltd., leaves Gothenburg this month for Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, and Saffi. Swedish exporters have lost no time in taking advantage of this service, and it is reported that already applications have been received for more than half the space in the second steamer.

The Transatlantica Italiana line of Genoa has just decided to increase its capital from 30 million lire (£1,200,000) to 100 million lire (£4,000,000).

The R.M.S.P.'s War Work.

Many and varied tasks were carried out during the war by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamers. Some fourteen of its vessels were employed as troopships, while five steamers saw active service in what has been described as the most "glorious failure" in the annals of the Empire's history—the Dardanelles—two of them, the "Aragon" and the "Arcadian," being employed as naval and military headquarters. Unhappily these vessels were both sunk later with heavy loss of life while in troopship service in the Mediterranean. During the critical period of the spring of 1918, the company's vessels rendered great assistance in bringing over the American troops. Eight vessels were equipped as hospital ships, and of them the "Asturias" was torpedoed by a German submarine, 45 lives being lost.

Six steamers went out as armed merchant cruisers, and of them mention must be made of the "Arlanza," which was mined in the White Sea, and was blocked in the ice there for many months before she could be salved and brought home, and of the "Alcantara," which, in a deathless combat, sank the German raider "Greif." Of modest armament, and taken by surprise, the "Alcantara" fought her more heavily armed opponent until both vessels went down. Four steamers were sunk by German raiders early in the war, two of them by the notorious "Moewe," while five were torpedoed and sunk by German submarines. Many fights took place between the company's vessels and German submarines. The "Parana" and the "Carmarthenshire," among others, fought particularly brilliant engagements, in each case discomfiting the pursuing U-boats. The "Parana's" action lasted one hour and ten minutes, while in the case of the "Carmarthenshire" the submarine kept so far out of range that the gun's crew removed the stop from the elevating arc of their gun, thus enabling them to increase their range and score a hit. It is stated that it is practically certain that two of the company's mail steamers each succeeded in sending a German submarine to its doom.

Of the staff of the company, 3,098 joined the forces, and of this number 183 made the supreme sacrifice. Honours won by members of the staff include two O.B.E.'s, six D.S.O.'s, nine M.C.'s (one with bar), eight D.S.C.'s, one D.F.C., and five D.C.M.'s while there were 23 mentions in despatches.

ITALY AND THE NEAR EAST.

The Italian Minister of Transport has arranged a weekly service of ships from Taranto by Gallipoli, Corfu, Patras, Piræus, Rhodes and return, for the account of the State, through the Puglia Steamship Company, for passengers and freight.

The imports of matches into Algeria before the war rose to 335 metric tons valued at £8,400. During the first ten months of 1918 there were no imports of this commodity, and Algeria instead exported 283 tons of matches, valued at £51,066.

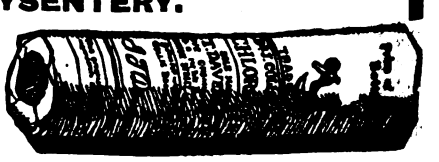
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THE BONDHOLDERS' REPORT

Turkish Finances.

A feature of special interest in the report of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, which has just been issued, is the fresh light that is thrown on Turkey's financial position. We give below some extracts from the report.

Greece.

In 1917 the gross receipts from the revenues directly assigned to the bondholders under the arrangement of 1898 were 47,785,091 drachmæ, against 60,056,960 drachmæ in 1916, and the receipts from which the plus values are derived were 33,523,091 drachmæ as compared with 34,229,960 drachmæ. The total receipts of the International Financial Commission under all heads were 66,342,115 drachmæ in 1917, against 86,183,924 drachmæ in the previous year. The net amount available in 1917 for increase of interest and amortisation in 1918, including balance from the previous year, was 8,077,568 francs, against 8,414,735 francs in 1916, and out of this sum, as anticipated in the Council's last report, the distribution in 1918 by way of increased interest was 22 per cent. of the original interests to the first and 24 per cent. to the second and third groups, and, by way of increased sinking fund, 14 per cent. to the first and 12 per cent. to the second and third groups. In 1918 the receipts from which the plus values are derived amounted to 36.264,900 drachmæ, as compared with 33,523,091 drachmæ in 1917, and the distribution in 1919, by way of increased interest will be 26 per cent. of the original interest to each of the three groups, and, by way of increased sinking fund 14 per cent. of the original interest to Groups I. and III., and 16 per cent to Group II.

Turkey.

The Council are glad to report that in November last Sir Adam Block, the representative of the English and Dutch bondholders, was able to return to Constantinople and resume his duties as a member of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt. The German and Austrian delegates left Constantinople at the end of last year. The Debt Council's report for the financial year 1915-16 was received in January, 1919, together with a draft of the report for 1916-17. From these documents it appears that the receipts of the Debt Administration in 1915-16 on account of the Unified Debt and the Lots Turcs were insufficient by £T138.692 to provide for the Debt Service. This deficiency was made good from the reserve fund, but repaid to it during the following year. As regards 1916 17, if the figures given in the draft report are substantially correct, there was a considerable improvement, and a surplus of nearly £T600 000 was anticipated. In the case of 1917-18 the accounts are not yet closed, but it was expected that owing to the higher prices of commodities and a larger yield from the stamp and tobacco revenues, there would be a surplus of approximately £T2,000,000. For 1918-19 a surplus of the same amount was anticipated.

According to information furnished to the Council it appears that during the war interest on the Unified Debt had been paid to subjects of the Central Powers, but the amount so paid, viz., £T380,514 (representing less than 6 per cent. of the total interest payable in the eight half-years from March, 1915, to September, 1918, inclusive), showed the smallness of the holding of Unified Debt in Germany and Austria. The amount during this same period remaining to be paid in Paris and London was £T5,500,885. During the war sinking fund operations had been practically suspended owing to the high quotation of Unified Bonds and Lots Turcs in Constantinople, due to the depreciation in the currency and the interruption of relations with France and England. Nearly all the funds collected by the debt council during the three years 1915-16, 1916-17, and 1917-18 on account of the Unified Debt and other loans whose revenues are administered by the Council, had been remitted to Germany and Austria. The total balances to the credit of the Debt Council in various banks in November, 1918, were stated to amount to about £T13.600,000 of which nearly £T6,000.000 had been invested in German Treasury Bills issued as security for the Turkish paper currency. The amount of paper money in circulation in Turkey was about £T160,000.000 and at the end of 1918 the Turkish gold pound was equivalent to between 450 and 500 piastres of paper money. From the foregoing it appears that while there has been collected by the Debt Council during the war sufficient funds to pay the holders of the Unified Debt, the position of exchange has rendered impossible any immediate distribution to them. The pre-war debt of Turkey was reckoned at about £T165.000.000. At the end of 1918 the total liabilities of the Government (exclusive of the Egyptian Tribute Loans) amounted, so far as can be estimated, to about £T530,000.000.

Tables included in the report show an estimate of the general debt of Turkey at August 31, 1918, and of the amount outstanding, the gross and net receipts from the Ceded Revenues for 1915-16, 1916-17, and the provisional total for 1917-18, and the balances to the credit of the Ottoman Public Debt on November 25, 1918. The general debt is estimated at £T311,034,831 and the amount outstanding at £T305,173,836, including Turkish paper money in circulation November 30, 1918, of the value of £T154.581.400, and a floating debt of £T116.385.463, comprised of old floating debt £T5,000.000, military requisitions (law July 14, 1914) £T25.000.000, advance from Germany in gold £T8.689,094, advance from Germany in gold for first paper money issue £T4.409,415, advance from Germany in silver £T2,321,273, advance from Germany in Turkish pounds £T16,560 774, advance from Germany in marks £T22,237,637, advance from Austria-Hungary in gold £T57,546, advance from Austria-Hungary in gold for first paper money issue £2,109,724, and military material £T30,000,000. The item for military requisitions, it is pointed out, does not include indemnities due to foreign companies, railways, ports, mines, foreign subjects, private individuals, etc., which it is estimated may reach £T55,000,000.

The total net receipts of the ceded revenues are estimated for 1917-18 at £T4,050,806 as against £T2,755,446 for 1916-17 (which period owing to the introduction of the Gregorian calendar contained only 352 instead of 365 days), and £T2,018,683 for 1915-16. Details for 1917-18 are not available. Finally the table of bank balances to the credit of the Ottoman Public Debt on the date mentioned shows :—At current account in Constantinople £T1,365,236, in Berlin £T400,131, in Vienna £T122,812, in Paris, London, Rome, and Milan £T196,123—£T2,084,302; deposits at one month's notice: in Berlin £2,098,345; deposits withdrawable at fixed dates between January 2 and March 18, 1919: in Constantinople £T1,741,326, in Vienna £T568,425—£T2,309,751; deposits withdrawable after peace: in Constantinople (three months after peace) £T200,000; in Berlin (six months after peace) £T1,150,000—£T1,350,000, making a total of £T7,842.398; and lastly deposits of German Treasury Bonds maturing between August, 1918, and May, 1919—in Berlin £T5,752,500.

INDUSTRIES IN MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, March 19.

Interest in Malta is now centred on the annual question of the establishment of local industries; just now it is the cultivation and production of tobacco which is attracting special attention. Whether the suggestion matures or not will remain to be seen. The idea is not a new one for *N. rustica* was once extensively cultivated in the island, and furnished the tobacco from which was made the famous snuff (tabac ta Sant Antrim), large quantities of which were imported by France and Italy; whilst Havana and Virginia were cultivated some years ago with encouraging results. At the present time the "weed" is grown in a small way in both Malta and Gozo, and on a rather important scale at Krendi. The Agricultural Department points out that the soil of the island is particularly suitable for the chief varieties of tobacco. But apathy is a decided characteristic of the Maltese, and it is to be feared that nothing will come of the suggestion, excellent though it is, and badly as local industries are required.

An acquisition of oil-bearing land has been made by the New Crosby Oilfields, Limited, at Messila, in Algeria, and development work will commence at once.

Mr. Blunt, manager of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank at Alexandria, has resigned, and Mr. C. W. Green, sub-manager, has been appointed to succeed him.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Accurate Information Required.

In view of the systematic efforts which Continental and American engineering firms are making to secure the largest possible share of the engineering trade in the Near East, the suggestion for more accurate information regarding the real conditions and trade prospects in those markets is not inopportune. Inaccuracies on such points are not only misleading but often disheartening to practical manufacturers and merchants who are attempting to enter a new market. Accurate information as to the conditions in the Near East; the immediate prospects of trade there, the definite openings for the disposal of machinery, or engineering or mining enterprises, is most essential now for the promotion of British trade in those markets. This information will encourage the activities of British manufacturers and contractors who contemplate business in those regions; whilst conflicting information, based mostly on pre-war conditions, or gathered from irresponsible sources, not only fail to convince the well informed British manufacturer, but tend to discourage even preliminary attempts to work in such, apparently, "undeveloped" markets! In the meantime the better informed Continental and American manufacturers, who were almost at the heels of the conquering army, are capturing the German trade in the Near East and are obtaining certain large contracts, which might have been reserved for British firms. With more adequate and reliable information at hand, British manufacturers should be able to hold their own against any competition in the Near Eastern markets as they do in others. But the information must be furnished in time, or else in the circumstances it may be of little or no use.

Salonika's Industries.

In a recent report on the industrial establishments in Greece, it was stated with reference to the mechanical industries in the province of Salonika that the number of these was "unimpressive," and probably for that reason no figures were given. Yet Salonika itself is considered an industrial centre in the Near East, and is characterised as such in the British Consular reports. In the town of Salonika there are eight soap factories, one flour mill, two iron foundries, two ice factories, two breweries, three cotton-gin factories, one tobacco factory, electric works, gas works, one tannery, one macaroni factory, three wool-spinning factories, two brick-making factories, two slab and tile factories, and various other workshops. Then there is the town of Vodena, with about 13,000 inhabitants, which possesses two cotton-spinning mills, one tannery, one cement factory, and several workshops for silk, red cayenne, etc. The splendid waterfalls of Vodena produce the motive power for these factories; and there are already several schemes and proposals for utilising these falls by modern methods, with a view to producing greater power, thus enabling the establishment of more factories and a large electric station. Then Drama, with over 12,000 inhabitants, has two rice-mills, eight sesame-oil mills, two tanneries, and two sawing mills. Niaussa, with 11,000 inhabitants, has three cotton-spinning mills and one worsted goods factory. Verria, which is near the river Bistritza, and has 14,000 inhabitants, possesses two cotton-spinning mills, five sawing mills, twenty-six flour mills, two rice mills, three weaving factories, eleven wine and cognac factories, nine sesame-oil factories, and other small-power industries. Kavalla, with 24,000 inhabitants, the centre for the export of tobacco, has eight liqueur factories, one macaroni factory, five soap-making factories, one ice-making factory, and other smaller-power industries. Considering that the province of Salonika has not had yet the opportunity of developing its industries in accordance with the Greek Government's plans, it is not correct to characterise the above factories as "unimpressive" in number.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

After many months of depression, there are now signs of an improved state of affairs in the Lancashire cotton industry. During the past week demand has been on a distinctly larger scale, and business of an encouraging character has been done. Some sections have not yet participated in the bigger turnover, but, owing to freer operations and the hardening tendency in American cotton, yarn and cloth quotations have gone against buyers. A good deal of interest has been taken in the official announcement relating to Egyptian cotton. It is said that the scale of prices for the various types will not be altered during the current season, ending on July 31 next. Users of Egyptian cotton are very harassed by the uncertain outlook relating to prices. Quotations in Egyptian yarns have been firmer than for some time back, with rather more inquiry. Very little has been done in piece goods for Egypt. Some reports from the other side are a little better, but it is feared that the disturbances have not yet come to an end, and in the circumstances trade on a free scale cannot be expected. A fair amount of business, however, has been about for the outlets on the Levant. A substantial turnover has transpired in light fabrics such as dhooties and jaconets for India, and we seem to be near the point when increased activity will take place in grey shirtings for Calcutta. A healthy demand has again come through for China, and several manufacturers have been enabled to extend their engagements, especially producers of fancies. A little more inquiry has been about for South America. Manufacturers are slow to start more machinery, but here and there a few more looms are now running than a week or two back. Extensive buying has occurred in some American yarns at hardening rates. Spinners believe that they have turned the corner towards better times. Inquiry on broader lines has been met with in yarns suitable for India and the Near East.

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY.

The directors of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin announce that a telegram has been received from Smyrna since the half-yearly meeting of March 28, which states that the railway was taken over from the Turkish Government on February 1, and that it is now being operated under a British officer commissioned by headquarters, Constantinople. The whole line is open for traffic, although locomotives, etc., are in bad condition. There is a considerable amount of goods awaiting transport and the return of normal conditions.

SERBIAN MINES AND FORESTS.

H.M. Minister at Belgrade states that the new Serbian Minister of Mines and Forestry is taking steps to place under the central control of the Ministry at Belgrade the various administrative departments of a kindred nature which have, up to now, been working at Zagreb, Sarajevo, Ljublyana, Splot, and Novisad. Until the new organisation is completed the administration of mines and forests is to be carried out by Special Commissioners appointed from Belgrade.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated April 3:—

Unsettled weather in North-Western India. Light rain in Punjab and parts of Bihar and Orissa and Central Provinces. General rain round head of bay. Rain wanted in Assam and Bengal.

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good broach, April-May delivery, quoted highest 503 rupees, lowest 345 rupees. Piece-goods market improving. Calcutta jute market firmer, sellers asking 11 rupees 8 annas to 12 rupees. Jat fours gunny market slight improvement. Mills agreement for four days from working extended into September. Rice market, no change.

Dated March 27.

Local showers in the Punjab, Burma, Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal. (This may possibly help the fodder situation.) Elsewhere rain much needed.

Wheat in the Punjab is average to good. (The area under wheat in the Punjab is 3,500,000 acres less than last year.) Better tone is prevailing in the Bombay cotton market, fully good broach being quoted at Rs.487. Piece goods market weaker. In Calcutta gunnies quiet, jute firm, rice unchanged.

The export of pearls has been permitted to all except enemy countries and a few adjoining enemy countries.

On March 20 £120,000 telegraphic transfers on London (Calcutta £20,000 and Bombay £100,000) were applied for and allotted.

EXPORTS TO MOROCCO.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Tetuan states that exporters to Morocco should avoid transhipment at Gibraltar. He points out that fragile goods, such as glassware, earthenware, etc., arrive in a broken condition, due to rough handling during transhipment, and this quite apart from the loss of time and often the loss of goods in transit.

The president of the Board of Trade has decided to change the title of the War Trade Department to the Department of Export Restrictions.

SALE BY AUCTION.

THE CYPRIAN MINING COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Receiver appointed under Cyprus Law No. 14 of 1917 that the business and all the property movable and immovable and all other rights and assets of the above mentioned enemy company which is engaged in the production of Asbestos at Amiandos, Troodos, Cyprus, will be sold by public auction at the Government Offices, Nicosia, Cyprus, on Tuesday, May 6th, 1919, at 12 noon.

The assets of the Company consist, inter alia, of building and plant at Amiandos, and approximately 204 acres of land. The Company also holds two mining leases, each dated November 1st, 1908 (amended by two deeds each dated December 6th, 1915), by which the Government granted to the Company the exclusive right for the period of 50 years to mine asbestos within a portion of the Troodos forest in consideration of the royalties therein prescribed. This period was extended to 99 years by an indenture dated 27th June, 1911. Copies may be inspected at the Office of the Receiver, Government Offices, Nicosia, Cyprus, or the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

The assets mentioned above, and the benefit of the said deeds, will be transferred by the Receiver to the purchaser freed and discharged from any right or liability of the Company.

The Sale will be subject to condition that the purchaser shall be a British subject, and that the property shall be kept under British control.

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COMPANY MEETING.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

A Year of Steady Progress.

The sixty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the bank premises, Bishopsgate, London, on April 9, the chairman, Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, presiding.

The Chairman said:—The report and statement of accounts which we have the pleasure to submit to you to-day will, I venture to think, meet with your full appreciation and approval. Remarks have been made that our net results show very little improvement on those of the previous year. That is correct, but the fact must not be overlooked that the amount paid for excess profits tax tends to increase, that our staff has increased, and that our charges on general account do not diminish. As you can understand, establishment expenses are bound to increase even in normal times with an expanding business such as ours. At our last meeting one of the shareholders very truthfully remarked that the dividend paid was not out of proportion when the fact was taken into account that our reserve fund so largely exceeded the capital, and that in paying a reasonable dividend we only give back to shareholders the interest on the profits left undrawn by them in previous years. I wish to emphasise this point because in some quarters comments are made on so-called excessively high dividends paid by banks. These dividends have been won by careful and justifiable husbanding of resources in the past. As you are aware, the first payment on account of the new issue of shares was made on March 1 last, and I am glad to say that the new shares already stand at a substantial premium, and that this premium has increased since the issue of our report—a very satisfactory judgment on the part of the Stock Exchange and the public on the financial condition of this bank.

Future Trade Prospects.

Now that labour troubles in this country seem to be in course of settlement we may reasonably expect an increased output of all commodities, in spite of shorter hours. With peace assured and confidence re-established, we trust that business with the East and Far East will recommence with renewed vigour, and with Capital and Labour working for the common good this country should maintain its position in the world of commerce, in spite of active and energetic competition on the part of our friends in America and Japan. It is patent to all that unless this country is prepared to develop new and increased energy and enterprise—unless we can have the output of commodities required by other countries supplied promptly and at moderate prices—we cannot hope to hold our own in any part of the world trade. With the vast increase of wealth and of the mercantile marine in America and Japan, and with the mighty energy displayed by the industrial classes in those countries, we must recognise that we shall have to face a competition more active, more developed, more widespread, more highly organised than we have ever had to face before. We can meet this competition fully and without fear provided Capital and Labour are united in their efforts and all Government restrictions are withdrawn. At the moment our trade in this country and in the East is much handicapped by the restricted supply of tonnage, and we cannot hope for a very marked improvement until the transport of troops to their homes has been brought to an end. In spite of our domestic troubles in this country, I cannot help feeling that future trade prospects are good, and as a natural sequence business in the banking world should not, so far as we can see, fail to benefit by a return to normal conditions. Competition will have to be faced on a much wider scale than hitherto experienced, but we can regard it with equanimity.

As regards our staff, I gave last year the list of those who had joined his Majesty's Forces up to that date, and I now wish to record the fact that out of our total staff 199 men actually served during the war. Of these, ninety-two received commissions, to eighteen were awarded various honours in the Navy and Army, and thirty-six brave men gave up their lives for their country—a record of which this bank may well be proud. I am glad to say that several of those serving in the forces have been demobilised in the past three months, and we have been able to send out to the East a number of those who were training for an Eastern career previous to their joining up at the commencement of the war. The men in nearly every case seemed delighted to return to civil life, and were quite prepared to sail for the East without delay, and so relieve their fellow workers, whose leave has been long overdue. I would take this opportunity of publicly thanking those members of our staff in the East and Far East who have bravely held on to their posts out of loyalty to the bank, despite the fact that in many cases their health suffered. I would also like to assure them that the directors and managers have done their utmost to help in the way of providing relief to the staff, but it has been quite impossible to obtain the men who were quite fitted for the work required of them in the East. I need hardly say that both the home and the foreign staff have received financial help to assist in meeting the increased cost of living. That extra cost of living has been experienced not only at home, but, I might say, universally in the world.

India's Absorption of Silver.

The great demand for and the short supply of bar silver has been one of the features of the past twelve months. In his financial statement, Sir James Meston, the present Financial Member in India, remarked on the fact that no less than 120 crores of rupees had been absorbed in India during the period April, 1915, to date, and had it not been for the arrangements made with the United States of America (thanks to the able advocacy of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Reading, assisted by Sir James Brunyate), the shortage of silver coinage in India would, at one time, have reached a most serious point. The fact is that not only in India, but in other countries, silver coinage has been hoarded to a very considerable extent, and this has brought about the problem of how to supply current coinage in silver-using countries with the acknowledged shortage of supply of bar silver in the world. It is interesting to note that in India small notes of the value of 1 rupee and 2½ rupees each have been issued with some success, and up to the present time the value of one rupee notes in circulation amounts to nine crores and of 2½ rupee notes to over two crores. I would suggest the possibility that notes of low value such as 2s. 6d. and 5s. might be successfully issued and used in this country.

The Accounts.

Turning to the figures of the accounts as now presented, we have, I think, every reason to congratulate ourselves on the steady progress shown under all headings, and in order that the true comparison may be arrived at, I would take this opportunity of drawing your attention to the explanations I made when we last met in April, 1918. I then stated that, owing to serious delays in arrival of the mails, we had to resort to our old method of grouping "en route" items under a separate heading, with the result that the figures against our bills of exchange and Treasury Bills had to be entered as £4,337,903 5s. 1d., instead of £14,377,903 5s. 1d., and those against bills payable as £583,360 16s 8d., instead of £4,173,360 16s. 8d. Having this in view, it will be seen that our totals now aggregate £47,604,548 2s. 1d., as against £39,716,432 12s. 1d. on December 31. Our current accounts now stand at £20,942,723 18s. 4d., an increase of £1,593,378 3s. 8d. over 1917 closing figures, whilst our fixed deposits show an increase of £4,141,749 6s. 7d. over our previous yearly figures, which is a most gratifying feature of the continued confidence reposed in us by our home and eastern friends. Healthy increases are also shown in the totals outstanding under the heading of bills payable—viz., £913,801 11s. 2d.

Turning to the other side of the account, our cash position would appear to be down against our 1917 figures by £2,199,084, but this is accounted for by the fact that we have made full use of the opportunity presented by the medium of Treasury Bills. Our bills of exchange outstanding show an increase of £7,866,791 13s. 3d., which fairly reflects the progress of export trade in the respective spheres in which we operate. Bills discounted and loans also show a healthy increase of £2,491,547. Turning to our profit and loss account, our net profits for the past twelve months were £409,221 7s. 10d., against £402,795 13s. 1d., and the result, I need hardly say, would have been much larger had it not been for the very large impost we had to meet on account of excess profits duty. We purpose placing £100,000 to reserve, thus raising that fund to £2,100,000, to add £25,000 to officers' superannuation fund, and to write £40,000 off bank premises account, and we recommend a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 25s. per share, equal to 20½ per cent. per annum, free of income tax, and to carry forward £168,482 11s. 1d., against £167,261 3s. 3d. for 1917. I feel satisfied that you will consider this a very satisfactory record, and one which reflects great credit on the management and staff at home and abroad. He then proposed that the report and balance-sheet be approved. This was seconded, and, after replying to two or three remarks from the shareholders, this was unanimously agreed to.

The chairman then moved that a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 25s. per share, making 20½ per cent. per annum for the whole year free of income tax, be declared, which, having been seconded, was unanimously passed.

Sir Montagu C. Turner and Mr. Lewis Alexander Wallace, directors, retiring by rotation, were re-elected, as were also the auditors, and votes of thanks to the members of the staff at home and abroad, of whom the chairman spoke very highly for the efficient manner in which they had carried out their duties under the exceptional circumstances of recent years, and to the chairman for presiding, closed the proceedings.

VERDE ANTICO MARBLE.

In regard to the paragraph in Engineering Notes in THE NEAR EAST of April 3 on "Undeveloped Marble Quarries," Mr. Ross Smith, managing director of Grecian Marbles (Marmor), Ltd., writes as follows:—Verde Antico marble is probably the most beautiful of all green marbles; very fine samples are seen in many of the world's finest cathedrals, churches, palaces, and of late years commercial institutions have also secured considerable quantities. It may interest your readers to know that we have quarries a few miles from Larissa, which have been worked for many years, except during the period of the war. These quarries, which were rediscovered by the late Mr. W. Brindley, F.R.G.S., were worked by the ancients. Within a few weeks work will again be renewed, and a fair quantity will be ready for the market at an early date."

KHEDIVIAL MAIL S.S. COMPANY, LTD.—Holders of Ordinary shares who desire to include their shares in those to be offered at £6 per share on the terms of the Circular to Shareholders of 17th March, 1919, should send their authority forthwith to Mr. Hugh Reeves, 42, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The signatories to the circular wish to notify that as every effort has been made to communicate direct with the Holders of Bearer Shares they cannot undertake to include in their list any shares which are offered after 17th April.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—At the Ordinary General Meeting of the National Bank of Egypt, held in Cairo on the 24th March, 1919, a DIVIDEND of £1 per Share was DECLARED PAYABLE on the 27th March, 1919, for the year ended 31st December, 1918. Coupon No. 25 will therefore be payable forthwith.

Forms for listing coupons may be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C. 4.

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J. S. BRUCE.

AUDITORS.

DAVID CHARLES WILSON, F.C.A. HENRY CROUGHTON KNIGHT STILEMAN, F.C.A.

BANKERS.

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

AGENCIES AND BRANCHES.

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

(Presented at the Sixty-fifth Ordinary General Meeting, 9th April, 1919.)

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the Balance-sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Bank for the year ended December 31st last.

These show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £576,482 11s. 1d., inclusive of £167,261 3s. 3d. brought forward from the previous year. The Interim Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £84,000. The amount now available is therefore £492,482 11s. 1d., and the Directors propose to pay a Final Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum, together with a Bonus of Twenty-five Shillings per share, making twenty and a-quarter per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of Income Tax; to add £100,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £2,100,000; to add £25,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund; to write off Premises Account £40,000, and to carry forward the balance of £168,482 11s. 1d.

Sir Montagu Cornish Turner and Mr. Lewis Alexander Wallace, the Directors who now retire by rotation, present themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Mr. David Charles Wilson, F.C.A., and Mr. Henry Croughton Knight Stileman, F.C.A., again tender their services.

The Dividend and Bonus will be payable on and after Wednesday, the 16th April.

By order of the Court,
A. S. HEWETT, *Secretary.*

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st DECEMBER, 1918.

To Capital, 60,000 Shares of £20 each, paid up			£1,200,000	0	0
,, Reserve Fund			2,000,000	0	0
,, Notes in Circulation			1,568,263	0	1
,, Current and Other Accounts, including Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies			20,942,723	18	4
,, Fixed Deposits			12,834,552	10	6
,, Bills Payable:—Drafts on demand and at short sight on Head Office and Branches	£4,728,646	16 5			
Drafts on London and Foreign Bankers against Security, per Contra	358,515	11 5			
			5,087,162	7	10
,, Acceptances on Account of Customers			893,412	9	3
,, Loans Payable, against Security, per Contra			750,000	0	0
,, Due to Agents and Correspondents			13,159	12	6
,, Sundry Liabilities, including Rebates and Exchange Adjustments			1,822,791	12	6
,, Profit and Loss			492,482	11	1
			£47,604,548	2	1

Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, of which £3,628,568 2s. 8d. has run off at 24th March, 1919.			£3,942,997	9s.	1d.
Outstanding Forward Exchange Contracts for Purchase and Sale of Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, etc.,			£18,370,676	12s.	8d.
By Cash in hand and at Bankers			£6,495,060	16	9
,, Bullion on Hand and in Transit			253,...	7	3
,, Government and other Securities			3,004,264	7	4
,, Security lodged against Note Issue and Government Deposits			1,257,000	0	0
,, Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills			22,244,694	18	4
,, Bills Discounted and Loans			12,634,664	16	2
,, Liability of Customers for Acceptances, per Contra			893,412	9	3
,, Due by Agents and Correspondents			152,582	8	0
,, Sundry Assets			115,866	19	9
,, Bank Premises and Furniture at the Head Office and Branches			553,769	19	3
			£47,604,548	2	1

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1918.

Dr. Cr.

To Interim Dividend at 30th June, 1918			£84,000	0	0
,, Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows—					
Dividend, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the half-year to date	£84,000	0 0			
Bonus of 25s. per share	75,000	0 0			
Reserve Fund	100,000	0 0			
Officers' Superannuation Fund	25,000	0 0			
Bank Premises	40,000	0 0			
Carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account	168,482	11 1			
			492,482	11	1
			£576,482	11	1

By Balance at 31st December, 1917			£476,261	3	3
Less Dividend for half-year to 31st December, 1917	£84,000	0 0			
Bonus of £1 per share	60,000	0 0			
Reserve Fund	100,000	0 0			
Officers' Superannuation Fund	25,000	0 0			
Bank Premises	40,000	0 0			
			309,000	0	0
			167,261	3	3
,, Gross Profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, Excess Profits Duty, and Bonus to the Staff	£1,022,070	3 8			
Less:— Expenses of Management and General Charges at Head Office and Branches	612,848	15 10			
			409,221	7	10
			£576,482	11	1

T. H. WHITEHEAD, W. E. PRESTON, *Managers.*
CHAS. R. HYDE, S. JONES, *Accountants.*
ALFRED DENT, W. H. N. GOSCHEN, GEORGE HAMILTON, *Directors.*
London. 26th March, 1919.

Examined and found correct, according to the Books, Vouchers, and Securities at the Head Office, and to the Certified Returns made from the several Branches, subject to there being no direct verification of certain Continental Balances which under present conditions cannot be obtained.

D. C. WILSON, H. C. K. STILEMAN, *Auditors.*

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA.

An Excellent Balance Sheet.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of India, Limited, was held on April 7 at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, E.C., Mr. Robert Campbell (the chairman) presiding.

The General Manager (Mr. Chalmers) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen, we meet to-day under better auspices than during the last four years when we were under the influence of the great war with all its possibilities and uncertainties. Among other reasons for thankfulness we are glad that the cessation of hostilities is allowing the return to us of a good many of the members of our staff who had volunteered for service during the war. Although we willingly gave every facility to those of our staff who desired to join the Forces, we have nevertheless suffered a good deal of inconvenience from this cause, not so much so in the London office, although the strain was pretty severe there also, but we were able to a large extent to fill the vacancies by engaging very capable lady clerks, whose valuable services I now desire to acknowledge. It was at our Eastern branches that the pinch was chiefly felt. We had great difficulty in keeping up the necessary supply of trained officers for the East, and our furlough arrangements have been virtually suspended for the last four years, with the result that our men have in many cases been kept out for eight or nine years without a change, to the detriment both of their health and their efficiency. These difficulties have been met with the utmost loyalty and devotion on the part of the whole staff, for whom no words of praise and appreciation can be too strong. As demobilisation proceeds we hope soon to get back to normal conditions, but the melancholy part remains that many of our best young men will never return. Of the 187 members of our staff who joined the service from first to last no fewer than 37 have made the supreme sacrifice It is sad to think that these fine young men, each one with a promising future before him, have been cut off in their prime, and our sincere sympathy is due to their sorrowing relatives. We felt it our duty to have a memorial service to their memory, which was held on February 15 in the church of St. Helen and St. Martin Outwich. The Bishop of Willesden officiated and delivered an admirable address, and the whole service was most impressive. We are also having a mural tablet placed in the London office, on which will be inscribed the thirty-seven names, and when this is ready we propose to have it photographed and to send a copy to the family or the nearest relative of each one. I am sure this will be highly appreciated by their friends, and I trust that for many years to come it may serve to perpetuate the memory of our comrades who have fallen in the great war.

At our extraordinary general meeting on January 21 last, I explained the reasons which made an increase in our capital desirable, and the steps we proposed to take for that purpose. I shall therefore not repeat them here. I shall only say that payment for the new shares is coming in quite satisfactorily, and in our next half-yearly report we expect to be able to say that they have been fully taken up, with the result of an addition of £500,000 to our paid-up capital and £300 000 to our reserve fund. This will immensely strengthen the bank's position and increase the security we are able to offer to depositors and the public.

Amalgamation Negotiations.

You are all aware that last year there was much discussion in financial circles on the question of bank amalgamations, and that some very important schemes of that character were carried through with the consent of his Majesty's Treasury. I think you must also have heard, at least, it was common knowledge in the city, that this question was at one time not unlikely to come very closely home to ourselves. While these movements were in progress and all sorts of rumours were in the air, we were approached to know if we would be open to consider an arrangement with a leading London bank, a bank of the very highest standing, on the basis of a purchase of our shares at a price to be agreed upon. The idea was that the National Bank of India should retain its identity under the same board of directors and the same management, but that two of the purchasing bank's directors should have seats on the National Bank of India board, and two of the latter's directors would similarly join the board of the former. This was too important a proposal to be turned down without full consideration, and we replied that without committing ourselves to anything we were open to hear what price they were prepared to offer for our shares, so that if we considered it quite adequate we might submit it to a special meeting of our shareholders to accept or reject as they might decide. The result was some protracted negotiations, resulting in their making an offer which we considered we should be justified in submitting to you. I do not feel at liberty to disclose the price offered without the consent of the other side, but I may say that the report of these negotiations sent the price of our shares up to £62 10s. This was the highest price they touched, but that figure is considerably below the price we were offered.

We were accordingly prepared to call a meeting to submit the offer to our shareholders to accept or reject, but before we got that length the Treasury intervened and vetoed the transaction. The proposal therefore fell to the ground, and your directors were freed from all responsibility. Here I am bound to say that when it became known that the scheme had fallen through there was a general feeling of satisfaction on the part of many of the bank's best customers that the National Bank of India was not to be absorbed or to become merely the adjunct of a powerful London institution, and we received many expressions of feeling to that effect—a welcome testimony to the cordial relations subsisting between the bank and its customers. We were also not without indication that many of our largest shareholders also shared that feeling and were not displeased to know that the National Bank of India was to continue on the old lines. I have only to add that the negotiations between the two banks were conducted on both sides with the utmost courtesy and goodwill, and it is a pleasure to know that although no business resulted the friendly feeling still remains.

The Accounts.

With regard to the accounts, I am sure you will agree that the balance-sheet now in your hands is again a satisfactory one, any important changes being in the right direction. Our deposits now amount to £27,517,000, an increase of £2,832,000 as compared with the previous year, and our discounts and advances together show an increase of £3,973,000, which means that our resources were fully employed, the result of which is also reflected in our profit and loss account. The net profit for the year is £403,635, as compared with £353,139, an increase of £50,496. These figures I think reflect the utmost credit on the management both at home and abroad, and, indeed, on the whole staff. While maintaining our dividend of 20 per cent. for the year free of income-tax, and making other usual appropriations, we are enabled to add £200,000 to the reserve fund, as compared with £100,000 in 1917, and we carry forward the substantial balance of £123,465, as against £139,828 brought in. This large addition to the reserve fund is especially welcome and confirms what I indicated at our meeting in January when I expressed my confidence that when the accounts to December 31 were made up we should be able to place this large sum to reserve and still carry forward a good balance. The £200,000 added to the £300,000 premium on the new shares brings the addition to the fund up to £500,000, raising it to £1,850,000, while our paid-up capital will be £1,500,000.

As regards the current year, the prospects so far are fairly good. India's trade has been very prosperous of late, and her chief industries have been doing well. Unfortunately, there has been scarcity and even famine in some districts owing to the partial failure of the monsoon, but the Government has the situation well in hand, and the usual relief measures are in full operation. I shall now move the adoption of the report, which I shall ask Mr. Williamson to second, and there will then be an opportunity for any questions or remarks. The resolution I move is: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1918, be received and adopted; and that a dividend for the six months to December 31, 1918, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, be paid on the shares of the company registered at this date, the same to be payable, free of income-tax, on and after April 8, 1919."

The deputy chairman, Mr. Robert Williamson, seconded the resolution, and there being no remarks from shareholders, it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Williamson, Mr. Robert Miller was re-elected a director of the bank.

The chairman next proposed the re-election as a director of Sir John P. Hewett, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E., who, he stated, was away on Government business in Mesopotamia, but they were expecting him back in a week or two. Mr. J. N. Stuart seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

The chairman then proposed the re-election of Mr. Alfred Simson as a director. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Robert Miller and unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. J. R. Hatherly, seconded by Mr. F. Wicks, Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were re-elected auditors for the ensuing year, and Messrs. W. A. Browne and Co. were also re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. C. E. Thomson, seconded by Mr. E. Pinhey.

Mr. J. Irwin-Davis said he had much pleasure in proposing the following resolution:—"That a vote of thanks be given to the chairman and directors for the care and prudence exercised in conducting the affairs of the bank during the past year." He remarked that their honoured chairman, through illness, was unable to preside at the last annual meeting, and he was sure they were all very pleased indeed to see him looking so well that day and occupying his usual place. With such a report as they had in their hands he need not say anything as regarded the success of the efforts of the chairman and his co-directors during the past year. That report spoke very eloquently, and he had very much pleasure in asking them to pass the resolution.

Mr. Russell B. Reid seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I desire on behalf of my colleagues and myself to return you our sincere thanks for the cordial manner in which the last resolution has been received, and I only hope that when we meet again next year we shall have an equally good balance-sheet to place before you.

Mr. H. H. Nelson said that he had grown considerably older since he first attended these meetings, and proposed the resolution which he had to repeat to-day. He was almost inclined to think that he ought to get a gramophone and make his speech into it, because every year he had much the same thing to say in proposing a vote of thanks to the general manager and the staff for a record of splendid work and for the excellent manner in which they had performed their duties in the service of the bank in circumstances which recently had been by no means easy, and which promised in the future to tax the great ability which they were fortunate in having among their managers in this institution. Their bank was well placed in India, and had an excellent reputation there; its representatives were always popular, and were well looked up to by all those with whom they did business. He then moved a hearty vote of thanks to the general manager and the staff for their valuable services to the bank during the past year.

Colonel A. Fitzgerald Watt, D.S.O., said that he had had the pleasure of attending the annual general meeting of the National Bank of India for an unbroken succession of many years—perhaps not quite so many as the proposer of the resolution, but still a great many years—and he always left the meetings with an ever-increasing sense of the great debt of gratitude the shareholders owed to the general manager and the staff for their indefatigable efforts on their behalf. It was with feelings of congratulation and relief that they met on that occasion with the

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THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA

LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862 on the 23rd March, 1866.

ESTABLISHED IN CALCUTTA, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1863.

Subscribed Capital	**£2,000,000**
Paid-up Capital	**£1,000,000**
Reserve Fund	**£1,550,000**
Number of Shareholders	**1,407**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, ESQ., Chairman.
ROBERT WILLIAMSON, ESQ., Deputy-Chairman.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
ROBERT MILLER, ESQ.
SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, ESQ.
J. N. STUART, ESQ.
J. A. TOOMEY, ESQ.

General Manager—H. CHALMERS, ESQ.
London Manager—C. NICOLL, ESQ.

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

BRANCHES:

CALCUTTA, MADRAS, CHITTAGONG, CAWNPORE, LAHORE, COCHIN, BOMBAY, KURRACHEE, AMRITSAR, DELHI, TUTICORIN, RANGOON, MANDALAY, KANDY, ADEN, ZANZIBAR, COLOMBO, NEWERA ELIYA, STEAMER POINT, ADEN

British East Africa: MOMBASA, NAIROBI

NAKURU, KISUMU

Uganda: ENTEBBE, KAMPALA, JINJA

Occupied Territory German East Africa: TANGA, DAR-ES-SALAAM

AGENCIES:

GALLE, CEYLON ... Messrs. Clark, Spence, and Co.
EDINBURGH ... Messrs. Moncreiff and Horsbrugh, 46, Castle Street.
GLASGOW ... Messrs. Mackenzie, Roberton, and Co., 176, St. Vincent Street.

GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET of 31st December, 1918.

Dr.		Cr.	
To Capital:—		By cash on hand, at call and at Bankers	£5,872,613 9 5
Subscribed, 80,000 Shares of £25 each, £2,000,000.		By Bullion on hand	10,177 13 4
Paid-up £12 10s. per share	£1,000,000 0 0		£5,882,791 2 9
To Reserve Fund	1,350,000 0 0	By Indian Government Rupee Securities	633,747 10 11
To Current, Fixed Deposit and other Accounts, including provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies	27,517,994 9 8	By War Loan, Indian Government Guaranteed Debentures and other Securities (of which £16,350 5 per cent. War Loan lodged with Bank of England as security for Government Accounts)	2,081,641 11 8
To Bills Payable	1,853,945 6 0	By House Property and Furniture	180,598 1 7
To Acceptances for Customers	542,263 19 10	By Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills	13,126,887 7 3
To Profit and Loss Account as under	443,464 5 10	By Discounts, Loans Receivable and other sums due to the Bank	10,259,738 7 4
To Bills receivable, re-discounted, £2,838,914 15s. 3d., of which up to 21st March, 1919, £2,617,443 6s. 5d. have run off. Forward Contracts outstanding for the Purchase and Sale of Sterling Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, £4,038,027.		By Customers for Acceptances per Contra	542,263 19 10
	£32,707,668 1 4		£32,707,668 1 4

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1918.

Dr.			Cr.		
To ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 30th June, 1918	£100,000 0 0		By Balance at 31st December, 1917		£379,828 14 6
To Expenses of Management at Head Office and Branches	357,722 8 11		Deduct—		
To Balance	443,464 5 10		Dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 31st December, 1917, and Bonus of 4 per cent.	£120,000 0 0	
			Amount written off House Property Account	10,000 0 0	
			Officers' Pension Fund	10,000 0 0	
			Amount carried to Reserve Fund for the half-year ended 31st December, 1917	100,000 0 0	
					240,000 0 0
			Balance brought forward		139,828 14 6
			By Gross Profits for the year ended 31st December, 1918, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts and Bonus to the Staff		761,358 0 3
	£901,186 14 9				£901,186 14 9

H. CHALMERS, General Manager.
G. B. LINTON, Sub-Manager and Accountant.

ROBERT CAMPBELL,
ROBERT WILLIAMSON,
C. C. McLEOD,
} Directors.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

We have audited the above Balance-sheet with the Books in London and the certified Returns from the Branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance-sheet is full and fair, containing the particulars required by the Regulations of the Company, and is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

London, 25th March, 1919.

COOPER BROTHERS AND CO.,
W. A. BROWNE AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
} Auditors.

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dreadful shadow of the past four years removed, and in the hope of an early return to the blessings of peace. But this happy state of affairs could not blind them to the great difficulties which had been encountered and overcome during the war, not only on the field of battle but also in the world of commerce, and it was due to the magnificent efforts which had been made in both those spheres that we were now rejoicing in so thorough and complete a victory. The chairman, but for his characteristic modesty, could have told them a great deal more of the many difficulties with which the management and staff of this bank had had to contend during the past four years. The strain of working under very trying and unnatural conditions, with a sorely depleted staff, the difficulties of communication between this country and India, and the great uncertainty of the financial situation since the outbreak of the war, were only some of their troubles. He thought he might safely say that with such a balance-sheet before them they had ample and eloquent proof of the triumphant manner in which all these obstacles had been overcome. With so able a general manager and so excellent and loyal a staff, the shareholders could face with absolute confidence the future that lay before the bank. It was entering with increased capital and powers into the new era of the world's commercial history which had been brought about by the war, and he was sure they might be perfectly satisfied that their interests would be safeguarded in the future as they had been in the past, and that the National Bank of India would continue to maintain the high position it held among the great banking institutions of this country. He had much pleasure in seconding the proposition that a very hearty vote of thanks should be accorded to the general manager and staff for their valuable services to the bank during the past year.

The Chairman: I have much pleasure in putting that resolution to the meeting. We may congratulate ourselves on possessing an excellent staff. The last four years have been a very severe trial of its efficiency, but one and all have risen to the occasion splendidly, and I am sure it will be very gratifying to the whole staff to know that their services are so highly appreciated by the shareholders.

The resolution was cordially adopted.

The General Manager: On behalf of my colleagues I beg to thank you, gentlemen, for your very kind appreciation of our services. I shall have much pleasure in informing the home and foreign staff of the vote of thanks you have just passed. I can only say that we have done our best, and that we shall continue to do so in the future.

The proceedings then terminated..

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

Services during the War.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the members of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on April 7, at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the presidency of Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., the chairman.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, you have been told in the report that since we last met, Mr. Charles Greenway, the chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, has felt compelled, owing to the pressure of work elsewhere, to resign his seat on the board. Mr. Greenway's knowledge of Persia, his great ability and wide business experience, made him a most valuable colleague in the administration of the affairs of the bank, and I feel sure you will all join with us in heartily regretting his resignation. As his successor we have elected to the board Mr. E. A. Chettle, who is a partner in the firm of Messrs R. G. Shaw and Co. and a director of Messrs. Strick, Scott, and Co., the agents in Persia of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and I am confident we shall derive great assistance from his co-operation.

As you know, Persia and the staff of this bank in Persia, have had their small share in the great struggle. The Persian border districts have been four times invaded, and have suffered much from pillage and rapine at the hands of the Turks. Our officers also have on many occasions had to assist in the protection and to provide for the safety of our branches against armed attack. Moreover, from the beginning of the war it has been the duty and privilege of the bank to provide the very large financial requirements of the British and Russian troops who have been sent from time to time to protect the country. I am glad to say that on no occasion has this bank failed to meet the demands made upon it by the British, Russian, and Indian Governments, and this very creditable result, of which I think we may reasonably be proud, has been due in the main to the great ability and resource and the constant vigilance displayed by our chief manager, Mr. Wood, and his branch managers. You will be glad to know that the value of their work has been recognised by the Government.

In Persia itself we could hardly expect the year to pass without some exciting incidents. Perhaps the most important was the withdrawal of the Russian troops in the summer and the gradual substitution of British forces from Mesopotamia on the line from Kermanshah, through Hamadan, to the Caspian at Enzeli, as a protection against an advance of the Turks. Early in March, before the arrival of the British troops, a party of Persian malcontents calling themselves the Jungalees, stirred up, I believe, by Bolshevist propaganda, attacked Resht, and captured the British Consul and our bank manager, Mr. Oakshott. After a period of imprisonment in the rebel camp Mr. Oakshott was released, but later on a second attack was made. There was some sharp fighting around the bank; many of our books and papers were destroyed, and our treasury was only saved by the timely arrival of some Gurkha troops. The branch was not reopened until last February. I may mention that Mr. Oakshott was asked by the British Minister to act for a time as Vice-Consul, and the British Minister has written to our chief manager stating that he greatly appreciates the valuable services Mr. Oakshott has rendered.

In June the Turks for the second time attacked and occupied Tabriz, and our branch there was closed for some months, but our books and treasury were safely removed in time. In the same months disturbances arose at Shiraz, the headquarters of General Sir Percy Sykes and the Persian gendarmerie, who are known as the South Persian Rifles. I am very glad to see that Sir Percy Sykes is present with us to-day. Later on the unrest culminated in the investment of the town and cantonment by a large force of rebel tribesmen led by Sowlat ud Dowlah, the chief of the Kashgais. All communication with Shiraz was cut off for more than two months. Sir Percy Sykes has spoken to me in the warmest terms of the services rendered by our manager, Mr. Ferguson, and also by Mrs. Ferguson, during the difficult and anxious time of the investment. The only other event I need mention is that during the year the Indian Government pushed on the Quetta-Nushki railway across the Baluch desert to the borders of Seistan, so that the eastern frontier of Persia has now direct railway communication with India. This can hardly fail to have a favourable effect in the future on our trade with Persia and to increase the importance of our branch in Seistan.

New Branches.

It is interesting to note here that Persia is one of the countries which will end the war without an inflated currency. Apart from the ordinary note issue of the bank, which has, in fact, fallen off in amount since 1914, the Persian Government has made no attempt to increase the paper currency. During the year we opened a branch of the bank at Bunder Abbas, which has become the chief port of supply for the Southern Persian Rifles. We also obtained permission from the military and political authorities to open an agency at Baghdad. The chief avenues for British trade with Persia will be in future the new railway to Seistan, the ports of Bunder Abbas, Bushire, and Mohammerah, and the old trade route via Busreh and Baghdad to the Persian frontier at Kanikin, now also provided with a railway. With branches or agencies at all these places, the bank will be in a position to take full advantage of any developments that may follow the coming of peace.

Turning next to the accounts, I think in the circumstances the statement we present to you is one you may regard with much satisfaction. You will see that in the balance sheet the totals of our assets and liabilities show a marked increase over the figures of previous years—namely £7,716,747, as compared with £2,650,870 in 1916 and £4,350,536 in 1917. This is mainly owing to temporary expansion on account of the war and to the large business we have been doing on behalf of the British and Indian Governments connected with the military requirements. The profit and loss account calls for little remark, as the figures do not differ greatly from those of the previous year. We pay the same dividend as last year—namely, 8s. a share, free of tax—and carry forward £27,388 3s. 10d., as against £24,277 6s. 10d. brought in. I only desire, in conclusion, gentlemen, to bring to your notice the excellent work done by our staff, not only in the past year, but throughout the war, under the most difficult circumstances. I will now move the following resolution:—"That the report presented be adopted, that the accounts to September 20, 1918, as rendered, be accepted, and that a final dividend of 5s. per share, paid free of income tax, on December 30, 1918, be and is hereby confirmed."

Mr. V. A. Cæsar Hawkins: I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

General Sir Percy Sykes: When I landed at Bunder Abbas I had practically no staff, or a very small one, and Mr. Taylor, whom I took up with me to reopen the bank, took over the onerous task of running our accounts and helped us in every way. Mr. Ferguson's services were invaluable, and I literally mean that. Mrs. Ferguson opened her house and took in my sick officers two by two, and the boon thus conferred on them was very great indeed. One point which Sir Hugh Barnes omitted to state was that I had three officers of the bank serving in the Persian Rifles—namely, Captain Butters, Captain Williams, and Captain Weldon. They all greatly distinguished themselves, and my very last act on leaving Shiraz was to write a letter to the Imperial Bank, desiring it to be sent to London, pointing out how very valuable their services had been. There was no claim we could put in—there was nothing we could ask Mr. Ferguson to do that he did not do.

Mr. Michael: All our assets are in gold, and I should like to ask if there will be any difficulty in meeting the deposits in silver?

The Chairman: There is no difficulty at all in meeting the deposits in silver in Persia. It is very gratifying indeed to us to hear from Sir Percy Sykes such a very cordial testimony of work done by our officers in Persia, and I am sure that when they read the report of this meeting it will be a great satisfaction to them and some reward for the efforts they have made. I may say, as regards Shiraz, that I do not know what would have happened but for the brilliant lead of Sir Percy Sykes and the officers under him. We have not received the accounts from Hamadan and Sultanabad owing to the disturbance of the postal services.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Colonel Sir A. Henry McMahon, G.C.M.G. G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., seconded by Mr. David Gubbay, the retiring directors, Sir Hugh S. Barnes and Mr. W. A. Buchanan, were re-elected.

Messrs. Kemp, Sons, Sendell, and Co., chartered accountants, were reappointed auditors to the company on the proposal of Mr. V. H. Smith, seconded by Mr. Chance.

Mr. Vere H. Smith then moved a vote of thanks to the directors, and to the staff in London and Persia. He hoped that the board would take special pains to send out to the staff in Persia an expression of their thanks on this side. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Michael, and was carried unanimously, and an acknowledgment by the chairman concluded the meeting.

PALESTINE OF THE JEWS: Past, Present, and Future. By NORMAN BENTWICH, Egyptian Expeditionary Force. With Appendix on *The Redemption of Judaea*, and articles on *The British Advance to Jerusalem*. Map. 6s. net.

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UNITED EGYPTIAN LANDS.

Reconstruction Scheme.

An extraordinary general meeting of the United Egyptian Lands, Limited, was held on April 2 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, at which, on the motion of Mr. Sidney S. Lamert, the chairman, seconded by Mr. Reginald Tayler, the resolution altering the articles of association, passed on the 17th ult., was unanimously confirmed as a special resolution.

A further extraordinary general meeting was then held for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing resolutions providing for the reconstruction of the undertaking. The Secretary (Mr. W. H. Stentiford) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said the directors are putting this scheme forward—we thoroughly approve of it, and hope it will go through unanimously—but, as you know, it is the committee's scheme. I think the best method of submitting it for your approval will be for me to ask Mr. Davenport, who has gone all through the thing, and knows it thoroughly, to propose it.

Mr. James Davenport: I will now move the first resolution, namely, "Resolved, that the scheme of reconstruction of the company, which has been submitted to the meeting, and for purposes of identification signed by the chairman of the meeting, be, and the same is, hereby approved." I find that it is now over two years since, at a very critical stage in the affairs of this company, a meeting was held in this building, and on my proposal the committee was formed. I see from the report of the meeting held at that time that I expressed the opinion then that, while we were absolutely in the hands of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, we were in the hands of an honourable corporation, directed by men of high reputation, and I expressed the view that that company had not the slightest desire to take any unfair advantage of the shareholders of this company. Well gentlemen, it is always nice to have one's prophecy turn out correctly. Throughout long, complicated, and exceedingly tedious negotiations the committee, and especially I myself and my friend, Mr. Newcomb, on whom the principal negotiations at that time devolved, have received from the Mortgage Company of Egypt nothing but the very greatest consideration, the very greatest courtesy, and the very greatest assistance. And before I leave this somewhat personal aspect of the matter, may I also say how greatly the committee appreciate the capable and willing assistance we have at all times received from Mr. Citti, the company's managing director in Egypt, and from Mr. Stentiford, our secretary in London.

When the committee had been constituted, obviously their first duty was to negotiate with the Mortgage Company of Egypt with a view to delaying the foreclosure proceedings, and arriving with them at an acceptable scheme of arrangement. Conjointly with these negotiations, the committee thought it necessary to ascertain more exactly the real position of the company's assets in Egypt, and at considerable inconvenience, and at no small personal risk, Mr. Citti came to London. The result of our interviews with Mr. Citti was that the committee were confirmed in their view that there were tangible assets of this company of value far in excess of the amount of its indebtedness, which it was their duty to endeavour to preserve for the benefit of the shareholders. It was, therefore, with a feeling of considerable satisfaction that in November, 1917, we were able to complete an arrangement with the Mortgage Company of Egypt. Unfortunately, however, the Treasury Committee on New Issues vetoed the scheme. On November 11 last we had the great news that the German nation had finally and irretrievably collapsed. We immediately renewed our application to

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VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
Lieut.-General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
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LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
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Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
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the Treasury for permission to carry through the scheme, and at the same time again approached the Mortgage Company, who again showed us every consideration and desire to help Our perseverance met this time with its reward, and concurrently therewith the Mortgage Company entered into a new agreement on almost identical lines to that which by effluxion of time had expired. The agreement with the Mortgage Company provides that this company shall be reconstructed as an English company, with its board in England, and that the new company shall acquire the whole of the undertaking, property, assets, and liabilities of the present company. And it is an essential condition of the agreement that the new company shall be provided with a sum of not less than £40,000 of additional capital. The new company is to grant to the Mortgage Company a first mortgage on all the properties in Egypt of the present company, repayable in thirty yearly instalments (including amortisation), with interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum. The scheme which we now present and recommend for your acceptance provides that the new company shall have a nominal capital of £350,000, dividend into 1,400,000 shares of 5s. each. Of these shares, 38,829 are to be allotted as fully-paid and will be available for discharging certain of the liabilities of the existing company. Of the balance, 1,361,171 will be available for issue, credited as paid up to the extent of 3s. 9d. per 5s. share. This is the number of shares requisite to enable every holder of the existing company's ordinary shares to apply for and to take as of right two shares of 5s. each, credited as paid up to the extent of 3s. 9d per share, in respect of each existing 10s share, and to give each deferred shareholder the right to take one new share of 5s. credited as paid up to the extent of 3s. 9d., for each existing deferred share.

Dealing with the position of the company under the reorganisation, Mr. Davenport said: On the liability side we shall have the 900,000 shares of 5s. each, representing when fully paid up a capital of £225,000. To that is to be added the loan from the Mortgage Company of Egypt, which is now down to approximately £85,000, and which on payment of £5,000 will stand at £80,000. We should therefore have capital liabilities of, say, £305,000. Now, on the asset side, we should first have the cash arising from the reorganisation, which on the basis of 900,000 shares when fully paid up would amount to £56,250. From this we must deduct the expenses of the reorganisation, which we might take at £10,000, and must also deduct the £5,000 to be paid to the Mortgage Company. We should therefore have £41,250. Then we have the amount due to the company on the land which has been sold on the deferred payment system. From the latest advices this amount is now the very useful figure of £96,000. Then we have, first, the agricultural land, and, secondly, the Rodah Island property. Mr. Citti has recently sent home to us a rough valuation of the agricultural land. This valuation works out at £70,000. We have, therefore, in these three items total assets of approximately £207,000, against the capital liabilities of £305,000. This leaves us with the Rodah Island property, on which, as I have said, it is difficult, if not impossible, to put a price at the present moment.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Gerald T. Moody, and the Chairman then invited questions or comments, but as no one rose to speak, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Reginald Tayler, resolutions 2, 3, and 4 were also carried unanimously.

Separate meetings of the holders of the ordinary and of the deferred shares were afterwards held, at which resolutions were passed giving effect to the scheme.

The Chairman announced that there would be a further meeting held on the 17th inst. for the purpose of confirming resolutions 2, 3, and 4.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Tramways de Galatz.—The directors have not found it possible to present the accounts at the general meeting.

Compagnie hellénique d'electricité.—The general meeting will be held at the company's offices at Athens on April 12.

Société hellénique de vins et spiriteux.—The general meeting will be held at the company's offices at Athens on April 11.

The ordinary general meeting of the Caisse Hypothécaire d'Egypte will be held at the company's offices at Brussels on April 15.

Banque d'Orient.—A dividend of 7½ drachmæ per share has been declared for 1918, as against 3¼ drachmæ for the previous year.

The directors of the National Bank of Egypt have declared a dividend of £1 per share for the year ended December 31 last. Coupon No. 25 will be payable forthwith.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due April 15 on Egyptian Preference Bonds; the necessary lists can be procured on application at the dividend pay office.

Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways.—Directors recommend dividend on ordinary shares at rate of 14 per cent. for half-year ended December 31, together with a bonus of 2 per cent. for year, payable 16th inst.

Société des ports marocains de Mehedza-Kenitra et Rabat-Sale.—This company is making an issue of 53,932 bonds of 500 francs each at 5 per cent., free of all taxes, present or future, at the price of 445 francs, redeemable at par in 61 years.

The Bank of Athens announces that coupon No. 12 for dividend on the shares of the National Bank of Greece for the second half of 1918 amounting to drachmae 160 per share, will be paid at the London office, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—The directors announce that the company's property in Egypt has suffered somewhat and the traffic been interfered with in consequence of riots in some districts. Full details are wanted owing to difficulties of communication.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended March 13 were:—Cattle markets, £1,293; general markets, £546; total, £1,839; total for year, £20,369. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended March 14 were:—Cattle market, £692; general markets, £434; total, £1,126; total for year, £12,998.

TUNISIAN MANGANESE DEPOSITS.

Remarkable progress has been made with the development of manganese deposits in Tunisia during the war. In 1907 and 1909 the production was respectively 820 and 815 tons. From 1,460 tons in 1915 the production rose in 1916 to 2,027 tons, of the value of 101,370 frs., and to 5,800 tons in 1917.

The consumption duty on alcohol in Morocco has been increased from 300 francs to 600 francs per hectolitre of pure spirit.

ON 'CHANGE.

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Our market has again this week been under the influence of the unsettled political conditions in Egypt, and movements in prices have been somewhat irregular. Whilst here and there there has been some recovery, in other directions there has been some slight decline where some nervous holders have been inclined to press stock on the market. The most recent advices from Egypt seem to indicate that the situation is now well in hand, but so far no authentic news is available as to any damage that may have been done to agricultural interests; and, until something definite is known as regards this, one cannot look for any revival in the market.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds and Egypt 3½ per cent. prefs are both ¼ down at 92½ and 77½ respectively. In the former, only small business is passing, but quite a fair line changed hands in the latter security.

Amongst Bank shares, Nationals jumped up ⅜ to 22 cum. div. on some demand from Egypt, and are closing at 21 x.d.; whilst Agriculturals, after improving ¼ to 6 13-16, close only fractionally firmer at 6 23-32. Both Agricultural Prefs. and Land Banks are in demand round the current level; but practically no business is passing, owing to the lack of sellers.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ¼ easier at 8, no doubt on the reports of damage done to the line.

In Land shares, Aboukirs have been a firm spot, and are closing 3d. better at 28s. 3d. Allotments are quoted about unchanged at 4⅜ x.d. Behéras are ¼ down at 13, but there is some demand from Egypt for the preference shares at near the current price. Delta Lands are unchanged, and there is a small business passing. New Egyptians, after improving 1s. to 26s. 6d., close 6d higher at 26s. Sidi Salems and Union Foncieres are both 1-16 easier at 2 11-16 and 3 9-16 respectively on some small local sellers. A feature has been the renewed demand for Sudan Plantations, which have had a very active week, and are closing 1¾ higher at 7 11-16.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares, some business was done in Alexandria Waters at 12, and Salts and Sodas have also changed hands round 3. Khedivial Mails have remained quiet and unchanged. Anglo-Egyptians B, after receding at one moment to 3 17-32, are closing 3-32 up at 4 25-32.

Amongst Greek securities, apart from a drop of a point to 57 in Greek Rentes, there is no change to report.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY DEBENTURES.

The directors of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company, with the sanction of the Secretary for India, offer to the holders of the £300,000 debentures, maturing 13th instant, the option of renewal on the following terms:—Period, two years; rate of interest, 4½ per cent.; price, £99 15s. (¼ per cent. discount). A commission of 5s. per cent. will be allowed to brokers and other agents. This offer will remain open until noon on 10th instant, and debentures for renewal must be lodged at the offices of the company, Bishopsgate House, 80, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, before that time.

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Mar. 25	April 9
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84	84
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92⅝	92½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	77½	77½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72½	72½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	58xd	57
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66xd	66xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	83	83
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	—
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6¼	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅝	15⅝
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	77½	78
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9½	9⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	5¾	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7⅛	7⅛
London County and Westminster	—	17½	17½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21⅝	21xd
National Bank of India	43	55	55
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8⅛	8
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
MINES.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	28/-	28/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	5	4⅜xd
Béhéra Co.	8½	13½	13
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/3	15/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2½	2½
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/6	26/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	2¾	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	—	5⅛	7¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅜	3⅝
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/3	2/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12
Anglo-Egyptian B.	—	93/9	4⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅜	28/-	28/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	3	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd

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RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£85,000*

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

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By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

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Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,61,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 25,00,000

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Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
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Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

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Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 415.—Vol. XV. THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Events in Egypt give furiously to think. There have been surprises at every turn, and no room must be found in connection with the future affairs of the country for anyone who is too old or too stereotyped in his ideas to benefit by experience. A bold course has been taken, but it is attended by many pitfalls. The disturbances and outrages that have cost many lives, both British and Egyptian, were directly associated with the arrest and deportation of Zaghlul Pasha and the three other prominent Nationalists. General Allenby, on being given plenipotentiary powers, rescinded the order that banished the four Pashas to Malta, and virtually invited the Nationalists to send their deputations to France and England. The celebrations that followed this concession quickly degenerated into excesses as fatal as those which characterised the initial outbreak, and more lives have been lost in Cairo. Egyptian officialdom made holiday, and in so doing countenanced proceedings that were openly hostile to the British, even when not actually taking part in them.

In the circumstances there was some excuse for the extremists in their imagining that they were about to win all along the line; but by failing to improve the occasion otherwise than by fresh riots they have supplied further evidence that their aims are merely destructive, and can bring no advantage to Egypt. It is for the British authorities, therefore, to show that the concession to the Nationalists was inspired not by fear, but by a sense of justice that is only to be found among the strong-minded. A blind eye may be turned towards "mafficking" in London; in the East the indulgence could not possibly be expected to exhaust itself in a comparatively harmless display of exuberant spirits. It was a mistake to allow the "celebrations" in Cairo to continue until they degenerated into the worst outrages; for only by an unmistakable display of strength on such a point could the recognition be secured for the magnanimity of the concession made in acknowledgment of a misguided policy.

Ugly, however, as the situation in Egypt has been, there is no need for a panic over it. The return to power of Hussein Rushdi Pasha is for the moment of good augury. He was not directly associated with the Nationalist leaders, although he supported their request to be allowed to send a deputation to England. On the other hand, he stands for a more liberal measure of self-government than the Egyptians have yet been given, and there is no reason why a workable solution of the problem should not be evolved in consultation with him which will secure his approval. The mistake made before was to prepare a Constitution without reference to moderate Egyptian opinion, until the draft was complete. A new policy in Egypt will have to be entrusted to new men, for if the British Government decides to place its confidence in Rushdi Pasha, it cannot ask him to co-operate with those who could not of their own accord recognise his merit, or at least the significance of his views in the political evolution of Egypt.

The proceedings of the Plenary Session of the Peace Conference on April 11 make it possible at last to state definitely how India stands in regard to the international regulation of labour conditions, and at the same time indicate the reason why the India Office so long maintained an attitude of reticence on a question of such vital importance to the industrial future. The general scheme of procedure provides that a "draft convention" or a "recommendation" framed by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Legislature of each nation which is a party, and that if a particular nation refuses to adopt it the matter may be brought in the last resort before the League of Nations, which body might, or might not, take coercive action against the nation in question. Lord Sinha made it clear in his speech that this position was not acceptable to the Indian representatives; they had watched, he said, "the building up of this convention with some misgiving, fearing that allowance would not be made for India's peculiar conditions," and, as our readers are aware, that fear was shared by competent authorities in this country. "Happily, however, their misgivings were banished by the amendment announced by Mr. Barnes referring to countries having special labour conditions differing from those of Western countries," and the speaker concluded by saying that he and his colleagues "gladly and whole-heartedly accepted this Labour Convention with the amendment referred to."

The words of this important amendment are as follows: "In framing any recommendation or draft convention of general application, the Conference shall have due regard to those countries in which climatic conditions, the imperfect development of industrial organisation, or other special circumstances make the industrial conditions substantially different, and shall suggest modifications, if any, which it considers may be required to meet the case of such countries." As Mr. Barnes said in the discussion, this amendment indicates that the idea of uniformity had to be abandoned

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in consequence of the different degrees of industrial development. It was precisely this idea of uniformity, expounded as it was with vigour and directness, which gave cause for alarm, and its definite abandonment is a statesmanlike proceeding. The representatives of India must, we imagine, have had fairly hard work to secure the introduction of the amendment, and they deserve the cordial congratulations of the country. It is, of course, impossible to forecast the actions of a body which has not yet actually come into existence, but if we may assume that it will remain faithful to the ideas expressed in its constitution the special conditions prevailing in Indian industry should receive adequate consideration, and the Indian Legislatures should not be brought into active conflict with the International Conference.

An official *communiqué* issued in Paris on April 14 announces that the Peace Conference has decided to give the Adriatic question preference over other questions for he ime, in he hope of reaching a settlement in the immediate future. This is excellent news, and if the official optimism be justified by events, a great step in the right direction will have been taken. It would, however, be satisfactory to know that Roumania's claims and, more especially, her urgent requirements in the way of material assistance, were to be dealt with equally promptly. It is not surprising that a deputation of leading Transylvanians has, through the Entente Legations at Berne, drawn attention to the dangerous situation on the Transylvanian frontier, and to the apparent desertion of Roumania by her Allies. It is difficult to fathom the ultimate intentions of the "Big Four" and of the rest of the Peace Conference, and its members have only themselves to blame if complaints such as this of the Transylvanian deputation should multiply. It may not be the fact, but it undoubtedly looks as if those who make most noise, who adopt an intransigent attitude whenever they fail to obtain their own way, receive preferential treatment over quieter suitors with more urgent claims on the consideration of the Conference.

General Smuts returned unsuccessful from Budapest. The only satisfactory thing about his mission would seem to be his refusal to allow Bela Kun to keep him dancing attendance at Budapest indefinitely. The news of his failure coming at the same time as that of the fall of Odessa hardly tends to increase confidence in the methods pursued in Paris, and the reticence of the Council of Four is regarded unfavourably in most quarters.

The abandonment of Odessa is a bad business, look at it as we may. It deals a heavy blow at Allied prestige, and provides the Bolshevists with great quantities of arms, ammunition, rolling stock, and general stores. It is understood to have been decided upon in consequence of the difficulty of provisioning the city owing to the shortage of available tonnage. Having regard to the moderate estimates of the city's requirements in the matter of food and stores, and to the large number of ships that used to call at the port every month in pre-war days, it is difficult to accept this explanation as the sole motive for the withdrawal. Be that as it may, the garrison was withdrawn westward, with the intention of joining up with the Roumanian army on the Dniester. According to a Bolshevist report, dated April 12, the Roumanians on the Dniester have been forced to retreat "after a fierce encounter."

In spite of Bolshevism and its menace, the promise of improved communications with South-East Europe, made by M. Claveille, the French Minister of Public Works, on March 19, is being made good. A mail train for Bucharest and Belgrade left Paris on April 8, and the new Simplon-Orient Express was inaugurated on Tuesday. The latter service is intended to supplant the old Orient Express, and in some quarters it has been suggested that it is likely to be supported on political grounds by the Entente Powers and their subjects. It is to be hoped that this may prove to be the case, and as far as the Governments of the Entente are concerned it almost certainly will be so. But the average traveller when choosing his route is more likely to consider how quickly and how comfortably he can reach his destination than to be swayed by any sentiment. In this respect the new express is starting level with the Orient Express, and if any rivalry develops it should be well able to hold its own.

The Kaiser may or may not be made to stand his trial, but some of his Turkish dupes and accomplices have been arrested, and a few of them have already met with richly-deserved punishment. Kiamil Mahmud Pasha, who was Governor of Yozgat when the massacres and deportations took place in that district, has been publicly hanged in Stamboul, the most Turkish quarter of Constantinople; and at least one of his most active lieutenants has been sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. Other prominent Turks who have been brought to book are Khalil Pasha and Avni Bey, who were arrested together on April 3. The latter is an ex-Vali of Angora; the former, who is much the bigger man, commanded the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia against General Townshend. To give him his due, when Kut fell the Pasha won golden opinions by his courtesy and the fair promises he made regarding the treatment of prisoners and sick and wounded. He had previously expressed warm admiration for those who attempted to carry relief to Kut on the s.s. "Julna." But his acts appear to have assorted ill with his promises and professions. He is now accused of Armenian atrocities, and our own Government is bent on ascertaining whether he is responsible for the ill-treatment of the Kut prisoners. The hope expressed in these columns last week seems likely to be fulfilled.

We publish to-day a letter from a correspondent on the question of the Dobruja, which will doubtless be perused with interest and a certain sympathy by many of our readers. For it is studiously moderate in tone, and, without pretending to convey any fresh information on the subject, it shows how the present situation in regard to the Dobruja was brought about, more or less deliberately, by the Great Powers which acted purely in their own interests and regardless of those of the two little States most intimately concerned. The extracts from Roumanian sources quoted by our correspondent seem to us to do credit to their writers. But, after all, the question, if any question there be, will not be answered by considering what was the state of affairs yesterday or the day before yesterday. It is hardly likely that any impartial observer would deny that the Dobruja has been very largely Roumanianised since it was given to Roumania, or that Constantza is really essential to Roumania's prosperity, while Bulgaria—especially in view of Greece's agreement to grant her a port on the Ægean—can quite well do without it.

A dispatch from Lieutenant-General Sir William Marshall, covering the operations of his force in Mesopotamia from October 1 to December 31, 1918, was published last Friday. Its chief interest lies in the fact that it describes the "last battle to be fought in this war by a Turkish army," as the General puts it. This battle, it will be remembered, extended over four days, and its closing scene was enacted in the neighbourhood of Kalat Sherghat, the ancient Ashur, where General Ismail Hakki finally surrendered in person. The British General, by the way, shows a generous appreciation of his opponent and his troops, noting that they offered "a stubborn resistance . . . in accordance with what one might have expected" from them. For the rest, the despatch tells much the same tale as others dealing with the Mesopotamian theatre of the war. We find the same difficult ground, the same impossibility of deceiving the enemy on occasion owing to the exigencies of transport, the same temporary immobilisation of units in order to provide pack transport, the same fighting and marching to the last ounce that was in the troops, the same necessity to call on them for fresh efforts, and, happily, the same fine response. We ob-

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serve also that the fighting men seem to have had to take into account difficulties which they might have been spared by better management. Mesopotamia will probably go down to history as the finest example of "muddling through" provided by this war, but for the men in the field it has been a glorious muddle.

Incidentally, General Marshall's dispatch contains much interesting information on other things that have happened in Mesopotamia besides the fighting. "From small beginnings, when Fao Fort was captured on November 6, 1914, the ration strength of the force when Mosul was occupied had grown to some 420,000, including labour battalions." One hundred and fourteen thousand square miles of Turkish territory have been conquered and occupied. Busreh can now be ranked as a thoroughly up-to-date port, capable of berthing twelve ocean-going steamers, and unloading 6,000 tons a day with the aid of electric cranes. And to mention only one other point on which the British may unreservedly congratulate themselves, the refugee camp at Bakuba has saved the lives of thousands of Armenians, Assyrians, Nestorians, and Jelus, who have been cared for in a way beyond praise—as we know from other sources than General Marshall's dispatch, which makes only the most modest reference to the subject.

NEAR EAST TRAIN SERVICES.

A Reuter's message from Paris dated April 10, announces:—"The first trans-Continental mail train for Bucharest and Belgrade, in charge of an officer of the Transport Service, left here on April 8. Arrangements have been made with the Italian military authorities for the passage of the train over the section of the railway line between Laibach, Agram, and Semlin."

The International Sleeping Car Company announced that the new Simplon-Orient express would leave Paris on its first journey on Tuesday. The train is to run daily via Dijon, Vallorbe, Lausanne, the Simplon Tunnel, Milan, Verona, Venice, and Trieste. At Vincovci the train is divided, one section, on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, going via Verciorova to Bucharest; and the other, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, direct to Belgrade, and eventually to Nish, Sofia, and Constantinople.

DID YOU SEE

ALLENBY'S LETTER?

Then you will be glad to hear that the Medical Unit he cabled for has arrived and is tackling the distress in Damascus and the Lebanon.

EMIR FEISAL *says:*

"Thousands have died, and still they die. We do all we can for them, and they die still."

PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE TO THE SECRETARY.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 31.

Arrival of General Allenby.

General Allenby arrived here by cruiser from Taranto on March 25, being received at the station by the civil and military authorities, his Excellency Said Zulfikar Pasha representing H.H. the Sultan, the ex-Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, and the senior British officials. His Excellency drove direct to the Residency, where he immediately entered upon his new duties. The High Commissioner lost no time in picking up the threads of the situation, and the next day (Wednesday) he summoned a meeting of Notables at the Residency and addressed them as follows:—

"I have been appointed High Commissioner for Egypt by His Majesty the King, and it is my desire and duty to assist in bringing to the country peace, quiet, and contentment. My intentions are:—(1) To bring the present disturbances to an end. (2) To make careful inquiry into all matters which have caused discontent in the country. (3) To redress such grievances as appear justifiable. It is you who can lead the people of Egypt. It is your duty to work with me in the interest of your country. I cannot believe that any one of you will not assist me in every way, and I am prepared to rely on you to set to work at once with a view to calming the passions now let loose. After quiet has been restored I feel confident that you will trust me to inquire impartially into all grievances, and to make such recommendations as may seem to be desirable for the content and well-being of the people of Egypt."

On Thursday an appeal signed by the chief Notables of Egypt, most of whom had been present at the Residency meeting, was issued to the Egyptian nation. This appeal called upon the people to avoid all disorders and not to go beyond the limits of the laws, and it asked the Notables and upper classes to use their influence with the people, to abstain from acts of offence and to take all measures they could to prevent anything being done which might prejudice the country. Among those signing this appeal, which has been disributed all over the country by aeroplane, were the Rector of El Azhar, the Grand Mufti, the Coptic Patriarch, the members of the late Cabinet, and most of the Independentist leaders.

The Situation in the Provinces.

Meanwhile the situation has undergone improvement—at any rate, as far as the provinces are concerned. The mobile columns—which have been sent out, and additions to which are being made almost daily—have touched every important point in the country, and are assisting the civil authorities to restore order. The country has been divided into military areas, and British officials having knowledge and experience of the people have been attached to each area to assist the officer in charge with advice. As a result of this there have during the last two or three days been no incidents of importance to report in Lower Egypt; while in Upper Egypt the improvement, although very much slower, is certainly perceptible.

According to the latest reports, relief parties had pushed as far as Luxor, where all was well. Information from Assouan was good, the narrow-gauge line from Luxor to Assouan being protected by the Arabs of the district. All the foreign residents from Upper Egypt have been evacuated, either to Cairo or Wadi Halfa, with the exception of those from Assiut, the first batch of whom are expected in Cairo to-morrow. The relief of Assiut took place none too soon, it appears, for the defenders were being very much harassed. The trouble started on the 23rd. Until then things had been fairly quiet, and with the exception of a monster demonstration by the pupils of the local schools, which was prevented by the firmness of the officer in command of the small British detachment stationed there, no incidents had occurred beyond a little rowdiness in the town. On the 22nd news was received by the local authorities that an armed band was collecting, and that an attack on the town might be

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expected. As the defence force was too small to protect everything, it was decided to abandon the military forage factories and concentrate in a position which would defend the residential quarter and the Barrage. Defence works were, therefore, hurriedly put up to protect the approaches, and the civilian and European population, whose numbers had been increased by additions from the South, were concentrated behind the defences.

On the morning of the 23rd the expected attack took place, and the rebels managed to break through one of the barriers, and fired on the troops. This attack was repulsed, as also were several others made during the day, in each case with heavy casualties to the enemy. The next day similar fighting took place, two seaplanes, which appeared opportunely from the North, assisting in the defence of the city. The defenders, who had been putting up an excellent fight, were by this time being hard-pressed, but the relief force, which had been sent up by river, managed to reach Assiut on the 25th, and thus readjusted the situation. On its way up the force, under Brigadier-General Huddlestone, encountered a certain amount of resistance, especially between Deirut and Assiut. The river banks were lined with snipers, who had to be dispersed with machine gun and rifle fire. At one point a hostile gathering was observed, and a landing was effected, several of the rebels being killed or captured. The Deirut district, which always had a bad reputation, was the one in which the attack was made on the officers on the train, and it was whilst passing through this district that Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Hazel, O.B.E., of the Ministry of the Interior, who was accompanying the party as political officer, was unfortunately shot through the head by a sniper from the river bank.

As the country is swept by the troops, so repairs to the communications are being undertaken. Thus, in Lower Egypt the main lines are working, and it has been possible to organise a regular (though reduced) daily service between Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said. In Upper Egypt, however, it has not yet been possible to run any trains, and in any event it will be some time before goods traffic on any scale will be practicable. Mails for Upper Egypt are being transported by aeroplane, and telegrams are either sent by wireless or via Port Sudan.

The Situation in Cairo.

While the situation in the provinces is rapidly improving, that in Cairo still gives rise to some little anxiety. Although things are quiet outwardly, there is an undercurrent of excitement. The more violently inclined extremists and the Azharites are trying their level best to keep the flame of unrest burning. Their latest subject is Lord Curzon's speech, in which they object to his reference, first, to the Protectorate, and, secondly, to the loyalty of the Egyptian officials. A movement has been set on foot to get the Egyptian officials to strike at least for three days as a protest, and as a proof that, contrary to being loyal to British, they sympathise with the extremists. Intimidation is being freely resorted to to get the officials into line and to make the shopkeepers close as a sign of sympathy with the movement; and at the moment of writing there appears to be every prospect of this strike materialising. There is also strong excitement in Al Azhar, and much talk of demonstrations, whether the authorities agree or not.

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JERUSALEM. — JAFFA.

This would all appear to be a supreme effort on the part of the extremists to make themselves heard abroad. They realise that they have shot their bolt; their scheme for "staggering humanity" so as to call attention to their grievances has failed; there are ample forces now in Egypt to suppress any disorders and maintain British prestige; General Allenby has made it perfectly clear in his address to the Notables that before everything else he intends to end the present disturbances, and, whatever they may say, the extremists must know that he means what he says. They have, however, made up their minds to a final effort, and by every means at their disposal are beating up reinforcements in the shape of Government employees, shopkeepers, students, and Berberins. There will possibly be active opposition to the authorities and hostile acts during the next few days, when the strikes, etc., are to materialise, but these will be of short duration and will meet with the punishment they deserve.

EGYPTIAN MINISTRY.

On April 10 the Foreign Office issued the following statement:—

General Allenby has reported that a new Ministry was formed yesterday [April 9], composed as follows:—

HUSSEIN RUSHDI PASHA*	President of the Council
YUSUF WAHBA PASHA*	Finance
ADLY YEGHEN PASHA*	Interior
ABDEL KHALEK SARWAT PASHA*	Justice
GAAFAR WALY PASHA	Wakfs
AHMED MIDHAT YEGHEN PASHA	Agriculture
HASSAN HASSIT PASHA	Public Works and War

(* Member of the late Cabinet.)

For the present Rushdi Pasha will take the Ministry of Education.

General Allenby states that the Ministry has been well received.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS FUND.

We have received the 1918 report of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. The committee of this excellent institution is now able to communicate with Transcaucasia. It points out that help now is needed there more than ever, and pleads that, since Armenians have earned the gratitude of the civilised world, their services should be recognised. Special appeal is made for contributions, more helpers, and clothes.

The destroyers Shark, Lieutenant in command, S. S. Bonham-Carter, D.S.O., and Sheldrake, Lieutenant in command, F. P. Champion de Crespigny, have arrived at Chatham from the Mediterranean.

A request made by the British Political Officer at Mosul through the Civil Commissioner for a male missionary to be sent to look after the temporal and spiritual welfare of the people is interpreted by the Church Missionary Society to mean that restrictions imposed by the British Government on missionary enterprise in the Baghdad region are being relaxed.

The General Council of King George's Fund for Sailors have allocated the sum of £2,500 to the Alexandria Merchant Seamen's Home, Egypt. The Home, as it exists at present, is not able to provide adequate means of meeting the requirements of sailors during the time they are at the Port of Alexandria, and the Committee in Egypt, of which his Majesty's Consul-General is President, have issued an appeal for a sum of money to carry out certain extensions and improvements.

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

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

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

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 1.

Queen Marie's Reception.

An event calculated to cause no little satisfaction in Roumania is the splendid reception reported to have been given to Queen Marie on her arrival in England. It is more—it must be more—than a mere courtesy offered to a foreign sovereign—more, even, than a mere recognition of personal dignity sustained unswervingly through days of bitter trial. The warmth of welcome extended to Queen Marie is surely intended to reach the hearts of her people. What she has suffered all have suffered with her. Not to the physical pain do we refer, nor the sickening hunger, the frost-bitten limbs, the ravaging epidemics; but rather to the moral anguish, the fluctuating hopes and fears, the cruel disillusions, the paralysing sense of impending calamity, the panic of imminent defeat, the indignity of servitude. . . . The awakening has come from the hideous nightmare. What has been must remain a closed book to those not actually concerned; yet it is well that public recognition should not be lacking. Whoever has been an eye-witness of what the people of Roumania have suffered and *done*, can offer you the assurance that you need not fear to overdo things.

Finis Hungariae.

The advent to power of the Socialist, Kun Béla, at the head of a Soviet Government, signalises the official introduction of Bolshevism in the heart of Hungary. This is an event the importance of which is incalculable. Unless the spark of anarchy is rapidly stamped out, it will spread into a conflagration of savagery unparalleled by anything that has yet been seen either in or out of Russia. A report comes from Transylvania to the effect that forty British aeroplanes have made their appearance above Budapest, distributing leaflets warning the Government that they will proceed to shell the capital unless the Hungarian troops are withdrawn behind the neutral zone, which begins at the demarcational line passing through Arad and Oradea Mare. This news is balm to the Transylvanians, who, it will be remembered, in spite of the exasperation provoked by the recent massacres organised by Count Karolyi, held their hand and refrained from retaliation. But their patience has been sorely tried. It were indeed well that the Allies should cease dallying with their enemies. A change of attitude in this direction would be much approved among certain small peoples, who cannot ignore the fact that the customary system involves, among other things, some injustice to friends and allies.

Budapest Bolshevism.

I annex a letter which indicates that the Bolshevist movement in Hungary is not of quite recent date. Karolyi, by his resignation, merely allowed it to break out. The letter throws interesting light on Hungary's amiable intentions regarding her neighbours; but the fact that nothing unusual or disquieting has occurred in Roumania since the complicated and apparently systematically organised machinery, referred to in the letter, has been put in action, is sufficient evidence that the seed of Bolshevism is not likely to flourish in the soil of this country. My opinion agrees with that of most people I have talked with on this subject—namely, that the Roumanian is entirely hostile to Bolshevist influences. Indeed, no conditions favourable to its outbreak are discernible. The rumour obtaining in England some time ago, of which we have only recently heard, to the effect that revolution had broken out in Roumania, belongs, of course, to the realms of phantasy—of Hungarian phantasy, very likely. It was no doubt a case of the wish being father to the thought. At present it looks as though the incendiaries of Budapest, far from producing the much-desired conflagration in their neighbour's house, had but contrived to set fire to their own dwelling. The following is the letter referred to. It emanates from the well-known Bolshevist leader Kagan, and speaks for itself. It is addressed to an agitator named Konitz, here in Roumania, on whose person it was found:—

What is happening in your part of the world I don't know. The only echo that has reached us has stirred the feeling of revolt of us who spare neither energy nor life in our pursuit of fomenting social revolution in Ardeal (Transylvania) and, it is understood, in Roumania. . . . We in Budapest are working with feverish energy. Let us present you a modest summary of our recent doings:—(1) The organization of a Roumanian communist group in Budapest, with branches in Hungary, Ardeal, and Banat. (2) Intense propaganda in all parts inhabited by Roumanians. (3) Incendiary manifestos for the Roumanian army in Ardeal. (4) Publication of a weekly journal, *The Red Standard*, the copies of which number tens of thousands. (5) Explicative and explicit pamphlets. (6) A school of agitators. (7) Organization of a congress of all Roumanian socialist factions. (8) Meeting of a congress here on December 13 and January 1, in which, after a lively debate, our tactics and programme were adopted by a majority of 11. (9) The constitution, as an immediate sequel to the congress, of the "Roumanian Communist Federation of Austria, Hungary, Ardeal, and Banat," the prime object of which is social revolution in Roumania. (10) Establishment of relations with the Spartacists of Germany (Valerius Marcu is expected here, too). (11) Sending agitators to Bukovina and the prospect of forming a Bukovina group. (12) Very shortly you will receive the visit of a good and stalwart comrade, Munteanu, with instructions from Moscow and from us.

My correspondence with comrade Racovsky has resulted in our comrade V. Popovici being sent here on a special mission. He is now in Vienna with the brothers Hoppe, whence he returns to Budapest. There are also funds for you here, you need only send a delegate to take charge of them. You can send me a detailed reply through bearer of these lines.—With communist salutations. (Signed) Kagan.

Budapest, January 23, 1919.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A Question of Nationality. April 8.

Answering Colonel Wedgwood, who asked whether an Egyptian was a British subject and should enjoy in this country and in India the rights and privileges of British citizenship, Mr. Cecil Harmsworth said: The answer is in the negative. Persons who are recognised by the Egyptian Government as Egyptian subjects are, however, like natives of other British Protectorates, entitled to the good offices of his Majesty's representatives abroad.

Situation in Abyssinia. April 9.

Major O'Neill asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether there had recently been a revolution or *coup d'Etat* in Abyssinia.

Mr. Harmsworth: I have received no confirmation of the reports regarding a revolution in Northern Abyssinia, which appeared recently in the Press, and to which the hon. member doubtless refers. I have, however, telegraphed an inquiry on the subject of his Majesty's representative. The general situation in Abyssinia has not materially changed since the present régime came into force in 1916.

Inspector-General of Police, Bombay. April 10.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Gilbert Wills asked the Secretary of State for India whether the retirement of the inspector-general of police of the Bombay Presidency is due to take place during the present month; whether the appointment is about to be bestowed upon a member of the Indian Civil Service; and whether there are several police officers of twenty years' service and upwards in that force?

Mr. Fisher: The answers to the first and second questions are in the affirmative. As regards the last question, it is well understood that the Local Government may select for the post of inspector-general of police the officer in its judgment best fitted for the appointment whether within the Police Department or outside it.

The Trouble in India. April 14.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, in answer to Colonel Wedgwood, said: I regret to say there have been further riots—slight riots—at Lahore and at Ahmedabad, where the city telegraph office has been burned, and at Amritsar, where the telegraph office and other buildings have been destroyed. There has been some loss of life, including Europeans. I propose to publish the contents of the telegrams which I have received this evening. In answer to a supplementary question, Mr. Montagu added that he did not think, in the present disturbed condition of the world, these riots could be attributed to any one cause.

Topics in Parliament.

Egypt: Citizenship.—Proclamation Issued. Prisoners of War: Turkey.—India: Rioting at Delhi.—Mesopotamia and Palestine Operations (Despatches).—India: Steamship Accommodation. (April 8.)

India: Railway Administration.—Army (Officers' Pensions).—Cotton Production. Egypt: Situation in Cairo. Kut-el-Amara: Dispatches and Military Awards. German Troops (Return from Constantinople). Demobilization: Kantara Camp, Egypt. Flour Prices, India. (April 9.)

India: Crimes Bill.—Retired Police Officers (Pensions). (April 10.)

India: Indian Railway Board.—Lower Police (Pay).—Egypt: Administration (Reports).—School Teachers, Kantara Camp. (April 14.)

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THE AMEER OF AFGHANISTAN.

By the kindness of a correspondent we are enabled to reproduce photographs of the new Ameer of Afghanistan, of his father (the late Ameer), and of Inayat Ullah Khan, the elder brother of the new sovereign. We give also a genealogical table and



THE LATE AMEER OF AFGHANISTAN,
Habib Ullah Khan, Siraj-ul-Millat wa ud-Din.

AMEER ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN
Married Gulrig, a slave girl from Wakhan | Married | Bibi Halima

- Ameer Habib Ullah Khan (born 1872).
  - Married a stepdaughter of Naib Salar Ameer Mohammed Khan (4th Queen).
    - Inayat Ullah Khan (born 1888).
  - Married a slave girl
    - Hayat Ullah Khan (born 1890).
  - Married a stepdaughter of Shahgassi Mohammed Sarwar (1st Queen).
    - Aman Ullah Khan (born 1890).
- Sirdar Nasr Ullah Khan (born 1874).
  - Married a daughter of Sirdar Ibrahim Khan (3rd Queen).
- Sirdar Mohammed Omar Khan (born 1889).
  - Married a daughter of Sirdar Mohammed Yusef Khan Barakzai (2nd Queen).

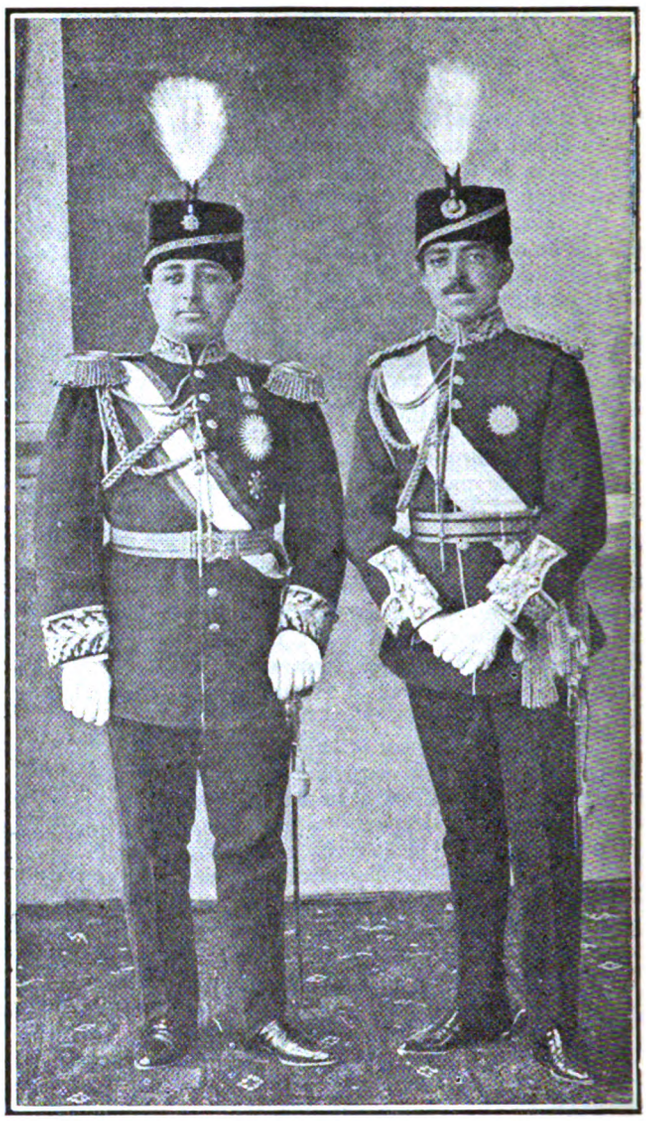
some extracts from Angus Hamilton's book, "Afghanistan," which are of much interest at the present time.

In spite of his amiability, Habib Allah does not possess a very secure seat upon his throne, the intrigues of the Queen-Mother and the jealousy of his brothers disturbing his position. . . . Nasr Ullah Khan and the Queen Dowager, Bibi Halima, wife of the late Ameer (Abdur Rahman) and the mother of Sirdar Mohammed Omar Jar Khan, are the stormy petrels in the Afghan sea of domestic politics. . . .

It is more difficult for the Ameer to assail the position occupied by Nasr Ullah, who was appointed commander-in-chief of the Afghan army in the early days of Habib Ullah's accession. Little attempt, therefore, is made by the Ameer to curb the masterful will of his brother. . . . Nasr Ullah Khan is not, perhaps, the most reliable prop to the policy of his brother, since he aspires to the throne for himself; and there is no doubt that when opportunity offers he will make a bid for it.

Of the queens Hamilton says:—

The child of Yusef Khan, Ulia Janiah, is known in the intimate circle of the harem as the Hindustani Queen. She is a woman of education, charm and accomplishment. . . . The woman now filling the position of chief queen is the mother of Aman Ullah. . . . She strikes an interesting contrast with the daughter of Yusef Khan. She is a woman of ungovernable passions, wilful, domineering and capricious.



THE NEW AMEER OF AFGHANISTAN,
Sirdar Aman Ullah Khan (on right of picture), and his elder brother, Sirdar Inayat Ullah Khan.

Ultimately there is some prospect of a struggle for the throne taking place between the uncle (Nasr Ullah) and the nephew (Inayat Ullah). Each is a young man; but although time may not temper their discretion, it does lie within the power of Habib Ullah to place the rights of his son beyond the reach of this particular candidate.

THE QUESTION OF THE DOBRUJA.

(*To the Editor of* THE NEAR EAST.)

Sir,—In THE NEAR EAST of March 7, under the headline "Roumanian Notes," the question of the Dobruja is touched upon by your correspondent, who asserts that even "from the fourteenth century the Wallachian princes extended their rule over the Dobruja," and that "from the geographic and economic point of view the Dobruja is an integral part of the whole system of the Roumanian State." With the exception of Prince Mircea I. (1386-1418), who for a quarter of a century extended his rule over part of Dobruja, no Wallachian prince has ruled over the right bank of the Danube for any length of time. A glance at the map of the Balkan Peninsula is enough to satisfy any unprejudiced mind that Dobruja is geographically a part of Bulgaria. Up to 1878, when it was annexed to Roumania by the Berlin Treaty, the Danube formed the boundary between Turkey, Bulgaria, and Roumania respectively. By the Sultan's charter, which instituted a Bulgarian church administration in 1870, under the name of the Bulgarian Exarchate, the whole country between the Balkan mountains and the Danube, from Nish to the mouths of the Danube, was included in the Exarchate as essentially Bulgarian. The Constantinople Conference of 1876, a prominent member of which was the late Marquis of Salisbury, made no question of Dobruja being part and parcel of Bulgaria, but included it in the autonomous Bulgaria it tried to create. Your correspondent says that Dobruja "ethnologically, before its incorporation into Roumania (1881), was a veritable museum of races." It was no more so than some other parts of Turkey. The population of Dobruja was composed chiefly of Turks, Tartars, Bulgarians, and Lipovans (Russian immigrants), while the Roumanians, along with the Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, formed a negligible minority. The trade of the country was pre-eminently in

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the hands of the Bulgarians. Along the Black Sea coast, as, *e.g.*, in Constantza or Kustendji and Mangalia, as well as in the interior of the country, as in Babadag and Medjidieh, there were no Roumanians at all.

It would be a mere waste of time and space to enter into a discussion of Roumania's historic right to Dobruja by disturbing the ashes of pre-Christian Scythians, Daco-Thracians, and Roman colonists which your correspondent evokes. Present-day Balkan problems are not to be settled on such evidence. It is much more to the point to evoke undeniable facts which are a matter of common knowledge and contemporary history. The Berlin Congress decided to annex a part of Dobruja to Roumania in 1878 not on any historical, geographical, or ethnological ground, but simply because the late Russian Tsar, Alexander II., was determined to reannex to Russia that part of Bessarabia which he had been forced to cede to Roumania by the Paris Treaty of 1856. Roumania had to be compensated for the loss of Bessarabia. If right and justice had guided the Berlin Congress in its decisions, this compensation should have been made in Transylvania or the Bukovina, where Roumania had indisputable rights, but, of course, Austria-Hungary would not listen to any such proposition. Bulgaria was then a Turkish province, recently liberated by Russia, whose political and territorial constitution was to be determined by the Berlin Areopagus. Bulgaria had no voice whatever in the matter, and so the Congress decided to sever from Bulgaria Dobruja, which only two years before had been officially recognised by the European Conference of Constantinople as part of Bulgaria, and give it to Roumania. Exactly the same procedure was followed in the cession of the districts of Nish and Pirot to Serbia.

The desire of the Russian Emperor to exchange Dobruja for Bessarabia was greeted with general indignation and disapprobation in Roumania. The Roumanian Senate and Chamber of Deputies unanimously voted on January 26, 1878, against the exchange; while the Roumanian Government in its memorial of March 9, 1878, to the European Powers, strongly protested against it. On April 11, 1878, Cogalniceano, Roumanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, writing to the Roumanian Minister at London, enclosed copy of a dispatch sent to the Roumanian Minister at St. Petersburg, in which he said that "the legislative bodies and the country are against an exchange of territory with Russia," and urged that the chief territorial claim of Roumania against Turkey is the restitution of the mouths of the Danube, which, although restored to Roumania by the Paris Treaty of 1856, were taken away from her by the Protocol of January 6, 1857 (Blue Book, 1878, Turkey No. 30). These declarations Cogalniceano solemnly repeated before the Plenipotentiaries at the Congress at its tenth sitting (Blue Book, 1878, Turkey, No. 39). In a declaration signed by forty-six members of the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies, protesting against the decision of the Berlin Congress, we read: "After having heard the reply of the Government, the Chamber, rallying to the unanimous vote of the national representatives of January 26, 1878, protesting against the dismemberment of the country by the taking of Bessarabia by Russia, and considering that every annexation of territory on the other side of the Danube is contrary to the interests of Roumania and would be a cause of complications and troubles in the future, does not accept the annexation of Dobruja to Roumania at any price and under any title." In his book on "Dobruja" (1878), Locusteanu, a member of the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies, writes: "We do not wish to take Dobruja. From the standpoint of geography and ethnography it is separated from Roumania by the Danube and its arms, and the majority of its population is alien to our race and our religion. Politically, such an annexation would constitute a bad example of injustice and plunder, and would be a cause of discord between Bulgaria and Roumania." In his "Rambling Recollections" (1908), the late Sir Henry Drummond Wolff reports that a prominent Roumanian confessed to him that the majority of the population of Dobruja was Bulgarian, and that geographically it formed part of Bulgaria.

The Roumanian press was no less explicit on the subject. *Telegraphul*, the organ of the then Premier, Bratiano, in its issue of January 28, 1878, wrote: "The ignoble proposition is made to us to commit treachery towards our brethren, and to exchange them for a population which is alien to us and will always look upon us as its conquerors. We do not want any of these conquests beyond the Danube, because they will be only a source of constant quarrels between Roumanians and Bulgarians." The same paper, of March 18, 1878, in an article dealing with the subject, says that the Dobruja will one day serve as a pretext for another "Bulgarian question," that Bulgaria will surely claim back what is its own, and that "the principle of nationalities and the principle of national boundaries, all will speak in favour of the Bulgarian aspirations." *Romanul*, organ of the well-known publicist C. A. Rosetti, and President of the Chamber of Deputies at the time, declared that "if the Roumanians have helped to liberate the Bulgarian people, which for centuries has been under the Turkish yoke, it was not for the purpose of taking away a part of its paternal heritage." *Steaua Romaniei* (April 23, 1878), a prominent paper of Jassy, in discussing in a long editorial the Dobruja question, gave various reasons why Roumania should refuse to exchange Bessarabia for Dobruja. Among these reasons the following deserve special notice: (1) Geographically and ethnographically Dobruja forms no part of our territory; being on the other side of the Danube, it constitutes a prolongation of Bulgaria, and is inhabited for the most part by Turks, Tatars, Bulgarians, and very few Roumanians." (2) "Dobruja will be in the future an open sore, a motive of discord between Roumania and Bulgaria, which will be continually and successfully exploited by those who are interested in seeing us at loggerheads and dragged into a war." (3) "By taking Dobruja, a country to which we have no right, either historical or by right of conquest, we shall justify and consecrate the spoliation perpetrated upon us in 1775 by Austria and in 1812 by Russia. It seems to us that these reasons are strong enough to forbid us from extending ourselves on the other side of the Danube. Hence, it would be to Roumania's own interest to refuse flatly any territorial aggrandisement whatever on the other side of the Danube."

The natural boundary, as these Roumanian statements of forty years ago acknowledge, is and should be the Danube. Before the unjust and unwise decision of the Berlin Congress, the feelings between the Roumanians and Bulgarians were most friendly. Roumania was the place of refuge where thousands of Bulgarians, unwilling to bear Turkish persecution and oppression in their own country, found freedom and safety. The Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee, whose object was the political emancipation of Bulgaria from Turkish rule, had its seat at Bucharest. The various attempts at insurrection in Bulgaria originated in Roumania, and were principally carried out by bands of insurgents organised and equipped on Roumanian territory. For all this the Bulgarian people had good reason to be grateful to Roumania, and they were. But the annexation of Dobruja to Roumania produced a revulsion of this feeling, probably just the thing that was desired by one or two of the Powers which framed the Berlin Treaty. Roumanian appetite developed in eating. It has been an open secret ever since 1878 that Roumania, not satisfied with what she had got, desired to extend her territorial acquisitions in Bulgaria as far as the river Kamtchia, so as to include within its boundaries the quadrilateral—Varna, Shumla, Rustchuk, and Silistria—a region where Roumanians are non-existent. The spoliation of Bulgaria by Roumania in 1913 by the Treaty of Bucharest was a step forward in the execution of this plan. Geographically, Roumania is not a Balkan State. In fact, Roumanians themselves have considered it derogatory to their country to have it classed as a Balkan State. In his "Diplomatic History of Serbia During the Time of the Serbian Wars for Liberation and Independence, 1875-78," published in 1896 at Belgrade, the late Ivan Ristitch, the most prominent Serbian statesman, commenting on the non-participation of Roumania in the Serbo-Turkish war of 1876, says (Vol. II., p. 163): "We can understand the absence of Roumania on the battlefield; they then acknowledged that they had no interest whatever on the right bank of the Danube, and generally in the Balkans." Roumania has no more right to Dobruja than Bulgaria has to territory across the Danube, because, forsooth, more than 100,000 Bulgarians live in Roumania, and towns like Giurgevo, Ploeshti, Braila, Galatz, and some others are peopled largely by Bulgarians or their descendants, as Charles Vogt, former Chief of the Cabinet of the late King Carol of Roumania, fully acknowledges in his "L'Europe Orientale" (pp. 448-451). On the right bank of the Danube Roumania has been and will be an intruder, with potentialities of future mischief making. As Dobruja is an open, undulating country, devoid of any proper boundary, Roumania will always cherish the desire and bide her time to extend her acquisitions farther to the west, under the pretext of rounding off and better securing her possessions. She will be, as she has been, a standing menace to the security of Bulgaria.

The Berlin Congress forty years ago committed, *inter alia*, two great wrongs. It wronged Roumania by depriving it of Bessarabia, and it wronged Bulgaria by severing Dobruja from it. If by restoring Bessarabia to Roumania the present Paris Conference will right the one wrong, it should right the other wrong, too, by restoring Dobruja to Bulgaria, where it properly belongs. It ought not to be difficult to secure and guarantee to Roumania an outlet to the Black Sea, to which she is entitled, by way of Constanza. Bulgaria will be the last to oppose such an arrangement; but to sanction the unjust decision of the Berlin Congress and hand over to Roumania a large tract of territory which really belongs to Bulgaria, merely for the sake of giving her a port on the Black Sea, would mean the perpetuation of an injustice and a state of things fraught for the future, as it has been in the past, with heartburnings and dangers.

I need not dwell upon the question of the Bulgarian territory seized by Roumania in 1913, upon which she had no right, moral or legal. *Punch*, by a characteristic cartoon at the time, representing the action of Roumania as pure and simple robbery, hit the nail on the head. But the root of the evil lay in the decision of the Berlin Congress forty years ago, when it pushed Roumania, contrary to her will, on the right side of the Danube. But for that decision Roumania would not have felt justified or inclined to commit another act of depredation on Bulgarian land. It is up to the Paris Conference of to-day to remove the evil and restrict Roumania to territory which by right and natural boundaries belongs to her, namely, the left bank of the Danube.—I am, etc.,

S. P.

Washington, U.S.A., March 24, 1919.

[Reference to this letter will be found in our Notes of the Week.—ED.]

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Cromer, Gorst, Kitchener.

The April number of the *Fortnightly Review* contains an extremely interesting article by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G., on "Three Egyptian Proconsuls." He points out the fact that Egyptian administration has been subject to vicissitudes and fluctuations, and illustrates this by describing the regimes of (1) Lord Cromer, (2) Sir Eldon Gorst, and (3) Lord Kitchener.

Of the first period the capital feature was the concentration of the threads of government in the hands of one man. This process, says the writer, could not be entirely smooth.

These conditions inevitably involved a corresponding and continuous struggle with those forces which resented what they perhaps not unnaturally considered as unwarrantable encroachments on their own powers and prerogatives, and which resisted his authority by active opposition or passive obstruction. The Native Ministers of those days were not—with one or two striking exceptions—men of first-rate ability, and were therefore, for the most part, content to leave the conduct of affairs to their British coadjutors. There were, however, from time to time, more especially in the early period of his administration, trials of strength between the more daring spirits among them and the masterful British representative. The main and the most powerful source of opposition, however, throughout this period, was the Khedive, Abbas Hilmy, himself.

Though giving full credit to Lord Cromer for the financial transformation and material development of Egypt, the writer easily sees the weakness of such personal rule. He says:—

There can be little doubt that this system of Government, which tended with time to become more and more absolute, played directly into the hands of the political agitators and led eventually to the rapid spread of that spirit of nationalism and anti-Christian sentiment which is always latent in Oriental communities under European dominance.

In 1907 Sir Eldon Gorst endeavoured to inaugurate a new policy—a policy of carrying on the administration with the support of, and in collaboration with, the Khedive. The results, however, were far from satisfactory.

In point of fact, hardly anything was done, and administration degenerated into mere routine. Scarcely any new schemes of any kind were undertaken, the British administrators (who had been instructed to keep as much as possible in the background) waiting, like ostriches with their heads in the sand, for the Egyptians to take the initiative—a spectacle which, if sometimes irritating, was not devoid of humour. The period was, therefore, one of general stagnation and administrative sterility.

Sir Eldon Gorst had, however, much courage and tenacity of purpose; and the reasons for his failure are enumerated without blame. First, his policy was in its execution "too sudden, too ostentatious, and too artificial." Secondly, he had inherited from the previous regime violent political excitement and unrest. And, thirdly, "his period of office coincided with a time of acute financial depression, following on an epoch of unprecedented buoyancy and outward brilliant prosperity."

Of Lord Kitchener's administration the appreciation is illuminating. His defects are not concealed by the story of his well-known merits.

Lord Kitchener had strong views of his own in almost every field of administration—financial, legal, medical, and the rest—and frequently insisted on their execution in spite of strong protests. Indeed, he not infrequently totally disregarded the Adviser concerned, and sometimes derived his inspirations from obscure and wholly irresponsible sources.

Sir Malcolm has an amusing story in connection with the famous "Homestead Exemption Law" of 1912, and the Greek financiers' evasion of that simple measure. But he places to Lord Kitchener's permanent credit the institution of "Cantonal Courts." The article concludes with an attempt to estimate the three years of Lord Kitchener's administration.

He evidently desired to prove that his administrative talents were no less remarkable than his military genius, and to a large extent he may be said to have succeeded. His greatest defect as a civil administrator—if a word of criticism be permissible—was what can only be described as a positive passion for despatch at any price.

But these defects were far outweighed by his untiring industry and his whole-hearted devotion to the task in hand.

Articles to Note.

"Wonders and Charms of Northern Syria," by Harold J. Shepstone, F.R.G.S., in the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine*.

"The Building of the Church Among Village Communities. II.—The North Indian Presbyterian Mass Movement," by C. H. Bandy, D.D.; and "The Sunday School in India," by Edward A. Annett, in the *International Review of Missions* (April).

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF HISTORY.*

Sir Andrew Wingate's book upon the "Spiritual Side of History" covers a wide ground. It is an attempt to answer the question which many thousands of thinking men have been asking these last four and a-half years: "Why does God permit this tragedy of death and suffering?" Everybody must find his answer, or half answer, or do what probably most do—put the question aside as insoluble. The author of this book is happy in finding an answer to his satisfaction, and undoubtedly, as the mature reflection of one who has thought upon God's ways during a long life, his views are well worth our consideration, though perhaps only a small minority will accept them as a whole. This volume differs from other books on somewhat similar lines in its wider general interest and its greater appreciation of the broad facts. The first "book" upon the "Path which led to War" is a valuable and scholarly summary of political facts, which, though recounted again and again these last years, have seldom been presented in a most convincing form. The thread is taken up again in Book III., dealing with the "Effect of the War on the Nations." Some of this seems a little out of date to-day, as, for example, the effect of the war on Russia, which has proved a tragedy of unplumbed depth, not hinted at here. With regard to Germany—where, too, political upheavals have apparently occurred since these pages were penned—Sir Andrew Wingate remarks: "Probably Germans are not aware that long after the war they and their children will find themselves up against shocked humanity. Not only in Europe and America, but in India, China, Japan, and even in wildest Africa, Germans will be regarded as deficient in elementary morality—as having outraged the world's sense of decency. With victory behind them, such a position might be brazened through. But defeated, there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

With regard to the rest of the book, which deals with the restoration of the Jews to Palestine, their conversion, and many allied things connected with prophecy, it would be out of place here to attempt criticism. As the ideas of one who has served the Empire in important posts, has seen the world and read widely, and who is at the same time a sincere student of the Bible, this work cannot fail to receive respectful attention. There is a careful synopsis of the events of the war as an appendix, which is a valuable table of reference, and the illustrations from photographs taken in Palestine and Mesopotamia are well chosen.

THE DODECANESE.

We have received "The Dodecanese," an illustrated brochure in which Dr. Skevos Zervos, the representative of the Dodecanese at the Peace Conference, sets forth the claims of these islands. Historically, the writer says, the Dodecanese are incontestably Greek, and to aid him in proof of this statement he reproduces some extremely fine photographs, which, as he says, are the most truthful of all witnesses. After a brief sketch of the geography and the geology of the islands, they are shown in the Homeric and classical periods. Then it is told how the science of medicine was developed, especially under Hippocrates, after whom came the glory of the Alexandrian School. But the proud independence of the Dodecanese fell under Rome, and until the partition of the Roman Empire they endured great sufferings. As the Byzantine Empire decayed the Dodecanese were plundered by all kinds of raiders, and eventually passed into the hands of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. But with the oncoming of the Turks these islands were destined for a long spell of religious tyranny, until in 1821 they were once more taken to their mother, Greece. Their history, however, was not yet finished, for they came under the protection of Great Britain, France, and Russia, and from 1835 to 1912 they were nominally subject to Turkey. After that came the Italian domination, from which the Dodecanese hope most fervently to escape. For their filial love for Greece is insatiable.

In Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co.'s April List, "The Story of King Constantine," by J. Selden Willmore (price 2s. 6d. net) is announced.

Macmillan announce the second impression of "Folk-Lore in the Old Testament" (3 vols., 37s. 6d. net), by Sir J. G. Frazer.

The Oxford University Press have published two books on India by Vincent A. Smith, C.I.E., "The Oxford History of India" (12s. 6d. net), and "Indian Constitutional Reform" (3s. 6d. net).

Williams and Norgate announce "Mestrovic," which is a collection of sixty-eight plates in Collotype. Dr. M. Curcin has edited the various contributions which make up the book. (Price 42s. net.)

*"Palestine, Mesopotamia and the Jews: The Spiritual Side of History." By Sir Andrew Wingate, K.C.I.E. (London: Alfred Holness. 5s. net.)

THE CARAVANSERAI.

In the *Balkan Review* for March there are some cartoons reproduced from the Sofia *Je Sais Tout*. These cartoons, drawn originally in the period October, 1917, to September, 1918, are obviously not reproduced for the purpose of stimulating British love for Bulgaria. On the contrary, they are, in their Teutonic crudeness, their fanciful representations, and sometimes disgusting jests, given to us who know the end of the war in order that we may compare the German with the Bulgar. The first caricature (October, 1917) shows the Entente paying homage to the god Baal, while the Central Powers are honouring the goddess of Peace. England is shown holding in her right hand a bowl of incense and having round her left arm a serpent. And America, in civilian attire, is being attracted to the human sacrifice for the sake of the dollars which she may thence obtain. The whole thing is supposed to be a representation of the various combatants' feelings at the time of Germany's reply to the Papal note.

***

In the second picture (March, 1918) England, easily disguised as an octopus, is seen in the sea of failure, floating, with her Allies entwined in her tentacles. Russia is walking (for the sea is shallow!) away tearfully and perplexedly. On the cliffs, seated in uncomfortable and very insecure positions, are the Central Powers, sword in hand, and eyes on their victims. As if they would not strike when their opponents were down! No more true is the fourth figure (May, 1918), which shows the Central Powers going to a wedding, with guests, bouquets, babes, and what not, while the Entente are attending a funeral. Dark irony pervades this picture, which is better done than the majority. For the bouquets were of withering flowers and the babes of peace still-born; whereas when the Entente's funeral procession (true enough temporarily) reached the church they found that he they had thought dead lived, and so were able to rejoice. Finally, I may mention one other picture, which delightfully illustrates the ignorant simplicity of the Central Powers. Hindenburg is seated with one hand on a chess-board. The board has only forty-nine squares, and has pieces of one colour only. Obviously if Hindenburg is to checkmate his opponent (who is not there) he must employ rules known only to himself! But besides playing chess he is with his left hand about to pull down a trap on unsuspecting France and Italy. England is shown prostrate, expelled from Russia's threshold, and the panorama before Hindenburg's eyes is one of certain and imminent confusion for his opponents. Truly a heavenly prospect! It was, however, too powerful a vision to be seen by any but Bulgarian eyes.

***

My attention has been called to a remarkable feature of the Cairo demonstrations, which was reported, I think, only by the correspondent of the *Sunday Express*. The correspondent referred to writes (or cables):—" . . Limousine cars, camels, sheikhs riding richly caparisoned mules were all draped alike with Egyptian flags." This seems to indicate a novel fashion, and I should much like to see a venerable sheikh draped with Egyptian flags, or even one flag. Now, had it been the mules——!

CORSAIR.



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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. April	1919. April.		1337. Rejeb	5679. Nisan
18	5	Friday	17	18
19	6	Saturday.....	18	19
20	7	Sunday	19	20
21	8	Monday	20	21
22	9	Tuesday	21	22
23	10	Wednesday	22	23
24	11	Thursday	23	24

Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson has arrived home from Egypt.

M. Stavridi, the Greek Consul-General, has left London for Paris.

On April 6, Mrs. E. N. St. J. Dickinson gave birth to a daughter.

Princess Ileana has left Buckingham Palace to rejoin the Queen of Roumania in Paris.

Lord Barrymore has left for Fota Island, Queenstown. Lady Barrymore has gone to France.

Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell had the honour of being received by the Queen on April 11.

Lady Beatrice Pretyman and Miss Pretyman have returned from Egypt, and are now at Orwell Park.

After Easter the lectures at the Royal Institution will include two by Sir Valentine Chirol on the Balkans.

On April 12, at 12, Grenville Place, S.W., London, the wife of Sir Francis Hugh Stewart, C.I.E., gave birth to a son.

On April 15, at 34, Stanford Road, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Trevor, Indian Army, gave birth to a daughter.

Princess Helena Soutzo, the wife of the Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in Paris, arrived in London on April 10.

Ismail Sirri Pasha, formerly Minister of Public Works and of War in Egypt, has been appointed to the Suez Canal Board to replace Artin Pasha.

Mr. Montagu, chairman of the Finance Commission of the Peace Conference, returned to London on April 9. Sir James Dunlop Smith is also back from Paris.

On April 9, 1919, at Dilkusha-Glenageary Hill, Kingstown, the wife of Acting Lieut.-Colonel R. G. S. Gregg, R.A.M.C., gave birth to a son.

The Emir Feïsal was received by M. Clemenceau in Paris on April 14, and is, accompanied by Colonel T. E. Lawrence, returning home by way of Rome.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Charles Nevile and Miss Muriel O'Conor will take place on Easter Monday, at the Brompton Oratory, at 10.30.

Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, the Director of Education, Sudan, left Khartoum on March 17 for Egypt, whence he is proceeding to England on leave.

Bimbashi H. Y. E. Haggett, Second Inspector, Nuba Mountains Province, has arrived in Khartoum on his way to England, where he intends to spend his leave.

On April 11 at Bushey Lodge, Teddington, May Evelyn, the wife of Stephen Gaselee, of Magdalene College, Cambridge, gave birth to a daughter.

At Queen's Club, in the Men's Singles of the Covered Courts Lawn Tennis Championship, Mr. N. Misu played extremely well, and only just failed to reach the semi-final.

Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal has generously offered Rs. 50,000 to be devoted to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund in response to His Excellency the Viceroy's appeal. The offer has been gratefully accepted.

The infant son of Viscount and Viscountess Broome was christened at Barham Church, near Canterbury, on April 9. The sponsors were General Sir William Birdwood, Vice-Admiral Sir R. F. Phillimore, and the Marchioness of Salisbury.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Arion, the Roumanian Military Attaché, after staying for a week with the Duke of Beaufort, proceeded on April 10 to Plymouth, on a visit to Lady Beatrice Pole-Carew.

The marriage was celebrated on April 10, at St. Philip's Church, Kensington, London, W., between James Murray Pittendrigh, of Colombo, Ceylon, and Agnes Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lyddon, of Weston-super-Mare.

An engagement is announced between Captain C. B. Lochner, M.C., attached 31st D.C.O. Lancers, I.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lochner, of Northgate House, Totnes, Devon, and Theodora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Edsell, of Plevna, Sandown, Isle of Wight.

His Excellency Monsieur Yovan Yovanovitch, upon relinquishing his appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Serbia, and Madame Yovanovitch had the honour of being received by the King and Queen on April 12.

The engagement is announced between Captain William Collis Spackman, I.M.S., eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Spackman, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, and Audrey, second daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Harold Smith, Himley Rectory, Dudley.

The King has granted permission to Mr. H. E. Brian, B.A., Senior Professor, Cairo Military School, and Mr. C. H. Page, O.B.E., to wear the Insignia of the Order of the Nile (3rd Class) conferred on them by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services.

Colonel A. T. Wilson (Officiating Civil Commissioner at Baghdad) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Monday, when his Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire and of the Distinguished Service Order.

The *Sudan Times* reports that Sir Edgar E. Bernard Pasha, K.B.E., C.M.G., the Financial Secretary, left Khartoum on March 17 for Cairo, whence, after a brief stay, he proceeded to England. His visit to this country is connected with the interests of the Sudan and the irrigation projects of the Gezira.

The marriage was celebrated on April 12 at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, by Rev. E. Judkins, between Major John Lillingston Carr, Royal Berks Regt., son of Rev. E. S. Carr, of Palamcottah, S. India, and Great Gain, Northwood, Middlesex, and Constance Ruth, only daughter of the late Samuel Smith, of Firshill, Sheffield, and Mrs. Smith, of De Crespigny, Bournemouth.

On April 10 Queen Alexandra visited the West-end Depot of the St. John Ambulance Association at 35, Park Lane. The Countess Grosvenor has handed over her house since 1914 to the St. John Ambulance Association, and in remembrance of this the workers presented her with a cheque for £1,000 to endow a bed in the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

The marriage of Captain M. H. Stephens, R.A.F. (late R.N.A.S.), youngest son of Mr. J. Stephens, Toronto, Canada, and Marjorie, younger daughter of the late Mr. Alexander Finn, late H.B.M. Consul-General for Chile, and Mrs. Finn, of 2, Park Road, Richmond, Surrey, will take place very quietly, owing to mourning, at St. Matthias's Church, Richmond Hill, on Saturday, April 26, at 2.15 p.m.

Lady Methuen laid the foundation stone of the King George V. Memorial Hospital for Merchant Seamen at Malta on March 27. The King has given his patronage and support, and both Queen Alexandra and the Duke of Connaught, as well as his Majesty, have sent donations. But an endowment fund is absolutely necessary. Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, Corsham Court, Wiltshire.

As will be seen from the notice in our advertisement columns, the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund is now closed. It has done admirable work in an admirable way, and the committee and all concerned with its working may be unreservedly congratulated. Its end is as sensible and businesslike as its beginning: it closes with a balance in hand of over £9,000, and this sum is to be handed over to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. This disposal of the surplus will surely meet with the approval of the Fund's supporters, as will the stipulation attaching to the gift, that there shall be a Stanley Maude Memorial Ward for soldiers and sailors, in which preference shall be given to soldiers and sailors who have served in Mesopotamia during the war.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. Jean Caraja, the newly-appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation, entered upon his duties on April 10.

It is understood that Mr. H. W. Pike, I.C.S., Commissioner of the Fyzabad Division, contemplates retiring from the Indian Civil Service.

Mr. S. R. Hignell, is to officiate as Deputy Secretary, Government of India, Finance Department, in place of Mr. Jukes, who is proceeding on leave.

M. Gavrilovitch has been nominated Serbian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James. He was Minister at the Vatican, and is a member of the Serbian Peace Delegation.

The King, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for War, has approved the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir F. Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., to be G.O.C. the Northern Command. Sir Ivor Maxse has seen service in Egypt, the Sudan, South Africa, and very notably in the European War.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred on April 13 of Lord St. Oswald. Rowland Winn, second Baron St. Oswald. He was born in 1857, and succeeded to the title in 1893 on the death of his father. Joining the Coldstream Guards, he served in the Sudan Expedition of 1885, retiring in 1893.

Major-General Charles Pulteney Forbes, late commanding the 2nd Batt. Leinster Regiment, died at Reading on April 11, in his seventy-ninth year. With the expedition into Arabia in 1866, he took part in the operations against the Foodhli Arab tribe and the destruction of Shugra.

Lieutenant-Colonel Heathcote Plummer, late of the Royal Fusiliers, died at Long Melford, Suffolk, on April 11, at the age of eighty. In the Crimean campaign he was present at the siege and fall of Sevastopol and received the medal and clasp and the Turkish medal. He was afterwards actively employed in the campaign on the North-West Frontier of India, taking part in the expedition against the Wazeerees, the forcing of the Burrara Pass, and the burning of Makeen, and received the medal with clasp.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Bolshevists report that at Teheran, Persia, the Bolshevist mission has been put under arrest.

The Post Office will now accept parcels for transmission to Roumania by sea and to Greece by sea or via Italy.

The Postmaster-General announces that postal packets of all kinds (except parcels) addressed to Bulgaria can now be admitted to registration.

A Madrid telegram states that as a result of recent military operations in the Spanish zone in Morocco Raisuli's force has been dispersed and his camp has been occupied.

The correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing from Constantinople on April 9, states that the first Cabinet crisis during the present Administration has ended in the resignation of Jemal Bey from the Ministry of the Interior.

Reuter's Allahabad correspondent reports that Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya has resigned his membership of the Viceroy's Council owing to the Government's attitude in connection with the Rowlatt Bills.

The Eastern Telegraph Company's cable through the Sea of Marmora, which was completely destroyed during the war, partly by the Turks and partly by British submarines, has been finally relaid and commenced work.

The English public school which is shortly to be opened in Belgrade, is the first step in a definite campaign on the part of educated Serbians to develop British influence in all that concerns education in their own country.

The Government of Bombay have appointed a Passage Committee at Karachi to deal with priority certificates for passages to Europe for residents in Sind and also for residents in Mesopotamia, the Persian Gulf, Khorassan, Seistan, and Persia.

Reuter's Berne correspondent, writing on April 14, reports that the Roumanian Press Bureau have announced the discovery by the Roumanian authorities of the existence of a far-reaching Bolshevist conspiracy with headquarters at Clausenburg (Transylvania).

The correspondent of *The Times*, writing from Cairo on April 5, states that a Court of Inquiry has now been opened on the death of Mr. Dykes, the State Railway Official. It is also known that Mr. Walter Davies, a contractor for architectural material, has been murdered in Cairo.

At the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 14, Mrs. Fawcett presided over a meeting to appoint a committee to co-operate in this country with the Poona Sera Saden (Home for Service by Women for Women). Mr. G. K. Devadhar, the hon. general secretary of the organisation, outlined its activities in ministering to the needs of the women of the Deccan.

The Yugoslav Parliament that is now sitting at Belgrade has decided to erect in the Kossovo Plain, where the Yugoslav troops were crushed in 1389 by the Turks, a great monument, to be called the Temple of Kossovo. The object of the monument is to celebrate the Yugoslav union, and its sculptor will be the Dalmatian, Ivan Mestrovic.

A memorial bearing twenty-five signatures, mostly of travellers and writers on Balkan questions has been addressed to President Wilson, urging on him the desirability of creating an autonomous Macedonia. The signatories are apparently (with two exceptions) all British or American. Among them are Messrs. James D. Bourchier, H. N. Brailsford, Charles and Noel Buxton, Miss Durham, Mr. Aubrey Herbert, Mr. Henry Nevinson, and Sir Edwin Pears.

In the discussion on influenza at the clinical meeting of the British Medical Association on April 10 Major Norman White declared that in October and November, 1918, India was in the throes of an epidemic in many respects without parallel in the history of disease. In a few months in the British Provinces alone 4,933,132 deaths occurred out of 230,000,000 inhabitants. The Central Indian States lost 6 per cent. of their population and one State lost 44.7 per cent. Villages were wiped out and many others lost half their population. Terrible scenes occurred; such scenes had never been witnessed before.

From Armenian sources Reuter's Agency learns that the news from Transcaucasia continues to be of a most disquieting character, indicating that the condition of the Armenian population is desperate. Enver Pasha, who joined the Tartars in Transcaucasia after his flight from Constantinople, is known to be hatching further plots against the Armenians. Famine and epidemics are reaping a rich harvest in the country, the stock of medical necessaries is exhausted, and many doctors have died. The situation implies the decimation of the only existing compact mass of Armenians by Turco-Tartar attack and the cutting off of communication between the Erivan Government and Turkish Armenia, thus preventing the return of Armenian refugees to their homes. Armenians hope that the British command in Transcaucasia will intervene in time.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1919.

PLAYING WITH FIRE.

The news of a day of riot and disorder in Delhi, followed by more serious lawlessness at Amritsar and elsewhere, has not been without effect on the minds of that large section of the public in this country, who, without claiming any detailed knowledge of the tortuous movements of Indian politics, are yet determined that Imperial responsibilties shall be met in the spirit as well as in the letter, and are disposed to approve of any measures facilitating the advance of India to an honourable place in the commonwealth of nations. Little importance was attached in these quarters to the threat of passive resistance against the legislation recommended by the Rowlatt Commission: the findings of that body, the strongest judicial tribunal of modern times, were accepted as conclusive, the scope for passive resistance appeared to be negligible, and memories of similar short-lived movements nearer home were suggestive of burlesque rather than of tragedy. The idea that the protest originated by a few well-meaning enthusiasts might, under sinister influences, develop speedily into a display of mob-violence in the heart of the Imperial capital would have been scouted as fantastic, but the details of the disorders which have been received in this country during the past two days are undoubtedly influencing this important section of opinion, and men are asking whether the current views of Indian questions do not need to be revised: is the country yet ripe for even the aspiration towards responsible government, or should such matters be quietly put aside until more definite progress has been made in establishing the Rule of Law, the indispensable condition precedent for the development of a self-governing and self-respecting nation?

Such questions can scarcely be answered off-hand, but in order to approach them it is essential to realise that the Rule of Law is in India a very modern phenomenon. A slight acquaintance with the copious but little-studied records of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries suffices to establish the proposition that before the British era lawlessness was the dominant characteristic of the more active elements of the population; the tendency could indeed be temporarily repressed by a strong administration, enforcing a despot's will by violent measures and by punishments of almost incredible ferocity, but the slightest relaxation of the central authority was followed by a renewal of the old disorders, and once again the highways were unoccupied and the travellers walked through bye-ways. The main ethical justification of our presence in India is the change which has been wrought in this respect. Individual dissatisfaction is no longer necessarily synonymous with revolt; rebellion, with all its romantic and tragic trappings, has been transformed into an infraction of the Penal Code, a prosaic matter, to be dealt with in accordance with settled laws and precedents; and the progress already made has been so great that ordinary Indian politicians, a body of men deplorably ignorant of the history of their country, already act on the assumption that Law is seated firmly on the throne. We wish that it were possible to share their serene confidence, but the evidence to the contrary is too strong. Such occurrences as the riots in Bombay and Cawnpore, the widespread lawlessness in Bihar, the recent terrible tragedy at Katarpur, and now the sudden violence at Delhi and other points show that in city and country alike the old fires of lawlessness still smoulder, and may at any moment be fanned into a blaze: the work already done has been great, but it is far from being complete, and many years must elapse before the King's Peace acquires that assured stability which it now possesses in the West. In this environment the idea of passive resistance necessarily bears a sinister aspect: Englishmen may view it with more or less tolerant contempt, but in India at the present juncture it is nothing less than a sin against the Motherland, and those well-meaning enthusiasts who advocate it incur the very gravest responsibility. They ignore the fact that, in the ears of their hearers, the word passive counts for nothing, but resistance comes with the sound of a well-remembered trumpet-call: playing with fire, they kindle passions which are always too near the surface, and they at least will have no valid reasons for complaint if the resulting blaze should reduce to ashes the paper constitutions by which they set such store. Without going so far as to anticipate that particular catastrophe, we may at least recognise that the recent demonstrations have done much to strengthen the position occupied in this country by the Extreme Right, and have diminished *pro tanto* the prospects of early constitutional reforms.

We do not, however, think that recent activities in India afford sufficient grounds for postponing the first steps on the long road leading to responsible self-government. Their true significance is to be found rather in the warning they convey that there must be no weakening of authority in the years which lie immediately ahead. India need not assimilate completely the primary idea of government before she begins to learn how to govern herself, but it is essential that the earlier study should be continued during the more advanced course, so that by the time responsible government comes, it may be able to rely on a more stable spirit of obedience than as yet exists. We have had occasion before now to comment on the unwise attitude adopted, or forced upon, the Moderate Party in this respect; the men who are anxious to press forward steadily towards reform would have been better advised to concentrate their attention on this fundamental need, but since they have chosen a different attitude the undivided responsibility must rest upon the British Administration with the British people at its back. It is possible indeed that events such as those to which we have alluded may in the long run serve a useful purpose by recalling to the Administration those primary duties which have of late been overshadowed by more showy, and perhaps more congenial, activities. It would be tedious to refer to the long list of cases in which the Governments of Lord Minto and Lord Hardinge subordinated the maintenance of law and order to what it has become the fashion to call political considerations, but the fact cannot be overlooked that a somewhat similar attitude has been adopted on occasion by the Home Department under the present regime. The prolonged delay in finding the money which was admittedly essential to the efficiency of the overworked and underpaid police is a striking instance of this attitude: the leeway is, we are glad to see, now being gradually made good, but the fact that provision was allowed to fall so far behind needs almost suggests that the authorities were influenced by the current but mistaken idea that India can afford to run risks. Of almost equal significance, though on a somewhat different plane, is the handling of the Rowlatt legislation out of which the present troubles have arisen. Adequate measures were introduced in the Legislative Council, and were then progressively whittled down, apparently in the vain hope of conciliating an opposition which—apart from any question of sincerity—was inevitable on merely tactical grounds, and which remains as vocal and as virulent as if the necessary laws had been passed in their entirety. We trust that this incident may prove to be the last of its kind. The introduction of responsible government represents a political experiment of unexampled magnitude. England is committed to the attempt, and is thereby bound to take every measure which can conduce to its success. The first condition of success is the stabilisation of the Rule of Law, for without the assurance of internal peace the failure of constitutional reform may be regarded as certain, and that consideration alone should suffice to restore to the administration that firmness of purpose which has of late been too little in evidence.

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A MIRACLE AT JERUSALEM.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The "Miracle of the Holy Fire," which is performed in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Easter Eve, is a ceremony of great antiquity, though its origin is not at all clear. The earliest record of it is believed to be a reference made by the monk and traveller Bernard in A.D. 867, but it is currently said that it existed even in Constantine's time. As to its meaning, the versions differ. Some say that it is intended to represent the phenomena when Christ gave up the Ghost, and that the Holy Fire comes down from Heaven whilst the Patriarch is praying in the sanctuary and lights the lamp which had been extinguished on Good Friday. Others state that in the time of the earliest Christian Kings of Jerusalem a shortage of oil took place on Easter Eve, but that the lamp was miraculously re-kindled by fire from Heaven, and that the same miracle has taken place regularly ever since. Yet other authorities affirm that it is not a miracle, but merely a ceremony intended to be symbolical of the continuation of the light in the world despite the death of Christ. Whatever the true origin and meaning may be, the conditions under which the ceremony is performed combine to make it without parallel in any other Christian country.

In past years the "Miracle" usually gave rise to most disorderly scenes and much bloodshed. This was due to the fanaticism of the pilgrims, especially the Russians, and to the religious jealousy existing amongst the Eastern Churches. At one time the Latin Church also participated, but it has ceased to take any part in the actual ceremony, and contents itself with a formal procession round the various chapels in the afternoon. The main dispute is between the Greek Orthodox and the Armenian Churches. The others, the Coptic, the Abyssinian, and Syriac, being minor communities, have comparatively small status, but they invariably endeavour, though always unsuccessfully, to establish a precedent for a claim to more active participation in the actual ceremony, by manœuvring for a place in the Holy Sepulchre building when the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs enter the Sanctuary. The service is conducted by the Greek Orthodox Church, which has the preponderant share in the area sacred to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but the Armenians claim for their representative the right to enter the Holy of Holies with the Greek Patriarch to receive the Holy Fire.

At the psychological moment, therefore, when the Greek Patriarch entered the Inner Sanctuary, the Armenian always tried to follow, or even precede, him, and a fight usually occurred between them. This dispute spread to their subordinates and partisans on the threshold of and outside the Sepulchre, and a battle royal ensued, the clergy of both sides being trained athletes, and a gang of professional fighters, disguised as lay workers, being included in the procession. But whilst a good many broken heads resulted from this scuffle, the main human damage was done when the Miracle had been performed and the torches were being handed out from the Sanctuary, each Church trying to be the first to get the lamps in its chapel lit from the Holy Fire and to send the torch on to the various shrines in the country, notably to Bethlehem, whilst the crowd, especially the pilgrims, fought to light their tapers from the passing torches. The religious frenzy of all concerned knew no limit. Men threw themselves on top of their neighbours in order to get nearer the torches, regardless of the consequences. So intense was the competition that adherents of one Church, if they could not light their own tapers extinguished those belonging to rival communities, and these manœuvres naturally increased the brawling.

The fighting and disorder have always been so acute that the Turkish Government made a practice of posting about 600 Moslem troops in the Rotunda; but this did not prevent bloodshed, as fights used to occur between the crowds and the soldiers. Last year, under the British regime, every effort was made to reduce to the minimum these disgraceful scenes. The heads of the various communities were exhorted to exercise restraint and to use their influence in the same direction amongst their adherents, and it was decided not to employ any troops, but to post a few police in the building, with instructions not to resort to force under any circumstances whatsoever.

For the better understanding of what follows, it should be explained that the Holy Sepulchre is situated in a rectangular building placed in the centre of the Rotunda of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This building faces due east, and the entrance to the Sepulchre itself is through a little inner chapel called the Angels' Chapel, which has in its centre part of the stone rolled away by the angels from the entrance to the Tomb. There is a clear space of about ten yards all round between the walls of the Rotunda and the Sepulchre building, and each sect has its principal chapel just off the Rotunda. On the north and south side of the outer wall of the Angels' Chapel are the holes called the "Fire Holes," through which the officiating prelate passes out the torches lit from the Holy Fire. The crowd assembles on the floor of the Rotunda and in the many passages leading off it, and spectators gather in the three tiers of galleries running round the dome.

The ceremony was timed to start at noon. By eleven o'clock the Rotunda was well filled. In the quadrangle outside the main entrance to the church a crowd had assembled, and was going through the sword and other dances, which are customary on all great occasions in Oriental countries, and which always tend to work up the excitement of the lookers-on as well as the performers. European notables and officers began to arrive at about this time, and they were shown to the first gallery, which was reserved to them. The two upper galleries, the highest one directly under the dome, were packed with women and children of all the communities. A little before noon the Governor, Colonel Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., appeared and took his seat on the special dais set up for him at the foot of the steps leading up to the entrance to the Holy Sepulchre building. He was followed by his staff, who were accommodated on either side of the passage from the Greek Orthodox Chapel to that building, which it faces.

The dancing outside having come to an end, the participants now came surging in, shouting, singing, and clapping their hands. They pushed their way to the north side of the Holy Sepulchre building, where the Greek community always takes up its position. (The Armenians are stationed on the south side, and the Copts, Syriacs, and Abyssinians on the west.) This new addition to the crowd caused a great deal of agitation and excitement, the direction of the congestion was towards the "Fire Holes," it being everyone's desire to get into the front rank so as to be among the first to light a candle as the torches passed by.

There was a certain amount of movement among the Armenians round the "Fire Hole" on their side, but it was as nothing compared with the frenzied excitement of the Greeks. Backwards and forwards, right and left, surged and swayed the crowd on the north side. Little more than the heads and arms of the people could be seen from above, and their numbers were added to every minute by more pressing in from the outside. The people, who numbered in all about 5,000—mostly men; there were very few women—were packed like sardines, and relief was only afforded to the densest part on the north by pressing part of the crowd round to the west or Syriac-Coptic end. The relief was, however, only momentary, for after a short while back would come the pressure, and the surging and swaying would start afresh. From time to time a man would manage to raise himself and stand on the shoulders of another, where two or three would hold him up, and whence he would direct the chanting, which, notwithstanding the density of the crowd, was freely indulged in. During these chants, some of which sounded very weird, there was loud clapping of hands, and the sight from above of the sea of arms raised above the heads of the crowd—they could not clap in the ordinary way—was most extraordinary.

At about 12.15 twelve banners made their appearance at the Greek Chapel end. They depicted various incidents in the life of our Lord, and bore traces of the rough handling they had suffered during the scuffles on previous similar occasions. A passage down the middle of the Ambulatory was cleared with some difficulty, but considering the excited state of the crowd there was remarkably little disorder. Meanwhile a heavy bell was tolling, but the din in the Rotunda was so great that it merely sounded like a dull boom in the far distance. The rising of the Governor and his staff next showed that the procession had started. The banner bearers—the right to bear them belongs to certain families in Jerusalem—moved forward. In their wake came eleven little white-surpliced choristers with the choir-


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

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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master, Greek monks in black dress and cowl, a score of lay workers, who looked as if they could give a good account of themselves in any "scrap," next the clergy in very finely embroidered robes of a light hue, and then, in most gorgeous raiment, the Patriarch, the Venerable Archbishop of Mount Sinai, supported by two priests, preceded by two thurifers, and followed by more clergy with a banner. Just as the procession entered the Rotunda the sun came shining through the dome, slantwise into the north-east side, leaving the whole of the south and west in deep shadow, and making a most striking effect. Slowly the procession made its way round the Rotunda, while the clergy and choristers alternately intoned chants.

Three times the procession passed through the crowd. No untoward incident had so far occurred, if one excepts the attempt made by the Coptic and Syriac representatives to get within the Sepulchre enclosure instead of waiting, as prescribed by usage, on the threshold to receive the "Holy Fire" from the Greek Patriarch when he emerged from the Sanctuary. The attempt, of course, failed, and they were tactfully but firmly moved out to their proper position.

When the procession passed the entrance to the Holy Sepulchre for the third time an Armenian Archimandrite made his appearance, and with the Greek Patriarch entered the precincts, while the receptacle for the "Holy Fire" was passed up through the crowd, and a priest from either community took up his position at either Fire Hole in order to receive the torch from within and take it to the chapel belonging to his community. The Greek Patriarch was divested of his vestments, and white cloths were bound round his wrists. Then the seal which had been placed on the Sepulchre earlier in the morning having been broken, he entered the Angels' Chapel with the Armenian Archimandrite. Meanwhile the crush round the Fire Holes increased. Nevertheless some semblance of a lane to the exit was maintained, to enable the priest to get into his chapel and send the torch on to Bethlehem and other shrines. One or two over-excited devotees jumped up and shouted out a chant, but gradually an expectant hush fell upon the entire crowd gathered round the Sepulchre.

Suddenly a terrific peal of very unmusical church bells was heard—an intimation that the Miracle of the Holy Fire had once more been performed—and the dome resounded with strident shouts and terrific clapping of hands. A few seconds more and a torch appeared at each "Fire Hole," where it was seized by the waiting priests, who rushed as best they could through the crowd out of the Rotunda. Other torches began to appear, and then pandemonium was let loose. Men wrestled and fought like tigers to get their candles lighted, the old dodge of extinguishing the lights of adherents to rival churches was resorted to, and the unfortunate torch-bearers had a very rough time of it; the dome re-echoed with the shouts of the crowd, and the terrible bells, clanging overhead as if they would never stop, added to the din. It was indeed an amazing spectacle.

The lights on the roof of the Holy Sepulchre were then lighted, and soon the Greek Patriarch and the Armenian Archimandrite emerged in order to proceed to their respective chapels. At this point occurred what was perhaps the most dramatic incident in the whole ceremony. The Archimandrite was carried off on the shoulders of several stalwart Armenians, who quickly forced a way through the crowd to the right, but the Patriarch, although he had merely to walk about one hundred yards straight ahead, did not fare so well. Barely had he put his foot outside the threshold of the Holy Sepulchre building than he was pulled to the right and the left by ardent devotees, who in their frenzy tried to tear off portions of his raiment to keep as talismans. The poor old man looked as if he would fall to the ground, which would have meant serious injury, if not death, before he could be extricated. Quick as thought the Governor sprang down from his seat, threw himself in front of the Patriarch as a protection and a support, and made a way for him right through the crowd. Colonel Storrs' action showed courage and presence of mind, and it made a deep impression.

For some little while yet the tumult continued in the Rotunda, but it gradually subsided as the crowd succeeded in lighting its tapers; and, the sun having gone in, the effect of these hundreds of waving lights was very fine. About a quarter of an hour after the conclusion of the ceremony a new procession began to form. Strictly speaking there were three separate processions—those of the Armenian, Coptic, and Syriac Churches—but the space in the Rotunda is so restricted that the three actually merged into one and made a very picturesque spectacle, the yellow of the Syriacs, the orange red and green of the Copts, and the white embroidery of the Armenians showing up very well in the half light. The din, however, got steadily worse, for each procession sang it own chants in its own tongue. The communities made their tour of the Rotunda without incident, and the Governor and his staff departed, leaving the representatives of the three Churches to perform their respective rites in the Holy Sepulchre.

MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND FOR BRITISH TROOPS.

Patron—Major H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.

President—Col. Viscount GOSCHEN; Chairman—Col. Lord LAMINGTON, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.; Vice-Chairman—Marquess of SLIGO; Hon. Treasurer—Sir EDWARD HOPE, K.C.B.; Hon. Secretaries—Mrs. HAMILTON GRACE, Miss MEIGGS.

Donations acknowledged up to 20th October, 1918	£49,192 9 7
Donations since received (see list below)	725 6 6
Total	£49,917 16 1
Collected in Basra	£234 4 3
Glasgow Trades House and Incorporations Joint War Relief Fund	£150 0 0
Mercers' Company	£100 0 0
Worthing—Proceeds of Flag Day, per Mrs. Johnston	£71 7 7

W. Adams Oram, £25; Scottish Teachers' Fund for War Relief, £20; Miss Dow, £15; Children's Class at Dene House, £14; William Allnutt, £10 10s.; T.D.W. Office Staff War Relief Fund, £10; East Molesey, proceeds of entertainment, per W. Marler, £9 11s. 9d.; South Elmsall Cinema Exhibition, £6 7s. 3d.; Rev. J. Russell-Napier, £5 9s. 2d.; Mrs. Douty, £5 5s.; Road, Road Hill, and Woolverton Patriotic Association, £5; Mrs. Turner (collected by), £5; Mrs. Davidson, £4 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Nisbet, £3.

£2 2s. each—Mrs. Ballard; Mrs. Burrell (further collection); Rt. Honble W. P. Schreiner, C.M.G., etc.; Countess of Strafford.

£2 each.—Mrs. Paterson; "Record" Donation Fund.

£1 1s. each.—Mrs. George Drysdale; Colonel R. Hancock; Mrs. Lee Hudson; Miss F. M. Mortimer; Dr. and Mrs. Whitestone; F. Hue Williams.

£1 each.—Mrs. Amcotts; Mrs. Best; Miss Dewing; Mrs. Ingram; Miss Locock; Mrs. Neild; Miss C. M. Parkin; S. E. Tench; Mrs. Watson-Smyth; Mrs. Willson.

Sums under £1.—Miss Kate Cunliffe; Mrs. H. Goskar; J. Luno; Miss Low; Mrs. McInnes; Miss M. Slade; Mrs. Ward.

THE MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND.
BALANCE-SHEET, 31st March, 1919.

Dr. LIABILITIES.		Cr.
To surplus of income over expenditure to date		£9,884 17 10
		£9,884 17 10
ASSETS.		
By cash at bankers (Coutts and Co.):		
On current account	£434 17 10	
On deposit account	450 0 0	
		£884 17 10
By investments, National War Bonds (at cost)		9,000 0 0
		£9,884 17 10

We have examined the above balance-sheet and income and expenditure account with the books and vouchers and find the same correct.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE and CO., Chartered Accountants,
Honorary Auditors.
3, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, London, E.C.2, 8th April, 1919.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT from 22nd August, 1916, to 31st March, 1919.

Dr. EXPENDITURE.			Cr.
To comforts expenditure fund:			
Goods despatched	£49,636 18 9		
Less: Sale of surplus goods to Y.M.C.A.	2,055 7 4		
		£47,581 11 5	
Insurance premiums		2,265 6 5	
Freights and charges		274 13 2	
		£50,121 11 0	
To special payments:			
Gen. Sir Charles Monro, G.C.M.G., for purchase of goods in India	£4,400 0 0		
The Indian Comforts Fund (special Christmas gifts)	4,500 0 0		
The Central Recreation Committee for purchase of games, etc.	3,500 0 0		
		£12,400 0 0	
			£62,521 1
To administration expenses:			
Office expenses		£1,023 7 0	
Stationery £205 9 9			
Less: Sales 3 10 0			
		201 19 9	
Advertising		611 6 1	
			1,836 12 10
To Salary of special commission in Mesopotamia		845 0 0	
To Expenses Do. Do.		1,170 0 7	
			2,015 0 7
To gifts of furniture to army education and Vocational Office			6 14 6
To balance, being surplus of income over expenditure			9,884 17 10
			£76,264 16 9

INCOME.			Cr.
By subscriptions received		£49,494 3 0	
By Flag Day receipts	£18,474 4 3		
Less: Expenses	2,216 8 6		
		16,257 15 9	
By subscriptions collected at Basra		234 4 3	
By net proceeds of Apsley House Variety Entertainment		516 6 3	
By net proceeds of Alhambra Concert		1,399 18 11	
			£67,902 8 2
By interest on investments and deposit			965 5 1
By net amount of insurance recovered against total loss, being full value of same			7,397 3 6
			£76,264 16 9

SCHEME FOR DISPOSAL OF BALANCE.
MEMORIAL TO SIR STANLEY MAUDE.

The Fund is now closed, and the Committee desire to express deep gratitude for the public support which they have unfailingly received.

IT IS PROPOSED, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS, TO HAND OVER TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE HOSPITAL FOR TROPICAL DISEASES, THE SURPLUS FUND OF ABOUT £9,000, WITH A STIPULATION THAT THERE SHALL BE A "STANLEY MAUDE MEMORIAL WARD" FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS, PREFERENCE TO BE GIVEN TO MEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN MESOPOTAMIA DURING THE GREAT WAR.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Conflicting news continues to appear regarding the position of the Roumanian oilfields, the latest statement being that, owing to the shortage of materials required for the work of reconstruction, the output of petroleum is restricted. Naturally materials are required for the oilfields, and in view of the facts it is at least probable that some limit has been set to production, but, if so, it is not for the reason mentioned, but because, pending the development of the export trade, there is nowhere to put the oil. At any rate, it is known that in January every receptacle for oil was full, and some of it was going to waste.

***

The past year was one of continued progress for the Chartered Bank, and at last week's annual meeting Sir Montagu Turner was able to give to the shareholders a most gratifying record of the bank's position. He pointed out that there had been a steady advance under all headings, and that the net profits of £409,221, against £402,795, would have been much larger had it not been for the very large impost that had to be met on account of excess profits duty. In view of the difficulties with which the Eastern banks have had to contend during the war, the results achieved by the Chartered Bank are little short of remarkable, and it is not surprising that encomiums were bestowed upon the management for their able direction of the bank's business.

***

A feature in Sir Montagu's speech of special interest was his reference to the trade outlook, in which connection he laid emphasis on the competition that is to be expected from America and Japan, "a competition more active, more developed, more widespread, more highly organised than we have ever had to face before." This competition, he believes, can be fully met, given unity of effort on the part of capital and labour, and provided all Government restrictions are withdrawn, especially in regard to the export of goods. "In spite of our domestic troubles in this country," he added, "I cannot help feeling that future trade prospects are good, and as a natural sequence business in the banking world should not, so far as we see, fail to benefit by a return to normal conditions."

***

Bulgaria's financial position was reviewed by M. Daneff, the Bulgarian Finance Minister, in introducing his Budget last month. The country's war debt, it appears, amounts to about £400,000,000, including such items as invalid pensions, etc. As in the case of Turkey, Germany gave considerable financial aid to Bulgaria, and M. Daneff explained that the requisitions made by Germany upon that country, as well as the losses caused by the unfulfilment of treaty obligations, would be placed against the debt owed to Germany. What these items may be estimated at remains to be seen, but it seems fairly clear that, leaving the question of a possible indemnity out of account, compared with her debt of £35,150,000 in 1914, and of £46,299,308 in 1915, Bulgaria will be faced with a very serious financial burden. The only other point that calls for notice in the Budget is that to meet expenditure the land tax, indirect taxes, and Customs duties are to be doubled, and there is further to be taxation of war profits and confiscation of illegally acquired wealth.

***

In the course of a speech on "The War and Indian Trade," at Dacca last month, Mr. Findlay Shirras pointed out that the deplorable waste of resources involved in the absorption of the precious metals had been strikingly brought out during the war. In the five years ended March, 1918, gold was absorbed in India to the extent of Rs. 81 crores, or more than one-half of the world's production in an ordinary year. In the same period the net imports of silver were nearly twice the world's annual production, while from April, 1914, 200 billion oz. of American silver had been and were coming to India. "There is no justification for this continuing waste," said Mr. Shirras, "and unless it is checked and the hoarded coins restored to circulation, Government may be forced to consider the whole basis of India's currency and exchange policy. But that is not all. If this country had not this ingrained fondness for the precious metals, and if in place of taking silver from America had preferred credits at 5 per cent. per annum, we should have received in interest alone Rs. 300 lakhs (£2,000,000) —sufficient to pay the cost of Public Instruction in Bengal for more than twelve months. We should be much better off if we imported goods in preference to the precious metals. If the metals are hoarded in the form of jewellery, etc., they are put to non-productive uses; if they are absorbed, then prices tend to rise, and this brings in its train a host of difficulties."

***

The adulteration of cotton in India by mixing and watering has been, unfortunately, only too prevalent in the past. It is, therefore, the more regrettable to learn of the extension of this practice to an area in Bombay Presidency, which, until last season, had been immune from it. According to a contemporary, mixing is being introduced among this cotton, which normally amounts to about 80,000 bales, in a most determined manner in order to take advantage of the temporary opportunity of making higher profits. The only result of the continuance of this practice will be that the market for this cotton will be spoilt, and the cultivators will suffer. Unfortunately, the cultivators fail to see this, and have the idea that if only they grew inferior cotton they would themselves obtain the profits now going elsewhere, and so it is said that they have taken to sowing inferior seed. It need scarcely be said that this development, and the practice that has led to it, must be stopped, and it is to be hoped that the report of the Cotton Commission, shortly to be published, will provide a remedy.

***

The opening for motor-cars in Egypt ought to receive special attention from British motor manufacturers in the future. Before the war little attempt was made by firms in this country to introduce their motor-cars to Egypt, with the result that, as in other instances, the trade went to other countries. In the last few years, however, British makes of cars have become known and appreciated in Egypt, and the outlook is distinctly favourable for a judicious campaign by British manufacturers. In this, as in other cases, however, time is of importance, for it is not to be expected that other countries will long neglect such a promising field. Therefore, British manufacturers will be well advised to make arrangements without delay to enter this market.

***

The exceedingly difficult nature of the task with which the Imperial Bank of Persia has been confronted during the war will have been clear to all who have followed developments in that country. On many occasions the officers of the bank, Sir Hugh Barnes pointed out at last week's general meeting, had to assist in the protection and to provide for the safety of the branches against armed attack. The past year had its difficulties, like those which preceded it, and in the circumstances the results achieved must be regarded as particularly satisfactory. Equally gratifying is Sir Hugh's statement that during the war the bank on no occasion failed to meet the demands made upon it by the British and Russian Governments in respect of financial requirements for the troops sent from time to time to protect the country.

***

I quoted a letter from a correspondent recently in which emphasis was laid on the point that exchange is the main hindrance to the resumption of trade with the Levant. This difficulty is the subject of reference in a forcible letter to the Board of Trade from the president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in which the writer, giving some examples of the effects of restrictions on trade, says: "In Turkey and Bulgaria, to which exports are permitted, since there is no exchange the difficulty is only pushed back a step. In order to bring about exports, in view of the exchange difficulties, firms naturally endeavour to arrange for a balancing import, but that is forbidden."

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866.)

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

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

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

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

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

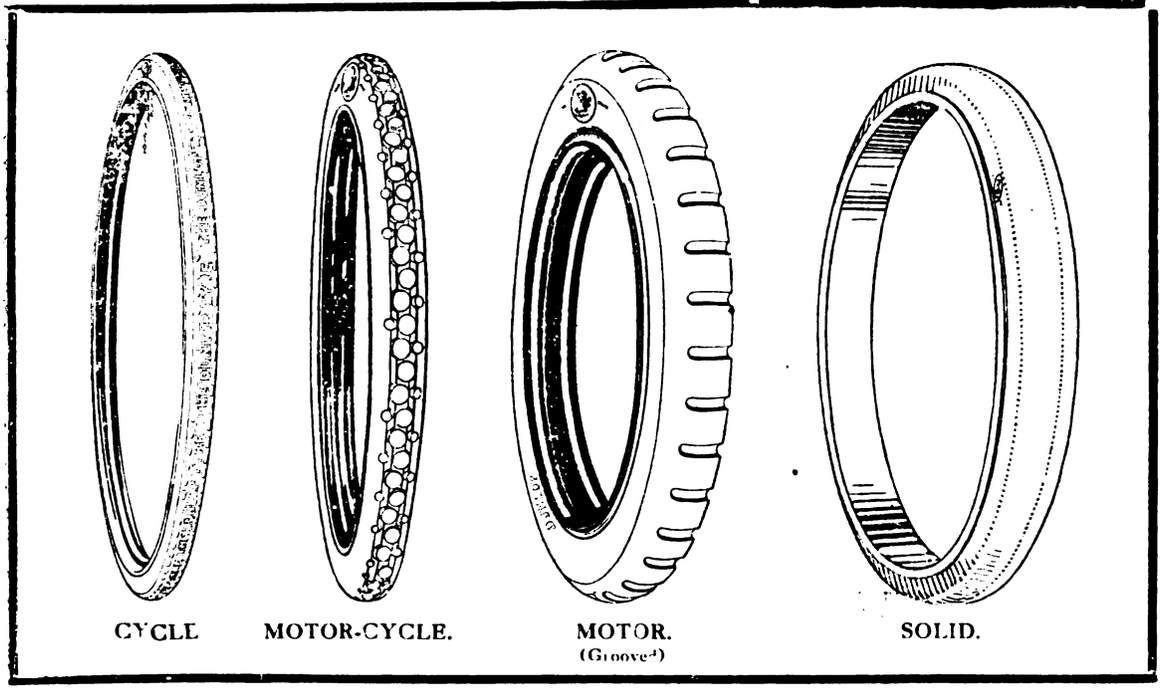
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THE EGYPTIAN BUDGET.

Increased Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 1.

To-night's *Official Journal* publishes in a special supplement, which will surely become historic, the Budget for the new financial year, which started to-day. Usually the annual Budgets are promulgated towards the end of March, and the delay this year has been due to the present political situation. That situation is also responsible for the fact that the Budget is not promulgated in the form of a decree signed by the Sultan, but in that of a proclamation by General Allenby as Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in Egypt, in which he orders the fixing of the estimates for the year 1919-20 according to the Budget drawn up by the Finance Committee, and authorises all Ministries and Departments of State "to act under this Proclamation in the same manner in all respects as if the Budget for the year 1919-20 had been approved and put into force in the manner prescribed by law."

The revenue is fixed at £E27,300,000, and the expenditure at £E28,850,000, as compared with £E22,900,000 and £E23,250,000 in 1918-19. There is thus an estimated deficit of £E1,550,000, as against one of £E350,000 the previous year. The Finance Committee, in its usual note, points out that the Budget was originally estimated to balance at £E27,850,000 (with a deficit of £E550,000), which thus exceeded the Budget for 1918-19 by as much as it, in turn, exceeded that for the preceding year. In view of the recent disorders, however, a sum of £E1,000,000 was inserted as a first and uninformed estimate of the cost of claims and liabilities thereby arising, and the Budget, therefore, stands at the higher figure mentioned above, with a deficit of £E1,550,000, which will be taken from the Reserve Fund.

Chief Increases.

On the revenue side the main items are direct taxes £E5,572,000, Customs £E4,200,000, tobacco dues £E2,350,000, Excise £E407,000, Judicial fees £E1,660,000, railways £E6,750,000, telegraphs £E200,000, telephones £E200,000, Post Office £E375,000, State domains £E856,000, ghaffir cess £E853,000, interest on funds £E2,062,000, military exemption fees £E150,000, miscellaneous receipts £E700,000, extraordinary receipts £E540,000. The chief increases are in Customs £E1,374,000, tobacco £E550,000, Judicial fees £E179,000, railways £E750,000, interest on funds £E928,000, miscellaneous receipts £E129,000, and extraordinary receipts £E392,000.

The chief items under expenditure are H H. the Sultan's Civil List £E413,465, survey £E418,135, State domains £E376,276, education £E685,203, public health £E674,626, Interior £E551,362, prisons £E318,123, mixed Courts £E314,181, native Courts £E432,798, irrigation £E2,638,230, State buildings £E433,085, agriculture £E208,884, railways £E5,594,669, Post Office £E382,257, ports and lights £E620,841, police £E663,829, ghaffirs £E875,473, War Office £E1,499,624, Public Debt £E4,605,272, war gratuities £E1,505,000, extraordinary expenditure in connection with the war £E400,000. The principal increases are:—Survey £E199,889, education £E106,570, public health £E147,421, irrigation £E849,574, State buildings £E272,957, railways £E799,161, ports and lights £E419,774, war gratuities £E941,000.

Ministry of Communications.

The great innovation in the new Budget is the creation of the much-talked-of Ministry of Communications. The new Ministry will comprise the railways, telegraphs, telephones, posts, ports and lights, and harbour works. The inclusion of the main roads and bridges, mechanical transport and inland water transport is under consideration; whilst it will take cognisance of all questions connected with aviation, pipe lines for oil, ropeways, and seagoing Government ships. The total revenue of the new Administration is estimated in the Budget at £E7,696,000, and its total expenditure at £E6,968,000; consequently it will be far and away the most important in the whole Government from the point of view of spending and collecting, excepting, as regards the latter, the Ministry of Finance itself.

Effect of the Disorders.

The Finance Committee draws attention to the fact that although the revenue for 1918-19 was fixed at £E22,900,000, the actual receipts up to February 28 have reached the figure of £E24,451,000. But for the recent events, it considers that the total revenue for the year would probably not have fallen short of £E27,000,000. The revenue estimates for the current year, it points out, have been framed in a spirit neither of rashness nor of excessive caution. They represented the figure which, as far as could be judged, the revenue was likely to produce; and the anticipated increases are mainly based on the expectation that the general prosperity of the country would continue. As the Committee adds, it is impossible to foresee what the effect produced by the recent disorders will be, but any resulting deficit will have to be met from the Reserve, to which the budgeted deficit is already debitable. The extra expenditure involved in repairs, etc., of the damage done will probably be covered to a certain extent by the economies which will be made in new works, which will not, one imagines, be undertaken until the existing damage is made good and the country's revenues have recovered any leeway they may lose in the meantime.

THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

Hopeful Outlook.

Sir Charles Macara in the current issue of the *Textile Recorder*, reviews the present position of the cotton industry in this country, and, as will be seen from the extracts we give from his article, he takes a fairly optimistic view of the situation.

"In emerging from the present unprecedented struggle, England's cotton spindles and looms," he points out, "remain unimpaired by the war. During the ten years before the war her spindles were increased by 12,000,000, an increase in excess of the total number of spindles possessed by India, China, and Japan collectively, and also in excess of the total number of spindles in Germany, Russia, or France, although all these countries for nearly a century have been spinning and weaving cotton by power with machinery mostly supplied by England. Unless there is inexperienced or obstructive legislation, or want of friendly co-operation between the organisations of capital and labour, this immense advantage at a time when the markets of the world are depleted of cotton goods assures full employment for Lancashire's staple industry, although this industry, so far as the volume of trade is concerned, has suffered most severely through the war, nor could this be otherwise in the case of an industry which has to import all its raw material and export over three-quarters of its manufactures.

Foreign Competition.

"Statements are appearing in the Press indicating on the part of both writers and speakers undue concern regarding the effect the war is likely to have upon the future of the British cotton industry. Many of these statements are made, I am convinced, by men who have not studied the history of our greatest manufacturing industry. . . . Some little time before the outbreak of war the Japanese Government announced their intention to abolish, after a certain period, all night work in the cotton mills of Japan. The immediate result of this announcement was the placing of orders in England for machinery so as to keep up the production. A certain quantity of this machinery has been delivered since 1914, and when the great Lancashire textile machinists were turned on to the making of munitions, quantities of second-hand machinery were purchased and shipped with considerable difficulty to Japan. Together these items have increased the cotton-spinning machinery in Japan from under two million spindles before 1914 to about three million spindles at the present time, and this total, compared with the 144 million cotton spindles in the various cotton manufacturing countries of the world, is insignificant. Japan has to supply her own population with cotton goods, and has for her neighbours the densely-populated countries of India and China. It is estimated that these two countries contain about half the population of the globe.

The United States.

"Recently I noticed a paragraph in the Press dealing with a syndicate with a capital of £20,000,000 which, it was stated, had been formed in the United States for the purpose of supplying England with cotton goods. So far as cotton-spinning machinery is concerned, the United States possesses about half the number of spindles there are in England, and the climate there makes the demand for cotton clothing for the 100,000,000 people of the United States much greater proportionately than is the case in England. Statistics show that before the war the United States exports of cotton manufactures amounted to about 5 per cent. of the production, whereas of the production of the 57,000,000 spindles and dependent machinery in England over 75 per cent. was exported.

"As I have already said, one fortunate circumstance for the English cotton industry in this connection is, although we did not appreciate it at the time, that we put down twelve million new spindles in the ten years before the war. The enormous advantage we possess in machinery becomes more apparent when we consider the effects of the war in regard to its production. During the war the works of the textile machinery makers were largely turned on to the manufacture of munitions, and it will take a considerable period before they can get back fully to their ordinary industry. The first work, when they do get back, will no doubt be to restore the machinery of our Allies destroyed or damaged in the war. Merely to replace destroyed or worn-out machinery throughout the world will take a long time, during which the cotton industry in this country will have an opportunity of increasing its output to possibly what it was in the year preceding the war. Moreover, since the outbreak of war, the cost of cotton machinery has increased by something like 250 per cent., a formidable handicap to new undertakings in countries which might wish to enter into competition with England. Notwithstanding that England has supplied most of the cotton spinning and manufacturing countries of the world with machinery, these countries are all customers of England for the beautiful fabrics which the inherited skill of generations enables her to produce, and which are appreciated in all parts of the world."

THE DISTURBANCES IN INDIA.

In connection with the disturbances in India we are glad to learn that the report that the agent of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China at Amritsar (where the premises of that bank and of the National Bank of India are reported to have been burnt) was killed is unfounded. The European staff of that bank at Amritsar is safe and well. Unfortunately both of the representatives of the National Bank of India at Amritsar lost their lives. Both had been many years in the service of the bank, and one of them had been with it for twenty-five years.

The London offices of the Eastern Co of Petrograd, have been removed to 8, Bucklersbury, E.C.4.

Imports of goods received at Hamadan in October included (in tons) loaf sugar 109, crystal and soft sugar 420, tea 73, cotton piece-goods 210, kerosene 98, matches 26, soap 17, metals 20, spices 24, tobacco and cigarettes 27, dried fruit 110, and leather and hides 10, out of a total of 1,389 tons. Of these imports 879 tons came from Baghdad and Kermanshah, and 147 tons from Resht and Kazvin.

Professor H. E. Armstrong, Ph.D., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., will give a lecture before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts on May 15, on "Soil Deficiencies as affecting growth, and the value of crops in India and other parts of the Empire." Other lectures to be given in the near future include one on "Aerial Transport as affecting India," by Brig.-Gen. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, C.S.I., and one on "Indian Salt Manufacture," by Mr. Sandford J. Kilby.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

Prices in the market during the past week have hardened. Bullish sentiment has prevailed in New York and Liverpool, and, owing to the recent larger turnover in yarn and cloth, spinners and manufacturers are more difficult to deal with than for a long time back. There is little new to be said as to the outlook for Egyptian cotton supplies. In view of prices being controlled and the basis artificial, users are not inclined to purchase with any freedom. Rather more inquiry has been met with in Egyptian yarns, but operations have been patchy. In cloth for Egypt no improvement in the demand can be recorded. There is considerable uneasiness as to the position on the other side. Manufacturers of piece goods suitable for India have met with a considerable demand. Dhooties, mulls, and jaconets have again moved off on an encouraging scale, and more has been done in grey shirtings for Calcutta and Bombay, especially in certain well-known makes. Healthy support has again been given by China and several minor outlets of the Far East, such as Java and the Straits Settlements. Certain kinds of bleaching cloths are now sold nearly six months ahead. No particular activity can be recorded for South America. Lancashire manufacturers continue to start more looms, and employment for weavers is undoubtedly improving. American yarns are distinctly dearer on the week, and an encouraging turnover has transpired. Ring beams are much stronger than a little time ago. Although buying has been rather irregular, some improvement has transpired in the offtake in shipping yarns for India and Mediterranean outlets.

The United Provinces Government propose a considerable increase in the excise duty on liquor and drugs.

EXPORTS TO THE NEAR EAST

Yugoslavia, Montenegro, and Albania.

The Government, after consultation with the Allied Governments, have decided that the exportation to Yugoslavia, Montenegro, and Albania can now be permitted without licence of all goods not included in lists A and B of prohibited exports except the articles constituting list D.

In the case of barbed wire and implements for fixing and cutting same, camp equipment, articles of, and their component parts, clothing and equipment of a distinctly military character, electrical appliances, adapted for use in war and their component parts, military wagons of all descriptions, and harness or horse equipment of a military character—which are forbidden solely on account of the military use to which they can be put—export licences may be issued by the competent authorities of the United States, France, Great Britain, and Italy, if the evidence is clear that the shipments are destined for civil purposes.

The Comité de Blocus de l'Orient (address, 27, Rue de Constantine, 7ème Arrondissement, Paris) will be the competent body for granting authorisations covering the same articles exported from any other country. For the other articles included in list D export licences may in special circumstances be issued, and intending exporters should apply for information to their War Trade Department, who will consult the appropriate authority.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—March 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. 30. and 31. 3,080,000 francs against 1,176,000 francs. April 1, 2, 3, 780,000 francs against 450,000 francs.

TRADE WITH SOUTH RUSSIA

In connection with the evacuation of Odessa it is desired to draw the attention of traders and others concerned to the fact that, although Odessa is a very important port, owing to its extensive discharging, loading and storage facilities, the actual volume of trade which it has been possible to do since the recent reopening of the Black Sea to trade has been less than in the case of other Russian Black Sea ports, particularly in the matter of the export of Russian products. The hinterland behind Odessa in Allied occupation has always been extremely limited in extent, while a very large area is served by the ports of Novorossisk, Tuapse, Poti and Batoum. Novorossisk in particular has very valuable trading potentialities, owing to the richness of the districts which it serves in Russian products exchangeable for imports into Russia, while it is also a source of supply for General Denikin's volunteer army.

According to the latest information available, the four ports of Novorossisk, Tuapse, Poti, and Batoum may be regarded as secure.

Arrangements were made in advance for the immediate transfer, should occasion arise, of the British Consular representatives in Odessa to Novorossisk, where attention will be paid to the question of the provision of port facilities. Conditions at Batoum appear, from a recent telegraphic report from his Majesty's Consul at that port, to be not unsatisfactory. The substance of the report will be published in the *Board of Trade Journal* this week, and particulars will also be supplied on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, Russian and Scandinavian Section, Sunderland House, Curzon Street, Mayfair, W.1.

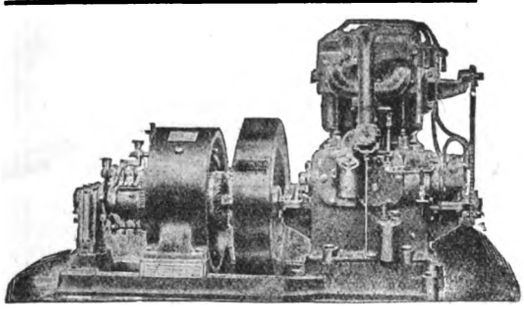
The death took place at Valletta on March 26 of Mr. Thomas Corlett Smith, of Messrs. Thomas C. Smith and Co., steamship agents and merchants, Malta.

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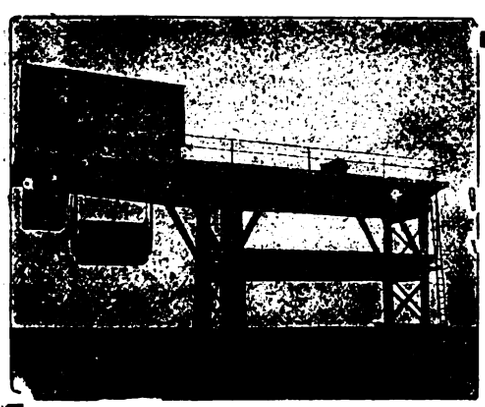
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

The Port of Haifa.

A telegram from Alexandria states that the British authorities in Palestine are giving serious consideration to the question of the improvement of the port of Haifa, and that if the present plan is followed the jetty alone will cost more than £2,000,000. Haifa is an important town on the Bay of Acre, at the foot of Mount Carmel, with 12,000 inhabitants. It is one of the principal ports of Palestine. The Germans, in recent years, were showing special interest in the port of Haifa, regarding it as a centre of considerable importance for future commercial developments in the Near and Middle East.

During the last few years before the war the attention that was being paid to the growing of cotton in the districts around Haifa and the Jordan Valley had created possibilities for the use of machinery on a large scale, especially steam ploughs, for opening up large tracts of land needed for this special kind of cultivation. Inquiries regarding the different systems of ploughs and machinery were very numerous, and catalogues and specifications from British and foreign firms have been obtained, but, apparently, with little or no practical results.

German Enterprise in Palestine.

This new development did not escape the attention of German engineering firms, and the question was dealt with in a practical way. A German firm with great enterprise sent a complete ploughing outfit to Haifa, consisting of an oil tractor and a six-share plough. Two competent mechanics were sent in charge of the machinery, and were to conduct a series of trials. This practical step was taken by the firm as an advertisement, and had also in view the testing of the machinery in order to ascertain how far it would satisfy local requirements. The experience gained by the technical men in charge would be turned to useful account, and the firm would be able to construct machinery thoroughly adapted to suit the conditions of the country. The experiments according to reports at the time, were followed with keen interest, and further trials would have been carried out but for the war. The field for trade in agricultural machinery in that region is now well prepared, and it will be the fault of the British engineer manufacturer if his Continental and American competitors forestall him there and succeed in reaping the benefit.

Greek Railway Improvements.

In view of the proposed linking-up of the Greek and European railway systems in Macedonia, according to reports from Athens the Greek Government has sanctioned the construction of certain works and other improvements on the Piræus-Athens-Larissa and Salonika railway, which will cost 35,000.000 francs (£1,400,000). The work has already begun, under the supervision of a competent staff of Greek and European engineers. A number of short tunnels, the length of which in all is about 1,300 metres, and eight or ten bridges, each 10 metres in length, are being constructed to improve the section between Athens and Larissa; while the bridges between Papapouli and Tapsin, on the Larissa-Salonika line, will be made of iron and re-inforced concrete, at an expenditure of 4,000,000 francs (£160,000). These bridges, it is estimated, will require 1,000 tons of iron, and will be constructed in Greece with the exception of two, one for the River Bistritza (Haliakmon) and one for the River Kara-su (Navroneri), which have been ordered in Europe (the country is not mentioned). Four hundred large houses will be built along the line for the railway officers, attendants, and workmen; also workshops and engine-sheds at the Piræus, Lianocladi, and Larissa. M. Venizelos is particularly interested in the completion of all these works, taking an active part and supervising the orders given for the necessary materials. As regards the material it is stated that the Greek Government will buy the railway material belonging to the British Headquarters in Macedonia, which a committee of experts has already gone to value, whilst large quantities of iron and implements for the works are being sent from France. Offers for the supply of railway passenger-wagons at reasonable prices were made (it is stated) direct to M. Venizelos from Canada; whilst sleeping and dining cars will be sent in due time by the respective companies. In the meantime the reconstruction and repairs of the Serbian railways, so badly damaged or destroyed in the war, are progressing. The trains run now as far as Uskub, and it is hoped that within a month or two the remainder of this line will have been repaired, and thus, the union of the Greek and European railways will be effected.

Telephone Installations.

In connection with these developments it may be mentioned that the Swiss Government recently suggested to the Greek Government that a Swiss expert electrical engineer should be placed at the disposal of the latter for the telegraph and telephone installations on the new railway system. The Greek Government accepted the offer with thanks, and the Swiss engineer is shortly expected to arrive in Greece for the establishment of new and the renewal of old telephonic communications. That includes the installation of double telephone lines, the procuring of the respective new apparatus and appliances, the installation of electric safety signals on the Athens-Larissa and the Athens-Peloponnesus railways, and the procuring of the necessary instruments, etc. In view of the fact that through Greece many of the neighbouring Eastern districts obtain similar goods, it may be questioned why British manufacturers or Trade Associations are losing such opportunities, and are allowing their competitors to establish themselves in markets the value of which they seem to recognise.

Small Electric Plant.

A reason for the slow progress made in the use of electricity in rural and country districts is the fact that electric supplies are generally controlled by large companies or corporations which confine their operations to towns and places more or less thickly populated. Thus rural communities, country houses, farms, and factories, which happen to be situated beyond the reach of large electric centres are compelled to adhere to old-fashioned methods of lighting, such as oil-lamps, candles, or, if available, locally manufactured impure coal gas. This position can easily be altered by the employment of a small electric lighting plant. It appears, however, that many people believe that the installation of a small independent plant to generate electricity is a very expensive undertaking, and that it is a complicated and unreliable mechanical arrangement; but that, of course, is quite erroneous. Since the introduction of the internal combustion engine, the means of producing electricity conveniently and at a comparatively small cost have been greatly developed, and the advantages of the electric light can now be secured by private residents in rural districts, farmers, or manufacturers at a small capital outlay, and power may be produced more cheaply than if the current were taken from a public electric supply.

Use of Small Plant.

What is wanted is a small lighting plant of modern design, which can be fixed in a spare room, coach-house, barn or shed, and so that the power, in addition to providing light, can be utilised for cooking, heating, charging accumulators for motor cars, or for light-power work, such as pumping water, driving a churn, a chaff-cutter, or ventilating fans in the house. There are several plants in the market, all of which claim one or other special feature and points of efficiency. In the choice of a plant buyers at home have the advantage of investigating the merits or demerits of each system on the spot; but those abroad should obtain expert advice, and, in the latter case, as such experts would probably be also abroad, it is advisable that British manufacturers and shippers should advertise as explicitly as possible the merits of their plant, giving an opportunity to foreign buyers to communicate with them. The Near East is still virgin soil so far as small electric lighting plants are concerned, and, with the Germans out of that market, at present at least, there is a great opportunity for British manufacturers to secure business if they act promptly. The demand generally for electric appliances is great throughout the East, and it is not likely to be overlooked by the Japanese and Continental manufacturers, who are now eager to meet the requirements of those markets.

At the annual meeting of the Rangoon Trades Association Mr. J. Donald was re elected president for the ensuing year.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The nineteenth annual general meeting of the National Bank of Egypt was held on March 24 at the head office of the bank in Cairo, Mr. F. T. Rowlatt (the governor) presiding.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, we have the pleasure of submitting to you the balance-sheet and profit and loss account for 1918. The net profits amount to £693,851, against £519,250 for the preceding year, and we propose to dispose of them in the following manner:—To the statutory reserve, £69,385, which, with £47,336 odd transferred from the special reserve, will bring the former to £1,500,000; to the special reserve, £267,336 to bring it up to £500,000; to the payment of a 10 per cent. dividend, £300,000; and to carry forward £106,635, including £49,505, the carry forward of the previous year. In comparing the results, we have to bear in mind that at the end of 1917 we had to depreciate securities by £33,665, so a better comparison is £693,851 net profit this year against £552,915 for the preceding year. We think, gentlemen, these figures can be considered quite satisfactory.

As was the case during the last two or three years, large sums of money, owing to the war, have been spent in Egypt. The bank note circulation has consequently expanded, and deposits with the bank have considerably increased. On the other hand, the bank's expenditure has been heavier. A considerably larger staff has been necessary to cope with the work. The cost of living, and articles generally, have remained very high. The expenses consequently have increased by £56,000, which are almost entirely accounted for under the headings of bank note expenses, salaries, bonus to the staff, and stationery. We feel certain that, under these circumstances, and considering the happy result of the year, you will have no objection to the special bonus of £8,000 to the staff, published in the report.

The bank note issue on December 31, 1918, amounted to £E46,000,000, against £E30,800,000 on December 31, 1917. The maximum issue during the year was that reached on December 30, namely, £E46,100,000, as compared with a maximum issue of £E30,800,000 on December 31, 1917.

The minimum issue touched in 1918 was £29,200,000 on August 23. The bank note issue has been called upon last year to meet the requirements of a larger field. I allude to the currency requirements of Palestine and beyond. The stability of the Egyptian exchange with London, and the nature of the security behind the notes, has no doubt carried them further than Palestine. As you are aware, the bank note issue is under the double control of the Egyptian Government Commissioners and the Bank.

As I mentioned above, the prosperity of Egypt has tended to swell the volume of our work. The total of the balance-sheet on December 31, 1918, amounts to £E34,866,627, as compared with £E28,024,000 on December 31, 1917. The Government securities, amounting to £E14,800,000, are represented as to £E14,000,000 by British Treasury Bills, Exchequer Bonds, and National War Bonds. Government securities, bills of exchange, money at call and short notice on the London market, bankers' accounts, and cash form a total of £E23,000,000. Our advances to the Cotton Seed Board and the Cotton Control Commission with the respective guarantees of the British and Egyptian Governments, amount to £887,000 and £6,760,000, and are included under the heading of "Advances on Merchandise."

I am certain, gentlemen, that on this occasion, our first meeting since the armistice, we have in our heart feelings of deep gratitude to the Army and Navy. Foremost among civil measures taken was that of the Cotton Control Commission, which came into force on August 1 last, for the purchase of cotton in Alexandria and other Egyptian ports on the basis of $42 per cantar for fully good Sakellarides. The authorities have thus secured for the cultivators a very handsome price, whereas slow shipments and other circumstances might have had a bad effect on a market price. We are glad to say that in this matter we have been able to assist in a marked degree, both financially and otherwise.

The following table shows the annual imports and exports of Egypt from August 31, 1913:—

	Imports. £E		Exports. £E
1913-14	28,325,693	..	32,646,806
1914-15	15.327.835	..	22.642:780
1915-16	27,545,340	..	29,887,393
1916-17	30.095,371	..	44,587,950
1917-18	47,285,226	..	48,019,952

These important figures are, of course, largely due to high values, but the marked decrease in the balance of trade in favour of Egypt is partly due to the fact that on September 1, 1918, there was still in Alexandria awaiting shipment a stock of 1,106,000 cantars of cotton, worth, say, £7,500,000. Also in the value of imports figure several millions of pounds for account of the Army or due to its presence in Egypt. So that the difference between imports and exports of, say, £1,000,000 is really very much less than the real trade balance in favour of Egypt. Since September 1 last to the end of December the value of the imports exceeds the exports by about £5,000,000, but, on the other hand, the stock of cotton in Alexandria on December 31 was probably worth £25,000,000. In these circumstances the tendency of the note issue has been to fall. It is now £E44,200,000, against £E46,100,000 on December 30.

The cotton crop of 1917 turned out to be approximately 6,300,000 cantars, but owing to the restricted area last year the 1918 crop is not expected to exceed 5,250,000 cantars. Cultivators, however, have received such good prices, not only for their cotton, but for all other produce, that they are in a very prosperous condition, and repaying the mortgage companies who have a superabundance of funds. It is to be noted that damage done by the pink boll worm is, on the whole, less than last year. So the Government measures, which a year ago, as mentioned in our last report, were having beneficial results, have continued to reduce the pest.

The opening up of Palestine and Syria under new conditions, and now connected by rail with Egypt, is already beginning to have effect in developing relations, commercial and otherwise, between Egypt and those countries. Egypt is on the great sea route between East and West, and it would seem highly probable that a large transhipment and re-export business will grow up in this country. For the last nine months the imports into Egypt from Palestine amount to £E66,000, and the exports from Egypt to that country to £E279,000. For the months of November and December together the imports and exports were £E33,000 and £E94,000 respectively.

The chief imports from Palestine were:—Fresh fruits, £E35,000; soap, £E20,000; wines and oil, £E10,000. The chief exports to Palestine were:—Rice, £E84,000; ground nuts, £26,000; sugar, £E24,000; animal food products, £E21,000; sesame, £E14,000; cotton textiles and clothing, £E24,000.

The value of the external trade of the Sudan in 1918 again shows a large increase as compared with previous years. Imports during the year came to £E4,024,000, and exports, including re-exports, to £E4,210,000, as compared with £E3,102,000 and £E3,729,000 respectively during 1917. The total turnover in trade has, therefore, increased by over 20 per cent., and the balance of trade in favour of the Sudan for 1918 is £E185,802. The progress made during the last five years is remarkable.

The value of exports (including re-exports) in 1918—viz., £E4,210,304, exceeds that of 1917 by the sum of £E433,206, and is the highest on record. The following table, giving the quantities and values of certain important exports in 1918 and in 1913, the last normal year prior to the war, show the great impetus given to the export trade of the Sudan during the five years in question:—

Articles.	Unit or weight.	1913. Quantity.	1913. Value.	1918. Quantity.	1918. Value.
			£E.		£E.
Gum	Tons	15,129	371,528	16,348	638,765
Dura	,,	2,080	21,716	54,984	692,134
Cattle	Units	10,532	74,664	39,205	516,920
Sheep and goats	,,	99,174	97,059	208,805	651,257
Ground nuts	Tons	719	9,198	2,646	67,529
Dukhn	,,	7	80	14,234	177,233
Charcoal	,,	420	1,286	6,556	64,075
Beans, dried, etc.	,,	191	1,602	4,607	122,326

The increase in the livestock trade and cereal export is considerable, the export of cattle has quadrupled, and that of sheep and goats more than doubled, whilst the export of dura, dukhn, dates, ground nuts, etc., has increased in an even more remarkable manner.

Other important articles of export from the Sudan are:—Cotton, £E279,000; sesame, £E160,000; untanned skins, £E172,000, while in the imports are included: Cotton fabrics, £E1,116,000; sugar, £E593,000; coal, £E333,000; metals and metal manufactures, £E140,000; sacks, £E164,000; tea, £E140,000; tobacco, £E107,000; coffee, £E98,000.

The returns show that trade with Egypt has undergone important developments since 1913. The Sudan now consumes Egyptian cane sugar instead of Austrian beet sugar, whilst Egypt is relying on the Sudan for her supplies of meat, which she used to obtain from Serbia, Syria, etc., and she looks also to the Sudan to supply any shortage in her own production of certain cereals such as dura, sesame, etc. This interdependence is expected to continue after the war. In conclusion, gentlemen, if the present unfortunate incidents do not continue, I think one is justified in looking forward to a prosperous future in Egypt and the Sudan; but during the transitory stage from war to peace conditions, while various industries are feeling their way to settling down again, we would be wise to act cautiously in respect to commercial prices.

Again this year we have to add to our roll of honour and express to the families of Mr. G. L. Lusena and Mr. C. Mancini our most sincere sympathy. In the death of our old friend and colleague, Mr. Joseph I. Aghion, of Alexandria, the bank has lost one of its original directors who for twenty years has given us his sound and valuable advice. H. E. Boghos, Pacha Nubar, Sir Joseph Saba Pasha, and Mr. M. C. Salvago go out of office this year, and as they offer themselves for re-election I am certain, gentlemen, that you cannot do better than to reappoint them on our board of directors. Finally, we wish to tender to the sub-governors, managers, and staff the expression of our sincere satisfaction with the result of their labours during 1918.

EASTERN BANK.

The ninth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Eastern Bank, Limited, was held on April 9, at the registered offices, 4, Crosby Square, E.C., the Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., the chairman of the company presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. Carter) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, the directors' report being taken as read.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, you will, I hope, agree with me that the year has been a successful one. The net profit, including the amount brought forward, as you will have seen from the report, is £84,805 15s. 2d., and, after deducting a sum of £22,500, the amount required to pay the interim dividend of 3s. per share in October last, there is a sum of £62,305 15s. 2d. left at the disposal of your directors. We now propose to pay a final dividend for the year at the rate of 3s. per share, less income-tax at the rate of 5s. 9d. in the £, making 7½ per cent. for the whole year, to place a sum of £20,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £110,000, and

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

An English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

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to carry forward the balance of £19,805 15s. 2d. to the next account. The figures of the balance-sheet again show an increase. Our paid-up capital now stands at the round sum of £600,000, the small amount due last year on account of calls unpaid having been collected immediately communication with Belgium was restored. Our reserve fund stands at £90,000, and with the addition now recommended will be £110,000. Current and deposit account balances show an increase of nearly three-quarters of a million, which is good. Turning to the profit and loss account, our gross profits are £23,000 more than was the case last year. Charges are again higher, chiefly under the head of salaries, but under present conditions this result is inevitable. In Mesopotamia we have made good progress, and a branch of the bank has been opened at Hillah—a town on the Euphrates, which may become a great centre of the wheat-growing district. A branch line connects it with the railway from Baghdad.

I have now to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. J. S. Haskell seconded the motion.

No questions being asked the resolution was put to the meeting and carried.

The Chairman then moved that a final dividend of 5s. per share, less income tax at 5s. 9d. in the £, be declared, which, having been seconded, was unanimously passed.

Mr. J. Leigh Wood and Mr. Emile Francqui, the retiring directors, were re-elected, as were also the auditors.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and the other directors, the local staff and the staff in Mesopotamia, proposed by Sir George Forbes, K.C.S.I., and seconded by Colonel G. R. C. Westropp, C.B., concluded the proceedings.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated April 12:—

General rain in Assam along the Bengal Orissa Coast, Berar, and North Hyderabad. Local in the north of the United Provinces, Bihar, Central Provinces, and Upper Burma.

Jute.—Recent rains have favoured jute sowings.

Wheat.—The final revised all-Indian acreage is 23,294,000 acres. (In 1918 the acreage exceeded 33,800,000 acres.)

Bombay cotton market is firm. Fully good Broach April-May delivery 467 rupees. Piece goods are slightly improving.

Jute market firm, with more jute offering. The Hessians market shows some revived interest.

Telegraphic Transfers.—On April 3 £25,000 on London were applied and allotted in Calcutta, and £100,000 in Bombay.

During February 170,000 tons of rice were shipped from Burma to India.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce at the instance of Mr. Shirley Trencarne is founding a trust fund for the relief of cases of distress among the members of the chamber, their employees and dependents. Mr. Trencarne started the trust with one lakh of rupees.

L'UNION FONCIERE D'EGYPTE.

Messieurs les Actionnaires sont convoqués en Assemblée Générale Ordinaire pour le Mercredi 14 Mai 1919 à 4 heures de l'après-midi au Siège Social, 4 rue Fouad ier, Alexandrie, en vue de délibérer sur l'ordre du jour suivant:

1e. Rapport du Conseil d'Administration.
2e. Rapport du Censeur.
3e. Approbation du bilan de l'exercice.
4e. Renouvellement partiel du Conseil d'Administration 1919-1920.
5e. Jetons de présence.
6e. Election du Censeur et fixation de son indemnité.

Tout Actionnaire possesseur de 5 actions au moins a droit de prendre part à l'Assemblée Générale, à condition d'effectuer le dépôt de ses titres, au plus tard, trois jours avant la date de la réunion dans un des Etablissements ci-après désignés:

En Egypte: dans une des Banques établies à Alexandrie ou au Caire.
En France: auprès de la Société Marseillaise de Crédit Industriel et Commercial et de Dépôts.
En Angleterre: auprès de la Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, 2, Bishopsgate, Londres, E.C.

N.B.—Le dépôt des titres en France et en Angleterre doit être effectué à temps afin que les pouvoirs parviennent à Alexandrie 3 jours au moins avant la date de la réunion.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

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

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
RAOUL MALLET,
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
38, Rue St. Ferreol.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Ransomes and Rapier.

The report for 1918 states that the result of the year's working, including balance brought forward, shows disposable balance of £39.574, after fully providing for all outgoings, depreciation, interest on debentures, directors' fees, etc. Directors propose dividend of 7½ per cent. on ordinary, free of tax, to set aside as extra remuneration to directors £1.254, to place to reserve £5.000 (making £40,440), and to carry forward £24,228.

Bengal Dooars Railway.

The report of the Bengal Dooars Railway for the year ended September 30 states that the capital expenditure amounted to £5.691, most of which was incurred on account of the Chalsa Matelli Branch construction, which was opened for traffic on June 10 last. The work of construction was not quite completed owing to scarcity of labour, and the Secretary of State for India has extended the date for completion to 31st instant. Gross earnings were Rs.17,39,666, against Rs 17,64,760, and working expenses Rs.7,35,488, against Rs.7,45,409, net earnings being Rs.10,04,178, against Rs.10,19,351. The percentage of working expenses on gross earnings was 42.27, against 42.23. Net earnings in sterling (less Indian income-tax) amounted to £62,761, against £63,709. Earnings from coaching amounted to Rs 4,07,628, a decrease of Rs.28,145. The total amount received on account of goods traffic was Rs.12,88,005, an increase of Rs.3,812. The amount at credit of net revenue account is £58,860. The directors have placed £8,000 to reserve fund, bringing it, with interest, up to £153,067, leaving £30,360. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary stock for the year and a bonus of 2 per cent., both subject to income-tax, and to carry forward £28,860.

Mysore Gold.

The report of the Mysore Gold Mining Company for the year ended December 31 states that 293,186 tons of quartz were crushed, from which were recovered, by amalgamation, 127,536 oz. of bar gold, an average of 8.7 dwt. of gold per ton; 568,635 tons of tailings and slimes were treated for a yield of 66,127 oz. of bar gold, an average of 2.3 dwt. per ton. These represent a total production of 193,663 oz. of bar gold (equivalent to 174,300 oz. fine) of a realised value of £739,193. This amount was subject to deductions for royalty, etc., of £39,829. Adding interest on deposit account and investments, rebates on freights, rents, etc., aggregating £9,003, the total at credit of revenue account is £708,367. Expenditure was £443,846, profit being £264,521. Adding the amount brought forward, plus £941 received as dividend on shares held in the Kolar Mines Power Station, and £5 written off outstanding dividend account, the total at credit of profit and loss is £271,328. Deducting interim dividend of 2s. 6d. per share, paid on October 12, 1918, £76,250; additional remuneration to directors and managers under articles of association, £1,525; income-tax, £77,630; amount written off expenditure on capital account, £51,576, and donations to war funds, etc., £436, there is left £63,911, in respect of which a final dividend for 1918 of 2s. per share (less income-tax at the rate of 5s. 9d. in £) was declared on 6th instant, payable on 2nd proximo. This will absorb £61,000, leaving £2,911 to be carried forward, subject to royalty payable to the Mysore Government on the final dividend, etc. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., 10th proximo, 12.30 p.m.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The ordinary general meeting of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at Cairo on April 29.

British Burmah Petroleum—Second Mortgage debenture stock transfer books will be closed from 18th to 30th instant, inclusive.

Notice is given that the annual general meeting of the Bank of Athens will be held at the head office in Athens on May 10.

The directors of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company announce a dividend for the year ended December 31 last at the rate of 6d. per share.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due May 1 on Egyptian Unified bonds; the necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office, 3, Princes Street, E.C.

Furness, Withy.—Dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for quarter ending April 30 (6d. per share), free of tax, the same as a year ago.

The Egyptian Bonded Warehouses Co. made a net profit on the year's working of £E39.501. The dividend is P.T.80, and £E10,000 is carried over to the extraordinary reserve.

The coupon due May 1 next on the Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of Thomas Cook and Son (Egypt) will be paid by the London County, Westminster, and Parr's Bank, Temple Bar Branch, on that date.

In 1918 the Societe Hellenique des Vins et Spinteux made a net profit of 4,592,787 drachmæ, or 1,312,303 drachmæ more than in the previous year. The dividend is 24 drachmæ per share as against 20 drachmæ for 1917.

At a Court of Directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance, it was decided to recommend the General Court, to be held on April 30, to declare a further dividend of 8 per cent., less income-tax, making 14 per cent. less income-tax for the year 1918.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. announce a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock (less income-tax) and an interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock (free of income tax) for the half-year ended March 31 last. Warrants will be posted on May 14.

The report of Battalagalla Estate for the year ended December 31 last states that the accounts, after paying fixed charges, show a balance of £4,208; £3,941 was brought forward, which with refund excess profits tax account, 1917 (£703), gives a total of £8,852. It is proposed to pay a further dividend of 15 per cent., free of income-tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward (subject to excess profits duty), £4,001.

The directors of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company announce that it will be impossible to present the balance-sheet and accounts duly audited during May, when it has been usual to hold the general meeting. They have decided to make a fourth dividend payment of 3s. per share, together with a bonus of 4s. per share, making a total distribution for the year of 8 per cent., free of income-tax.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has again been very little doing in the market this week, most people preferring to wait until the situation in Egypt becomes clearer. Meanwhile the market has been at the mercy of small transactions, which have affected values disproportionately. On the whole, however, it can be said that although some prices are lower the undertone of the market at the close is rather better, the general opinion being that the trouble in Egypt is now practically over.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are ½ lower at 92, but there is practically no stock about. Egyptian 3½ per cent. Prefs. have remained a very firm stock, and are quoted to-night unchanged at the ex div. price of 75¾.

Some business has been done in City of Alexandria Bonds at 84¼.

In bank shares Nationals have dropped ⅝ to 20⅜ on some small sales on an unwilling market. Agriculturals are also slightly easier at 6⅝, and Anglo-Egyptian Banks have fallen ⅛ to 15½. Land Banks have remained firm with buyers about, but no sellers.

In land descriptions Aboukirs have dropped 9d. to 27s. 6d., and Allotments are ¼ down at 4⅛. Delta Lands have receded 6d. to 14s. 6d. The last-named company has just declared a dividend of 6d. per share as against 4d. paid for the last few years. Gharbieh Lands have dropped 3-16 to 2½, at which prices some business was done. New Egyptians are 1s. lower at 25s., but transactions have only been on a small scale. Sidi Salems are ⅛ lower at 2 9-16, after changing hands as low as 2½. In Sudan Plantations there has again been a good deal of activity, and the shares after being as high as £8 have relapsed sharply on profit taking, closing 1-16 lower at 6⅝. Union Foncières are also fractionally easier at 3½. In United Egyptian Lands there has been a good deal of support round the current prices.

Among miscellaneous descriptions some business has been done in Alexandria Waters round £12, at which price there are still buyers. Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields have further advanced ⅜ to 5 7-32. There has been some weakness in Egyptian Markets, which are closing 1s. 6d. lower at 26s. 6d. on some pressure to sell. Khedivial Mails closed ⅛ down at 5½.

In Greek Securities there has been very little doing, and there are no changes in prices to report.

SAILINGS TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

We understand from Furness, Withy, and Co., Ltd., Royal Liver Buildings, Liverpool, that their well-known and old-established Johnston Line of steamers, trading from Liverpool, Swansea, and Antwerp have already recommenced their regular service to the Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, having in fact already despatched several steamers. Arrangements have been made to place on the berth all the steamers that the trade is likely to require. Merchants here and in the devastated areas of Greece, Roumania, and Serbia, in particular, will no doubt appreciate the advantages accruing to them through the resumption of this service.

Greece proposes to denounce the commercial treaty with Norway as from March, 1920.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	April 9	April 16
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84	84½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92½	92
Do. Pref. 5% %, 1890	88	77½	75½xd
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72½	72½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66xd	66xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	83	83
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	—
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅝	15⅝
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	78	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7⅞	7⅞
London County and Westminster	—	17⅜	16⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21xd	20⅜
National Bank of India	43	55	54
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8	8
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 416.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Lloyd George's eagerly awaited statement regarding the proceedings of the Peace Conference was made last week in the Commons on the motion for the adjournment of the House. If anyone hoped for a definite pronouncement as to the future of Fiume, the situation in Turkey, or the measures taken (or to be taken) for the assistance of sorely pressed Roumania, he must have been disappointed. The Prime Minister declared that the Conference had not wasted any time, and he defended the decision to maintain strict secrecy regarding the terms to be offered to Germany, on the ground that to disclose them prematurely could benefit nobody but the enemy. But he dwelt at some length on the situation in Russia and the policy of the Allies towards Bolshevism in that country and elsewhere, and his declaration that, "if Bolshevism attacks any of our Allies it is our business to defend them," is satisfactory as far as it goes. It is to be hoped that we shall not neglect this part of our business in South-East Europe or elsewhere. It is also a great point gained to have the British Prime Minister recognise that this country cannot in future ignore the Balkans, as Mr. Lloyd George did in effect when he declared: "It was the quarrels of small States that made the great war. The difficulties of the Balkans, I believe, disturbed Europe and created the atmosphere of unrest which began the trouble which aroused the military temper, and I am not sure that they did not excite the blood lust in Europe." At the risk of emphasising the obvious, we may express the hope that Europe will not again allow its peace to be disturbed by the Balkan States.

Whether Europe and America—as we must surely add—have learned the lesson it is yet too early to say, but when the world is told where the future boundaries in South-Eastern Europe are to run we may have a chance of judging. For in all probability the demarcation of those boundaries will satisfy none of the States concerned, and if present indications are to be trusted, we may confidently expect a chorus of protests from all directions. Then we shall see whether the lesson has been learned or not. If Europe and America make it clear at once that their decision must be accepted, even though their solution of the centuries-old problem may not be quite perfect, there will be a reasonable prospect of peace in the Balkans at last, and the Balkan League will be almost within sight again. But if the professional trouble-makers on the spot and their enthusiastic friends in Europe and America are to be allowed to resume their former activities, as they are only too ready to do, we must inevitably expect a return to the old agitation-cum-massacre days.

Showing the same great spirit that she displayed throughout the war and at the time of her worst sufferings at the hands of the German conquerors, Roumania has fallen upon her Bolshevist enemies and has dealt them a heavy blow. According to reports that reach this country from Austria, the Roumanians have advanced into Hungary, and have penetrated at least as far as Grosswardein on a front of about seventy miles. The Bolshevists showed but little stomach for fighting, and the only serious opposition that the Roumanians encountered was put up by Szekler troops, who are sufficiently anti-Bolshevist in their sympathies to fire upon Bela Kun's forces when they ran away in face of the enemy. Upon the whole, the Bolshevists in South-East Europe have not had much to congratulate themselves on during the past week. Bela Kun and his associates in Budapest have received a letter from Mr. Balfour demanding the fulfilment of an agreement into which Kun entered, and its receipt and its firm tone appear to have caused them much perturbation. And at Sebastopol the French are reported to have recaptured at the point of the bayonet part of the defensive system which the Bolshevists had previously secured. The world is war-weary, no doubt, but it is to be hoped that it is not yet too weary to deal faithfully with Bolshevism and all who profess it, and help from the Entente will surely be forthcoming to enable the Roumanians to take every advantage of their success.

The authorities in Whitehall have acted wisely in issuing prompt and reasonably detailed information regarding the serious disturbances which have occurred in some parts of India, and the result has undoubtedly been to steady public opinion in this country; pessimists are, it is true, occasionally heard to suggest that something is being kept back, but the ordinary man is inclined to accept the official *communiqués* as presenting a substantially accurate view of the position. Its interpretation is a different matter, and the views which one hears are obviously coloured by the predispositions of the speakers, so that while one school draws from Ahmedabad and Amritsar arguments in favour of hasty, if not hysterical, reforms, another regards the same facts as justifying an indefinite postponement of the projects now in hand. Between these extremes lies

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the large body of middle opinion, which, as we said last week, considers that reforms should proceed, but on lines which shall, at all costs, ensure the maintenance of law and order.

No one who has read carefully the official announcements can have failed to observe that the authorities find a direct causal connection existing between the disorders and the agitation directed against the Rowlatt Bills. We do not for a moment dispute this conclusion, but at the same time it is right to point out that the causation, though direct, is not immediate. At one end of the chain we have the agitation conducted by prominent politicians of the extreme left; at the other, we have organised rebellion; but the intermediate links are still hidden from our view. It is obvious, however, that secret organisations have been at work, taking their cue from the known agitators, but selecting the scene of action and inflaming the passions of the people, both in town and country, until the smouldering fires of lawlessness have blazed up, and for the moment some parts of the country have relapsed into the condition which not very long ago was normal.

Such secret organisations are familiar to every Indian administrator, and the methods of nullifying their activities are "common form." The "intelligence" branch of the Administration must be efficient, and then the psychological moment for action must be seized. When these conditions are realised, an outbreak of lawlessness is averted, and the public commonly remain ignorant that one more crisis has been successfully met. On the other hand, open disorder usually indicates either that the intelligence branch has for once failed, or that the psychological moment for preventive action has for some reason been missed, and experienced Administrators are already scrutinising the published reports for any information bearing on the questions: whether one or both of these causes have been at work; did the Government know that rebellion was being organised; was there a failure to act on the information received; and, if there was a failure, to what is it to be attributed?

On these questions the reports throw little light, but attention is being directed to the possible relationship between the scenes of disorder and changes in the *personnel* of the Administration. Apart from Calcutta, which in these matters stands by itself, trouble has so far been practically limited to Delhi, Bombay, and the Punjab. Delhi is getting a new Chief Commissioner; Bombay has recently lost one of the best Governors who ever ruled, and his successor is still untried; while Sir Michael O'Dwyer was actually saying farewell to the Punjab at the time when the disturbances arose. The arm of coincidence is as long in India as elsewhere, but nevertheless these facts are in some quarters regarded as suggestive, indicating that the disorders have been very carefully located in those provinces where there was the best prospect of finding the Administration temporarily off its guard, and it is certainly noteworthy that up to the present time "resistance" has remained "passive" in the United Provinces, normally the most attractive part of India to the seditious agitator, but at present ruled by a strong Lieutenant-Governor seated firmly in the saddle.

It is not perhaps too early to say a word regarding the immediate outcome of these disturbances. Retribution must undoubtedly fall heavily on the men who have been guilty of murder and other specific crimes, but such action alone will not meet the case. The offending communities must be punished as a whole in accordance with the immemorial practice of the country, though not, we are glad to think, by the indigenous methods, and it is satisfactory to be assured that attention is already being given to the more lenient substitutes recognised under British rule—the enforcement of communal responsibility and the location of punitive police. Lastly, it is to be hoped that on this occasion the organisers of rebellion may not be permitted to escape. As we showed last week, the Rule of Law has been weakened of late years in India, and its re-establishment depends much more on the punishment of these active organisers than on the execution of their misguided and deluded dupes.

No news of any fresh outbreak of violence on a large scale has been received from Egypt, and to that extent the situation may be said to have improved. But it remains extremely unsatisfactory. On his return to office Rushdi Pasha appealed to the nation to preserve order and to the Government officials to resume work, in view of the removal of restrictions upon Egyptians leaving for Europe and of the creation of the new Cabinet. To all intents and purposes, however, his appeal fell upon deaf ears. The trouble-makers failed utterly to understand General Allenby's generous treatment; and though they ceased from train-wrecking, murder of Englishmen, and other methods by which they had previously sought to gain their ends, they showed at once that they regarded themselves as having won a victory. More than one correspondent testifies to the insolence of their bearing towards the Ministers who consented to receive them; and the demands they put forward were sufficiently absurd and impossible to show that they had been completely carried away by their "success."

The first of the demands referred to was that Zaghlul Pasha and his associates should be declared by the Egyptian Government as officially representing the Egyptian nation; secondly, the creation of the new Cabinet was not to be taken as implying the acceptance of the British Protectorate; thirdly, Egyptian soldiers and police should replace British as patrols in Cairo and for the maintenance of public security. Subsequently there was added to this modest programme a demand for the institution of "a Mixed Commission" to inquire into British administration in Egypt and for a general amnesty. It is to be hoped that under no circumstances will any amnesty at all be granted. Those who have led Egypt into folly should be made to pay the price of their unscrupulous self-seeking. The Egyptian Fellah will understand that; so will the Bedawi. The Committee of Notables, who put forward the demand for the "Mixed Commission," would be helped along the road towards common sense if they were told quite bluntly that the mere suggestion of any such "inquiry," even in these days of conferences, leagues, and fine phrases, is positively insulting to the Power that has done so much for Egypt. Fortunately, they are unlikely to receive encouragement from the quarter to which they are reported to have looked for it with some confidence.

It is possible to doubt the wisdom of appointing a Commmission to investigate the Syrian question on the spot rather than having it settled on broad lines on evidence already available in Paris. But since such a Commission is to be, it is satisfactory to learn that the British representatives upon it are to be Sir Henry McMahon and Commander D. G. Hogarth. The former, it is true, gained his experience of the East chiefly in India, but in Egypt he had every opportunity to acquire first-hand knowledge of the Nearer East, and the unselfish devotion he showed for his country's interests and his highly developed faculty of observing for himself unite to make him an excellent choice for his present position. Commander Hogarth will be an invaluable coadjutor, for he has a knowledge of Near Eastern countries and the problems attaching to them which is probably unequalled and is certainly unsurpassed. If the other members of the Commission are of the same high attainments and level as the British representatives, its chances of doing work of real value will certainly look brighter than we had heretofore ventured to expect. It is to be hoped, however, that our own representatives will not be hampered by instructions given them by those whose lack of true interest in the Orient should make them chary even of offering advice. Such things, it is rumoured, have happened before, and may happen again.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 9.

The Demarcational Zone.

Reports of acts of cruelty and abuse committed by the Hungarians in the proximity of the demarcational zone continue to come in. So-called Bolshevism is running riot among the Magyar population of those parts, and it is the Roumanians who suffer the brunt of their savagery. Robbery and assault in broad daylight, and even assassinations, are events of hourly occurrence, and particular zeal is manifested in the "removal" of teachers and of such who are known to be supporters of Roumanian national ideals. It is to be hoped, now that Roumanian troops both from the Kingdom and from Transylvania—for the Directing Council has decreed a general mobilisation in this country—are advancing towards the demarcational zone, that some sort of order will be established in the near future. Meanwhile, there is great misery in the disturbed regions, and innumerable families have left their hearths and homes to seek refuge in the interior.

The Jews of Transylvania.

On March 28 a meeting of the Transylvanian Jews established in Bucharest took place, with the object of determining what attitude they were called upon to adopt in face of the new situation created by political events. The outcome was the unanimous approval of the following motion:—"The Transylvanian Jews established in Bucharest, assembled this 31st day of March, 1919, adhere with all their heart and with lively satisfaction to the programme comprised in the Act of Union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Roumania voted at Alba Julia on December 1, 1918, it being their conviction that the dispositions relating to liberty of nationalities; to the use of the maternal tongue in teaching, administration, and justice; to proportional representation in parliament and government; to guarantees of equal rights; to cultural, religious, and political autonomy, as well as to the unconditional liberty of the Press and of associations, correspond entirely with the liberal and democratic principles at present in vogue." The motion was warmly supported on the grounds that the principles enunciated in the Act of Alba Julia were conceived in a most liberal and equitable spirit, and that Jews regard the noble initiators of this Act as guarantors that the ideas set forth will find their actual realisation in fact. A union with Roumania conceived in this spirit could not but be applauded with enthusiasm and joy.

It was further proposed that the Jews living in the provinces should be urged to adhere to this motion, and that pressure should be exercised among the Jewish communities of Ardeal (Transylvania) in order to obtain their support of the programme formulated in the Act of Union of Alba Julia. It was further remarked that in Ardeal there had never existed any real hostility towards the Jews, and that the apparent anti-Semitism of the Roumanians was solely directed against those who made common cause with the Magyars.

April 13.

Bolshevism, Genuine and Counterfeit.

It is rumoured, possibly without much foundation, that the Roumanian troops, at least those from the Kingdom, are about to be withdrawn from the Transylvanian danger zone, where they are to be replaced by Allied troops, and concentrated on the Bessarabian frontier. Whether the news is true or not, the facts remain that the Allied forces have evacuated Odessa, and that the attitude of the Russian Bolshevists is somewhat threatening. The general impression is that the danger from this direction could assume much more serious proportions than anything that might come from Hungary. The Hungarian revolutionary movement, in spite of its alleged identity with Russian Bolshevism, turns out to be a bad imitation, partly the outcome of social defects, partly trumped up with a view to embarrassing the task of the Entente. The authors of the movement suggest the hypothetical case of a man who, having through his own fault placed himself in a false position with regard to his comrades, has recourse to the bottle with the hope that his companions will follow his example, a common state of intoxication levelling the differences that have arisen between them. What is actually occurring in Hungary is a purely local phenomenon, expressive of the state of discontent arising from the issue of the war, and those mistakes which preceded and contributed to its outbreak. These mistakes were partly social, and in the main due to the absence of the true democratic spirit, and partly political, as illustrated by Hungary's attitude towards the foreign nationalities living on her territory. Meanwhile, to judge from the scanty information here at our disposal, it would seem that from the military point of view the Hungarian movement is too disorderly to demand extensive military precautions on the part of Roumania; while regarded as a social danger, it is deprived of all power of contamination by the facts that, on the one hand, it lacks that ideologic foundation which gives such life-power to the Russian movement; and, on the other, the Roumanian organism, to borrow a medical simile, is entirely refractory to, and unreceptive of, the special virus which is playing such havoc with her neighbour's constitution.

JAFFA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jaffa, March 25.

Visit of General Money.

On Friday, the 21st inst., Major-General A. W. Money, the Chief Administrator Occupied Enemy Territory (South), arrived from Jerusalem on a short visit to Jaffa. Major Postlethwaite, the Military Governor of Jaffa, introduced to his Excellency the chiefs of the various communities and the members of the Administrative Council. The Chief Administrator expressed his pleasure at meeting them, and said that his earnest wish and hope was to see them all continuing to live peacefully together and working hand in hand for the welfare of the country. General Money then proceeded to the Town Hall, where Major Postlethwaite introduced to his Excellency Assem Bey El-Said, the amiable and efficient Mayor of Jaffa, and the members of the Municipal Council. The Mayor, in his welcoming speech to the Chief Administrator, expressed the good feelings of the population towards the just government of Great Britain, and declared the assurance of her good intentions towards his country.

Then our popular Governor, Major Postlethwaite, told General Money that the Municipal Council of Jaffa had unanimously decided on calling one of Jaffa's avenues King George Avenue. General Money expressed his pleasure, and said that personally he fully concurred with the unanimous decision and that he would submit the matter to his Majesty the King through the Foreign Office.

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CYPRUS IN 1917-18.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The High Commissioner's annual report on the Blue-book for 1917-18, again very brief, gives a condensed *résumé* which tells of continued prosperity; but this, it must be remembered, is partly due to war conditions, and it is desirable to look beneath the surface and to see what real progress, if any, is being made in the condition of the island and of its agricultural population.

The continuance of martial law threw extra work on the police, but led to no trouble. The public health was good, and a decrease in malarial complaints is partly attributable to the continued application of the measures recommended by Sir Ronald Ross. The work of the medical department continues to be excellent. As regards leprosy, which still lingers in the island, but is regarded as in process of being stamped out, it is of interest to note that there is no sign of disease among the children born in the "Leper Farm." They are all taught trades, and as soon as they are old enough they go out to earn their living. The Government Analyst has continued his excellent work, and there has been a marked reduction in adulterated foods. No less than 1,322 samples were analysed, adulteration being detected in sixty-four kinds of articles.

The agricultural survey is somewhat disappointing, inasmuch as no noticeable advance seems to have been made in those branches in which some marked development ought already to have been accomplished. The forward movement inaugurated under Sir Hamilton Goold Adams has not yet borne the fruit that was looked for. Progress in almost all directions has been on a microscopic scale, or at best can only be described as in a "hopeful" stage, with a view to future realisation. It would, however, be quite unfair to attach any blame to the Agricultural Department, in which it is not lack of zeal and hard work but want of funds and encouragement that are the causes of stagnation.

Reports of recent years pointed to the probability of a very large and remunerative development of potato culture; but instead of this we find that matters are stationary, owing to inability to obtain new seeds. Whatever obstacles the war may have caused, no time should now be lost in pushing forward this industry, for which Cyprus is so well adapted. The briefest allusion is made to tobacco and to the high prices which have been hoped for owing to the closing of various sources of supply; but no information is given as to the actual situation or prospects. This omission may be supplemented by stating that the outlook is far from encouraging. The results of last year's planting, at almost all altitudes, and in all soils, show that, although the crops have been abundant in leaf, the quality is not such as to commend itself to outside markets. Without pronouncing definitely against the possibility of success when better methods of culture and curing are available, it may be said that the efforts have been so far a failure. Possibly the new company that is being formed at Limassol may proceed on the only lines that can give any hope of success—viz., patient and exhaustive trials in what is the present experimental stage.

Olive cultivation, which should unquestionably be pushed forward over large areas, still makes but trifling progress. Slow growing as the tree is, the Government should encourage it by all means in its power. Oil and olives are among the chief articles of food, but the days when the exportation which is hinted at will take place are still far distant.

While good wine prices have led to some increase in vine cultivation, the warning of last year that inflation will not be maintained at its present level still holds good. The vine pest, which, by the way, appears under a new name (*Zygiena ampelophaga*), has been combated in the usual fitful and haphazard fashion by the villagers, whose apathy and fatalism are still far too conspicuous. Experiments continue to be made in respect of various cereals, but we do not seem to get any further in results, and there is but little, if any, progress in the antiquated methods of harvesting and winnowing.

The campaign against locusts has been carried out as hitherto by the Government "with satisfactory results"; but there is complete silence as to details, figures, localities, etc., which is regrettable, as all information regarding what is one of the most interesting and important operations of the agricultural year would be of value in other countries visited by this formidable plague.

Progress is reported in the preparation of sultana and other raisins; but no details are given, and there is nothing to show whether the progress is such as to hold out hope that these articles are likely to commend themselves to the British market, in which they have failed so far to win a place. Model orchards and vineyards have been laid out, but whether villagers are at last following the lead we are not told. Unfortunately, as regards the Agricultural School at Nicosia, parents are said to be reluctant to send their boys there, although practical as well as theoretical teaching is given. The Department has endeavoured with its limited resources to meet the complaint of Cypriot farmers that, whereas an ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory, they have had scarcely anything in the way of actual demonstration in the arts of husbandry.

The decrease in goats and increase in sheep continues, the figures being, as compared with the preceding year, 190,000 goats as against 193,854, and sheep 253,000 as against 249,598. It would be well for the forests and for agriculture if the decrease of goats were more rapid.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Troopships. April 15.

Colonel Yate asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Shipping Controller how many troopships homeward bound from Australia will be diverted via India; how many prize ships will be made use of for the conveyance of passengers from India during the month of May; and for how many passengers will accommodation be thus provided in addition to that provided during April?

Colonel Wilson: The number of troopships homeward bound from Australia diverted via India and expected to make May embarkation there is seven, and the accommodation available for ordinary passengers is about 1,000 first-class and 250 second-class. Information as to the accommodation in the prize ships at the disposal of the Indian Government is not available here.

The Disturbances in India. April 16.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary for India, replying to a request made by Sir J. D. Rees for further information with regard to the recent disturbances in India, said:—I have little to add to the information that has appeared in the Press. In the Bombay Presidency riots occurred on the 12th inst. at Virangam, where a mob attacked and burnt down the railway station, and other acts of destruction are reported. Troops were dispatched from Ahmedabad, and order has now been restored. Bombay City is reported to have been quiet since the 11th inst.

Troops in Mesopotamia.

In reply to Colonel Wedgwood, Mr. Churchill said:—The strength of British white troops in Mesopotamia on the following dates was:—On November 11, 1918, 95,000; on March 15, 1919 (last return available), 61,000. The number which left that country between November 11, 1918, and March 15, 1919, was 34,000. Under the regulations at present in force, the main qualification for demobilisation is length of service, and it is further provided in the regulations that a proportion of each draft sent home for dispersal shall include men who have had the longest service overseas. Men are being brought home as rapidly as circumstances permit.

Appointments in Egypt.

After stating that affairs in Egypt had improved, Mr. Cecil Harmsworth (Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs), asked by Captain Ormsby-Gore whether General Allenby had recently appointed General Clayton, chief political officer in Palestine, and Colonel Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, to posts in Egypt, and who had filled their places in Palestine, said:—I understand that both these officers are at present in Egypt, but I have no information as to their having received any appointment there, and the question of filling their places in Palestine has not therefore arisen.

Topics in Parliament.

India: Cable Services—Delhi Shootings. Egypt (April 16).



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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE QUESTION OF THE DOBRUJA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The explanation given by your correspondent, M. Stephanove, that the Allies, in allowing the Bulgarian administration "to continue in Dobruja, *simply conformed* to the agreement between Bulgaria and her allies" appears to be derived from the domain of pure phantasy. No one could imagine that the Allies, when imposing the armistice upon the treacherous Bulgarians, were going "simply to conform" to the agreements between their enemies. Furthermore, M. Stephanove would have it understood that, as long as the Central Powers were strong enough, their arrangements in the Near East were respected by the Allies, and that only when the Lion was dying they "considered themselves free to restore the Roumanian authorities (in Dobruja)." I am very sorry to have to say it, but M. Stephanove is crediting the Allies with very "Balkanised" principles of policy and chivalry. As to the arranged reception which "moved to tears" the Allied troops of occupation, the Roumanian Government possess a long list of professors, lawyers, judges, journalists, as well as of ladies who came from Sofia and other Bulgarian towns just to play the rôle of Bulgarian peasants in the Dobruja. It was like being at the cinema to find in the remotest villages of the Dobruja mayors who addressed the troops in the correct English and peasant women "lamenting in the tongue of Voltaire"!

"Dobruja," says M. Stephanove, "according to history, traditions, and geography, is Bulgarian." This is simply an affirmation which cannot stand even when made by M. Stephanove. This is no place for an academic discussion, but History—not that written by the Bulgarian chauvinists—will teach M. Stephanove that she has in store no important arguments for the Bulgarian claimants to the Dobruja. Even the quintet of Sofia professors, Messrs. Tschirkoff, Miletich, Zoneff, Ivanoff, and Romanski—representing the Bulgarian chauvinism in science—are extremely pessimistic about the Dobruja being Bulgarian. They published in "Petermann's Geographische Mitteilungen," 1915 (map 44), an ethnographic map which shows that the Bulgarians in Dobruja are in a minority (no more than 16 per cent.), and Professor Tschirkoff said bitterly: "To believe that there are more than 50,000 Bulgarians in Dobruja—out of a total of 350,000—would mean very seriously to mislead ourselves." He finds, however, another argument for claiming Dobruja, as well as Macedonia, namely, that the Bulgarians are the least numerous among the Balkan peoples, and thus they must absorb the elements of the neighbouring nationalities and get stronger. This is, at least, the most sincere argument—the argument of the wolf—so far brought forward by the Bulgarian scientists.

M. Stephanove is wrong when he believes that the commerce of Varna and Rustchuk was brought to a standstill because of the annexation of Dobruja to Roumania. The cause was quite a simple one. Bulgarian commerce took the way towards the Ægean Sea as being the shortest route between Bulgaria and Europe. If Constantza were dependent on Bulgarian commerce only, it would become a deserted port in a very short time, being of no use for the Bulgarian export and import, because it is situated very far to the north, and the transport of the goods into Bulgaria would cost from three to four times more than from any southern port.

The arguments concentrated in the letter of your correspondent "S. P." are to be found in nearly all the Bulgarian pamphlets of propaganda on the question of the Dobruja, and I am very glad to have the opportunity of dealing with them (I know myself of no less than fourteen such pamphlets) :—

1. Mircea the Great, Prince of Wallachia, who for a quarter of a century extended his rule over Dobruja—as "S. P." recognises—concluded a treaty of peace with the Turks (1411) recognising the sovereignty of the Sultan; and according to this treaty the Turks were responsible for the integrity of the Principality of Wallachia. Later on, when the Wallachian Princes revolted against the rule of the Sultan, the latter was obliged to send expeditionary forces against them, and, conquering Dobruja, appointed a Pasha, with residence at Matschin (Macin) as Governor of Dobruja. The Turks conquered Dobruja from the Wallachians not from the Bulgarians, affirms Zinkenstein ("Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches," Hamburg, 1840). The Bulgarian Exarchate, alluded to as instituted by a Sultan's charter—in fact, by the Patriarch of Constantinople—extended its religious power only nominally and for a short time (1870-1881) over Dobruja, and was caused partly because just some years before the Roumanian Church severed its relations with the Patriarch and proclaimed itself autonomous. Thus, the Roumanian Church could not extend its authority over a province, being at that time (1870) a part of the Ottoman Empire. After all, since the time of Mircea the Great (1386-1418) no Bulgarian ruler extended his power over Dobruja for any length of time.

2. Impartial ethnologists and scientists of universal reputation, as G. Léjan, M. F. Mirkowitch, Prof. F. Bradaska, Mackenzie and Irby, H. Kiepert, Elisée Reclus, etc., are of an opinion quite contrary to that of "S. P."; and they all state that the Bulgarians in Dobruja were in a poor minority. Their scientific works are to be taken into account as much as the confessions of an anonymous "prominent Roumanian," made to the late Sir Henry Drummond Wolf.

3. A glance at the map of the Balkan Peninsula is enough to "satisfy not only the unprejudiced mind"—as "S. P." says—but even the most prejudiced one that economic geography could not reckon Dobruja as a part of the economic system of Bulgaria, which extends itself far on the south. Dobruja could only be prosperous as the open road of Roumanian trade towards the sea, and from the descriptions of the French and British military missions during the Crimean War one can easily understand how poor the province was before its incorporation into Roumania. Even the Germans who tried to found a colony in Dobruja lamented over "Die Deutschen Exil in Skyteulande" (Bernhard Schwartz). I do not know what kind of trade was that which was "pre-eminently in the hands of the Bulgarians," and I wonder if any statistical data concerning it could be produced. What I do know is that Roumania was exporting nearly two million tons per year through Constantza only! And that fact is of great importance for European progress.

3. I quite agree that the present-day Balkan problems are not to be settled otherwise than on the basis of facts imposed by reality. Therefore I cannot understand the endless quotations from the Roumanian newspapers and from all sorts of books of forty years ago made by "S. P.," with boundless patience, so as to prove that some Roumanians refused to accept the Dobruja when given to Roumania by the Congress of Berlin. Nearly all these protests were made against the methods of Tsarist Russia in rewarding the Roumanian soldiers who had fought beside the Russians at Plevna by robbing their home. But after all, could "S. P." produce any Bulgarian protests from that time against the cession of Dobruja to Roumania? One could see from the Memoirs of King Carol, as well as from the Protocols of the Congress of Berlin, that the leading circles in Roumania and the representatives of the Great Powers fully realised what a capital importance Dobruja has for the development of Roumanian trade.

4. I am astonished that such an argument as that taken from the book of Ivan Ristich, that "Roumania being absent on the battlefield (1875-1878) acknowledged that she has no interest in the Balkans," could be brought by a scholar, since it is generally known that Roumania took her place of honour on the battlefield at Plevna (1877). King Carol commanded the Russo-Roumanian force, and their victory brought the liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke.

I am very glad to find that "S. P." fully recognises that the various attempts at insurrection in Bulgaria "originated in Roumania, and were principally carried out by bands of insurgents organised and equipped in Roumania," and I am sure that there are many honest Bulgarians who, having experienced the generosity of the Roumanian people, would not let them be discredited by legends of their rapacity.

The leading Bulgarians who try to create, at any price, a question of Dobruja and to make the Bulgarians believe that that province has any importance—national or economic—for the future progress of their country are the real enemy of the vital interests of the Bulgarians, and prevent the long-desired Balkanic Alliance from being realised.—I am, etc.,

THE WRITER OF THE NOTE IMPUGNED.

SURNAMES FOR PERSIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It may be strange to an average Englishman, but it is the fact, that there has been no "surname" in Persia. Business houses in England who have dealings with Persia and Persians are aware of it, and no doubt have found it very difficult to keep indexes of the names of their clients. For in Persia every man has his distinct name, and some merchants sign, in addition to their names, those of their fathers and grandfathers, also the name of the town they have hailed from. Thus :—

"Ali, son of Baghir, son of Cassem, Darabi," which is as if one were to write in English :—

"Arthur, son of Bertram, son of Charles, of Durham"!

This week, to my surprise and satisfaction, I received an official newspaper, *Iran*, from Teheran, dated December 23, 1918, in which there is a proclamation that, according to the new laws and regulations, every man is obliged to register a "surname" for his family, and in the same paper, amongst the well-known family list whose heads have already registered their "surname" is my elder brother (H. M. Sadik "Hariri"), who has duly registered our late father's (H. Mehdi "Hariri") commercial title, and the telegraphic address "Hariri," which belonged to our late father during the last fifty years or so.

It is very refreshing to know that the twentieth century has brought a fresh reform and alteration even to the laws of the Medes and Persians.—I am, etc.,

REZA DE MEHDI "HARIRI."

6, Winter Gardens Terrace, Southport, April 8, 1919.

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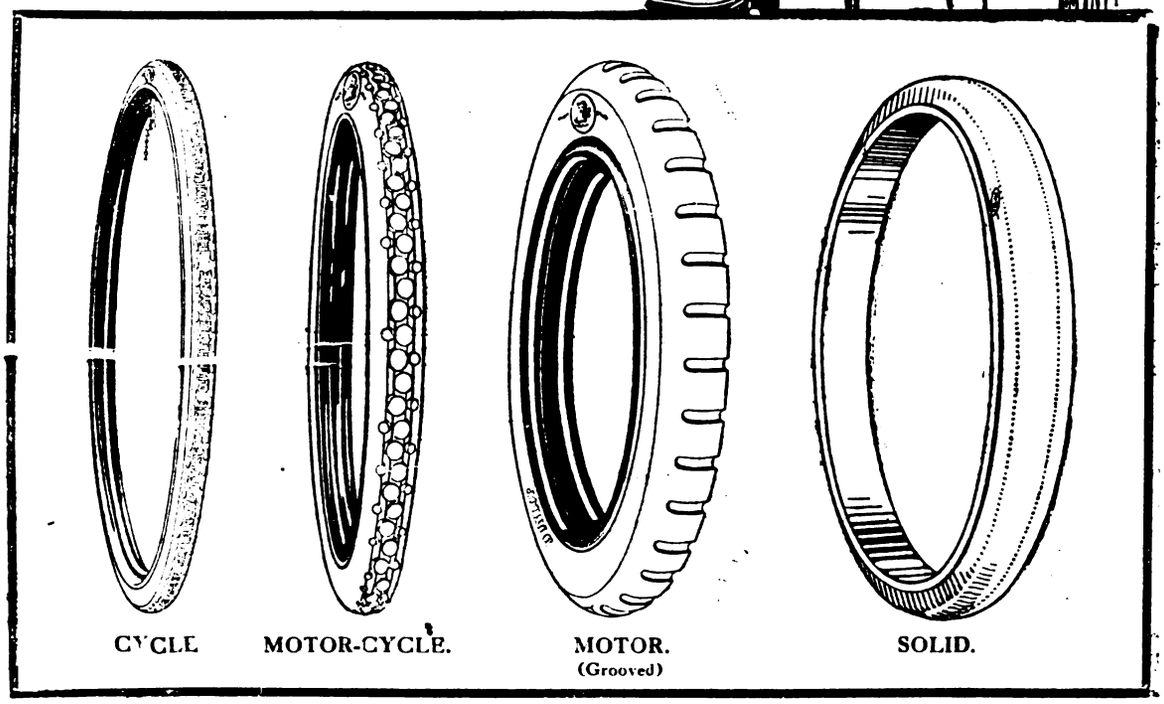
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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

I read a short time ago in the *Egyptian Gazette* of the arrival at Alexandria of some 2,000 Maghrabis, who had been detained in Syria and Asia Minor during the war. Now the Maghrabis have (as the *Gazette* reminds its readers) for many years supplied Egypt with most of its "magicians" and fortune-tellers; and they figure in those rôles in most of the public storytellers' tales—as students of Spitta Bey's "Contes Arabes" will remember. It is, therefore, not surprising to learn that one of them, questioned by a *Gazette* man, said that, if they remained in Egypt, several of them "would take up the profession of fortune-tellers and magicians." But it is fortunate that the whole 2,000 do not contemplate doing so. Even Egypt would find that a tax on its powers of belief—and payment. Or would the prices of "spells" come down with a rush?

***

During the war we suffered many changes, but few were more intimate and widespread than our enforced change of diet. Things unheard of, things unguessed at, things unrecognisable—all were eaten at the painful feast of necessity. But surely an item which I have extracted from the menu of a Cairo hotel touches the bottom when it describes the soup course as one consisting of "tripe and legs," for which incidentally the precipitous price of six piastres is charged! Now the most poisonous soup that I have ever seen is the war-time "potage communal" of the Belgian peasant,—a concoction which would quench many thirsts but never appease a hunger—but the thought of "tripe and legs" nearly curdles the blood. I suppose that the beverage is wholly suine; but possibly the hotel manager thought fit to make the novelty more delicate by adding to the tripe the "disjecta membra" of some other animal.

***

In a recent message to the *Daily Chronicle*, Mr. Constantine Brown has given a most gloomy picture of Constantza, the famous Roumanian town. The war has terribly ruined this historic place, and among its numerous tragedies was the removal by the Bulgarians of the statue of Ovid. My readers need not be reminded that the Dobruja was once the home of the Getae, and a Roman province, and that Ovid was sent into exile to Constantza, then called Tomi. Bitter was the lot of the Roman poet in being placed among barbarians in a frontier town, where, as he says, eternal strife was the rule. And even now, after more than nineteen hundred years, his sculptured memory goes a-travelling! In this restless part of Europe his wandering greatness seems doomed to many metamorphoses; for events in this region will never cease, and its final settlement one cannot even rudely divine. What Ovid said of himself (in his "Tristia") may with truth be applied to the country in which he said it:—

Totque tuli terra casus pelagoque quot inter occultum stellæ conspicuumque polum.

***

A correspondent of *The Times*, writing recently on "Sport in Mesopotamia," has some amusing stories of how our troops there whiled away some leisure hours. Naturally conditions of sport for the soldiers were far different from those which I, while there in the softer and less exciting times of peace, enjoyed. But to read of "Gazelle-Hunting by Motor-car" upsets violently this natural thought. "O tempora, O mores!" It is, I confess, with the old-fashioned satisfaction of a "laudator temporis acti" that I read that the chase with petrol did not always meet with happy results. To hunt gazelles with motor-cars and aeroplanes must have been tremendously furious fun, but for me the old, more human, ways of sport! This correspondent also describes his efforts to bring down the "sporting old bustard," and remarks on its cunning. Now the hardest thing I knew in this country was to capture the francolin, which flies at wonderful speed very close to the ground. But the rare difficulty of hitting him is less than the divine joy of eating him, for he is, I am sure, the food of those gods who preside over shooting. Else why should they grant him to us so seldom?

***

As a sincere admirer of Islam, and because I have several Moslem friends, I have been trying hard to understand how it is that so many Moslems cherish feelings of respect and admiration for the Sultans of Turkey. Unless we are woefully misinformed by the authorities, the Sultans of Turkey do not fulfil, and never have fulfilled, one of the most important conditions attaching to the Khalifate: they certainly do not belong to the tribe of the Koreish. And there are other reasons why one might be pardoned for expecting to find the Moslem world quite uninterested in their fate. Yet as a matter of fact it is quite obvious that the Turkish Sultans have somehow managed to secure a very warm place in the hearts of many Indian and other Moslems. It is puzzling, and all the more so when we recognise—as we must—that the feeling was largely the creation by Abdul Hamid, who, whatever his virtues may have been, was hardly a promising figure to secure such widespread homage.

***

Yet Abdul did somehow manage to get himself favourably viewed not only by Indians, who were far enough removed not to see for themselves what his rule meant, but also by some Arabs, who actually suffered under that rule. I remember one of the latter telling me a little story about the Red Sultan. It was to the effect that the Shah of Persia visited him, and at the meeting of the monarchs the Shah appeared loaded with rings and jewels, but "the Sultan was dressed in a black coat, and had no jewels at all on." And the odd part of it was that the simplicity appealed to my Arab friend, and that he obviously thought that Abdul had scored off his visitor—and was glad of it. Truly, your Oriental is a puzzle at times.

CORSAIR.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Zionism in America.

In an article called "Why Most American Jews Do Not Favour Zionism," by Julius Kahn, in the *New York Times Magazine* of February 16, reasons are set down against the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine thus:—

First—It creates a divided allegiance, as between our country and its Stars and Stripes and Zion with its white flag with the blue star. The Zionists, even in this country, are bent upon following their flag. The real American Jew knows but one flag, the Stars and Stripes. The American Jew sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" as his national anthem. The Zionist sings "The Hatikvah" as his.

Second—The Zionist doctrine is in conflict with our own free institutions. The Zionists believe in the foundation of a Government which shall embrace both Church and State. That is not in keeping with the trend of modern statecraft anywhere. In that respect Zionism is decidedly reactionary. Besides, the Jews of Palestine are a small minority of the population. Will the other people who live there consent to domination by this minority?

Third—There is the practical objection—against the huddling together in a confined territory of enormous numbers of the Jewish people. As everyone knows, Palestine is small; it could never support the millions of Jews who live in countries where Jewish persecution is a matter of common occurrence. That huddling together has had a baneful effect in Russia, Roumania, Galicia, and Poland. The result would be a continuance of these disadvantages in the proposed new home.

Fourth—The greatest danger to the Jews in all those countries where they are on an entire equality with every other class of citizens is that, with the establishment of a separate Jewish State, they would be looked upon as aliens where to-day they are respected citizens. They would frequently be told to go to their own country, Palestine, by those agitators and fanatics who have a hatred of the Jew in their hearts. In fact, I have had a number of letters recently which stated the opinions of the writers. They suggested that it would be a good thing if the country got rid of the Jews.

Mr. Kahn continues with a claim that "the Jew is always willing to give his life to the country in which he finds a home," and he explains in facile words that the hard perseverance of the Jew is a characteristic forced on him by persecution. He insists that most Jews wish to live and die in the country wherein they now are; and instead of a new Jewry he suggests the abolition of all restrictions (where such exist) upon Jews.

The Jews should be permitted to settle in any part of any country without hindrance or molestation. Their neighbours everywhere would find them kind and considerate citizens of the country, the city or the community in which absolute civil and religious freedom was given to them. The Jew is as public-spirited and as benevolent toward the unfortunate of every creed as any class of people on the face of the earth. All he wants is a fair opportunity. He needs no especial favours. Given equal opportunity, he does not in any way or at any time become a burden on the country which emancipated him.

King Ferdinand of Roumania.

A correspondent of *The Times* recently had an exceedingly interesting interview with King Ferdinand of Roumania. He points out how King Ferdinand is essentially suited to the new epoch, how much he has already done for his people, and how much faith he has in his country. Particularly his faith in the Entente was unquenchable. But now that the war is over he sees that the lack of regular contact of the Allies with Eastern Europe may bring about very difficult situations.

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Especially does his Majesty fear that the growth of Bolshevism has escaped the sufficient consideration of the world's peacemakers. "Do they realise what the position of Roumania is?" he asks. "We are a little island at the end of Europe, surrounded by mortal enemies everywhere, but, unless our resistance is efficient, it is the life of Europe itself which is menaced. At one of the most critical moments of my reign, at the moment of the German invasion, I telegraphed to my Allies in London and Paris, and my messages reached their destination some three months later. To-day conditions are hardly better. Our one great wireless station has been destroyed, and, deprived of every means of communication with the interior, my people are at the same time unable to express to their Allies their dangers or necessities." The King of Roumania, in common with all the Roumanian leaders and those Allies who have lived long in the country, is convinced that the Roumanian peasants are averse to all Bolshevist instincts, but that no small people represents in itself a sufficient barrier against so great a danger.

But his ultimate hopes are great.

"As to the future, I am very hopeful. Once the danger of Bolshevism is removed, our new frontiers established, and hostilities have ceased, our country is bound to stride forward rapidly. The peasants, who numerically and morally form the greatest part of the population, deserve everything and are capable of everything. Their conduct during the hardships of war was beyond all praise. They never gave up, and they were never downhearted. With those reforms which I hope to live to see, sound education, universal suffrage, and co-operation of labour, wherever it is practicable, Roumania must very soon take that place which the character and industry of the Roumanian people and the inexhaustible riches of her soil predestine her to. The dependence on and the exploitation by Germany must cease for ever. Nor would I willingly see any other country take the place which Germany usurped here before. Although it is so young a nation, the Roumanian people must be taught to develop themselves. That is the best solution."

One of Our Prisoners.

We have all heard a great deal about the bad treatment of British and Allied prisoners in Germany; but there have been few opportunities of learning how our Turkish and Arab prisoners fared in India, or how they regarded their captivity. An article in the *Basrah Times* of February 7 gives us such an opportunity, for it sets out the experiences of Sayyid Ahmad Effendi of Mosul (who before the war was practising as an advocate at Busreh), while a prisoner of the British. The Effendi was interviewed by a representative of the *Basrah Times* after his return from more than four years' internment, and he spoke in the highest terms of his treatment throughout that period. The following are extracts from the article:—

Three days after the British occupation of Basrah, Sayyid Ahmad Effendi was taken, with other persons, for internment on board a steamer, which was anchored in the Shatt-al-Arab. The party was composed of Sobhi Bey, the Wali of Basrah, seventy-six officers, including four of the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and 1,000 soldiers. Sobhi Bey, Sayyid Ahmad Effendi, and the officers were comfortably accommodated in first-class berths, and, from the moment of their nominal incarceration, were treated kindly and respectfully throughout the voyage to Karachi. Here, continued Sayyid Ahmad, they received the first pleasant surprise which augured well for the future. They only remained in the Sind port for a day, but arrangements were made by the British authorities that merchants of all descriptions should visit the boat and the prisoners were given all facilities for the purchase of those articles which would add to their comfort.

. . . The journey was then continued to Bombay, where the boat anchored for three days. Here again the prisoners were given access to merchants and vendors of all classes of goods, and those who, unlike Sayyid Ahmad, had never visited *Urbs Prima in Indis* were impressed by the admirable view, where, confronted on one side by the buildings of the modern town, and flanked by the islands of Elephanta and Oran, they had, if not the freedom of landing, perhaps the more healthy benefit of a naturally artistic and essentially salubrious setting.

It was at Bombay, said Sayyid Ahmad, that he and his friends began fully to realise the courtesy of their captors, whose desire seemed to mitigate the prisoners' enforced lack of freedom as much as possible. The party was here met by Colonel Baldock, who made a great impression on all by his kindliness. As an instance of this, Sayyid Ahmed relates the fact that this officer authorised Sobhi Bey to take charge of the party and deal with them until Rangoon was reached. It is interesting to mention, further, that Sobhi Bey's sword was returned to him. The effect of this humane and courteous treatment—quite unexpected and, perhaps, somewhat inexplicable to some of the prisoners—can only be realised by one who witnessed the sincere emphasis with which Sayyid Ahmad related what were to him admirable instances of leniency—the instance, he added, being the first step in a lesson which they might learn by a study of the British example.

. . . Upon arrival at Rangoon, another port where the wonders of strange architecture, new customs, and new peoples compensated in some way for the involuntary journey, the party was met by Major Wilson and Lieutenant Mackenzie, who superintended their transference to river boats. Of the treatment extended to them by these officers, Sayyid Ahmad is again emphatic in his praise. During the five or six days' journey up river to their destination at Thaetmyo the boats stopped at intervals of about five hours, and at these halting-places some of the prisoners were allowed ashore to make purchases. On arrival at Thaetmyo, the party was rejoiced to find that to each individual was assigned a bedstead, a small table, and four chairs. Here the interned lived in comfort and happiness for a year, and Sayyid Ahmad mentioned that the arrangements for their accommodation and the regularity of their meals combined to supply a mode of life better than that to which they had been accustomed in their own land. Sobhi Bey was still allowed to exercise his control over the party, and they were admitted freely into the city without escort, and were able to meet and converse with the inhabitants. Parties of the Turkish soldiers were daily allowed to go to the river to bathe, and everything conducive to hygienic surroundings was encouraged.

It is evident from Sayyid Ahmad's narrative that after a year's sojourn in that quaint Burmese station he was loth to continue his travels in exile. But it was decreed that some of the party should be transferred to India, and, after another protracted voyage by steamer and railway, Samarpur, near Rampur, was reached, where another internment camp became the temporary home of these victims of the vicissitudes of war. However, the days of captivity in this new sphere were no more irksome than they had been at Thaetmyo, and to the interned, amongst whom, it may be incidentally mentioned, were included Jews, Armenians, and Greeks, was extended that hospitality which they always enjoyed during their exile. In a large camp, containing about 6,000 men, life under new circumstances was passed without any incident occurring through which the slightest imputation of unjust or unfair treatment could have been imagined by the most irreconcilable. Here, again, the upright character of a lieutenant-colonel in command impressed itself upon the interned community. In bidding them farewell, he wished them to forgive him for any neglect which might have unwittingly occurred during the period of their subjection to his administration. In the minds of the interned, said Sayyid Ahmad, there was no knowledge of any such neglect. Life under such circumstances compares magnificently with the stories of how prisoners have been treated by our opponents.

Sayyid Ahmad Effendi was interested in studying the people of Burma and India, whom he had seen happy in the prosperity of a just rule, and expressed the opinion that they appeared to him imbued with a feeling of gratitude to the British for their upright methods of dealing. It is difficult to those of us who have always known such an order of things and consider it to be a normal state of affairs to realise the impression which it might make on a stranger, but we wish to convey clearly in these lines the standpoint of a member of the community who has seen administration in Iraq in peace-time and the treatment of prisoners in an enemy country in time of war.

It is to be hoped that Sayyid Ahmad Effendi and his fellow-prisoners will act as agents in disseminating the truth regarding our treatment of our prisoners, which has been most grossly misrepresented to the Turks and Arabs by our enemies.

Articles to Note.

"Problems of the New Palestine," by Albert M. Hyamson, in the *Quarterly Review* (April).

"Clive, Warren Hastings, and their Biographers," by Sir Sidney Low, in the *Edinburgh Review* (April).

THE KING AND MESOPOTAMIA.

The King, who last week received Lieut.-Colonel A. T. Wilson, Acting Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia, heard with pleasure of the steps which had been taken to repair the ravages of war in districts recently occupied by the Turks and to promote the welfare of Mesopotamia in general by restoring irrigation, improving communications, providing medical assistance in the large towns, and encouraging education in indigenous institutions through the medium of the Arabic tongue. His Majesty expressed confidence in the future prosperity of Mesopotamia and in the progressive spirit of its inhabitants.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FRENCH EXPANSION IN AFRICA.*

The creation of a French empire in Africa is an epic of modern history parallelled only by the growth of British influence in India. The area involved is, indeed, considerably greater for, while our hegemony in India extends over 1,803,000 square miles, no fewer than 4,368,000 are subject to France's beneficent sway. The story of her expansion south of the Mediterranean is ably told by M. Paul Caffarel, who bore a conspicuous part in the process. France was still bleeding from the wounds inflicted by her struggle with Prussia when a group of far-seeing statesmen determined to gain in Africa some measure of compensation for the loss of prestige and territory in Europe. At their instigation a swarm of adventurers set forth to explore the innermost recesses of the Dark Continent, and military expeditions followed in their footsteps, which sometimes ended in disaster but more frequently in brilliant success. Thus, in less than half a century a population approaching 50,000,000 received the blessings of civilised government. Stupendous were the difficulties of the enterprise. The climate of Central Africa is unsuited to the European's constitution; distances are vast, the inhabitants either savages of low development or red-hot fanatics. At home the colonial party had to contend in Parliament and the Press with a noisy faction resembling the "Little Englanders" of yore. European rivals arose in their path at every step. While Bismarck ruled the German Empire he encouraged French expansion in Africa, in order to distract his neighbour's attention from dreams of *la révanche;* but the ex-Kaiser pursued a contrary policy. By dint of truculence and deceit he contrived to wrest valuable gains from France. Italy intrigued against her in Tunis, Spain in Morocco, Belgium in the equatorial regions. Nor were British statesmen free from blame. For many years prior to the consummation of the Entente they displayed jealousy unworthy of a great colonial Power, which culminated in the famous Fashoda incident of November, 1898. It is now admitted on all sides that Lord Kitchener's tact and patience averted a fratricidal struggle between the protagonists of European civilisation. M. Caffarel explodes the theory once widely held in this country that Frenchmen are inferior colonists. His narrative proves that we are deeply indebted to French Africa as a school of generalship. Had it not been for the experience gained in that region by Joffre, Mangin, Gouraud, Gallièni, and a host of energetic subordinates, the issue of the world-war might have been widely different. Our author ends his fascinating record with a suggestion which deserves attention from the Peace Conference. It relates to Mauritius, geographically and politically an appurtenance of Africa, which was wrested by Great Britain from France in 1810. M. Caffarel asks whether, in the approaching redistribution of the world's surface, his countrymen "may not be allowed to hope for an act of international courtesy which would bring about a retrocession imposed by Nature, history, and political economy."—F. H. S.

A WOMAN IN WAR.†

Before the war Miss Macnaughton was known to many as a light and pleasing novelist; but in this book are shown, in addition to her amusing side, the serious aspects of her character. From her aunt's voluminous diaries her niece has here collated those dealing with her war work at home, in Belgium, in Russia, and on the Persian front. It is the rather pathetic record of her last efforts (for she died from the effects of Russia and Persia) which here concern us. Her experiences in the Caucasus are particularly interesting, and the diary in this part is quite well done. She is perfectly frank in setting down her opinions. She is convinced, for instance, that Russia did not take the war seriously, that Armenians are an ungrateful and greedy set of people, and that it is Persian temperament that baffles Persian reform. The book is full of notable little thoughts and observations; and if we say that it is neither racy nor profound, we do not desire in the least to minimise the worth of its noble author, whose works for the cause of humanity were at all times beyond praise.

* Notre Expansion Coloniale en Afrique, de 1870, à nos jours." Paula P. Caffarel. (Paris: Felix Alcan, 1918. 5fs.)

† "My War Experiences in Two Continents." By S. Macnaughton (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

GREEK MEETS GREEK.*

Into a tale of the feud between two Greek and rival collectors of sculpture, Mr. Guy Thorne has contrived to introduce a series of recurrent impossibilities. His book is neither an extravaganza nor a fantasy: it is merely a cinematographic reel of sensational events. We are shown London in a light that never yet has shone upon it; and the fulsome adulation and description of Greece do not enable us the better to understand that country. The heroine and hero fail utterly to win attention; the wiles of the villain are clearer than daylight; and the only character that does appeal belongs to a comedian whose watchword through a very successful life is the title of one of Miss Marie Lloyd's songs.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"His Daughter." By Gouverneur Morris. (London: W. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

"A Brief Record of the Advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force under the Command of General Sir Edmund H. Allenby, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., July, 1917-October, 1918." (Cairo: The Palestine News.)

"The Problem of the Pacific." By C. Brunsdon Fletcher. (London: William Heinemann. 10s. 6d. net.)

"La Tradition Chevaleresque des Arabes." By Wacyf Boutros Ghali. (Paris: Librairie Plon-Nourrit et Cie.)

BOOK NOTES.

Through the firm of Murray, "Cecil Spring Rice: In Memoriam," by Sir Valentine Chirol, will shortly appear.

Also through Murray, "In Kut and Captivity with the Sixth Indian Division," by Major E. W. C. Sandes, M.C., R.E., is announced for early publication.

Through the firm of H. K. Lewis, Sir James W. Barrett, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.S., has published a record of "The War Work of the Y.M.C.A. in Egypt" (10s. 6d. net).

Readers of THE NEAR EAST will doubtless be interested to know that Mr. D. Mitrany has written the first number of "The Clare Market Review Series," published by the London School of Economics and Political Science.

From the House of Cassell comes H. M. Hyndman's "The Awakening of Asia" (7s. 6d. net).

"The Whale Oil Guards," by J. J. Kennedy, D.S.O., C.F. (Dublin: James Duffey, 5s. net), is a record, frankly amusing and inevitably sad, of the 53rd Australian Battalion in Egypt and France. But the major part of the book deals with France, and therefore does not much concern us.

Although "The Ethiopian Saga," by Richmond Haigh (London: Allen and Unwin, 5s. net), has been sent to us for review, it does not, unfortunately, lie within the province of this journal to deal with it. Suffice it to say, therefore, that it is an uncommonly well-written book, and one surely destined to endure.

Wm. Heinemann has published "The Singing Caravan," a Sufi Tale in Verse, by Robert Vansittart (6s. net).

The report of the *Zionist Organisation* has the following announcement:—Contributions to the Jewish National Fund in January and February, 1919, have amounted to frs. 236,742. From England was received £2,705; Germany, M.96,529; Austria, K.50,222; United States of America, $2.634; France, frs. 11,468; South Slavonic Lands, K. 44,491; Belgium, frs. 15,010; Greece, frs. 10,950; Holland, fl. 2,890; Switzerland, frs. 7,406; Palestine, E.P. 14,640; Sweden, kr. 2,383; Argentina, pes. 957; White Russia, M.2,608; Norway, kr. 1,097; China, $300; Australia, £45; Denmark, kr. 720; Egypt, E.P.6,652; Canada, $80; Tunis, frs. 241; South Africa, 10s.

* "Doris Moore." By Guy Thorne. (London: Ward Lock and Co.)

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by
The DIRECTOR (Sir E. DENISON ROSS, C.I.E., Ph.D.).

30th April. 1.—General Introduction.
7th May. 2.—Chinese Sources.
14th ,, 3.—The Languages of Central Asia.
21st ,, 4.—The Turks of Central Asia.
28th ,, 5.—Modern Explorations and Discoveries.

No tickets are necessary for admission to these Lectures.
E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. April	1919. April.		1337. Rejeb	5679. Nisan
25	12	Friday	24	25
26	13	Saturday.....	25	26
27	14	Sunday	26	27
28	15	Monday	27	28
29	16	Tuesday	28	29
30	17	Wednesday	29	30
May 1	18	Thursday	Shaaban. 1	Iyar. 1

M. Stavridi, the Greek Consul-General, has left London for Paris.

The Queen of Roumania and the Princess Ileana left Paris on April 16 in the Orient Express.

The marriage of Mr. Richard Dalbiac and Miss Kathleen Simpson took place on April 23 at Coonoor, India.

M. Constantinidi, Secretary to the Greek Legation at Washington, arrived in London on April 20 from New York.

Mr. King Lewis, Director General of the Customs Administration, arrived at Alexandria on March 31 on his return from Palestine.

Messrs. V. R. Woodland and A. W. Skrine, the former from Kassala and the latter from Gedaref, have left the Sudan for England, on leave.

Lord Oranmore and Browne, who left London for Castle Macgarrett, Co. Mayo, last week, is returning with Lady Oranmore and Browne this week.

The Greek Minister has left London for Paris. M. Polychroniadis, First Secretary of the Legation, is acting Chargé d'Affaires during his absence.

Colonel Georges Ostoïtch, Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation, with Mme. Ostoïtch and Mlle. Ostoïtch, arrived in London on April 18 from Rome.

The marriage arranged between Captain John Thomson-Glover, 35th Sikhs, and Miss Cicely Phyllis Summers will take place on May 1, at Froyle Parish Church.

Owing to the serious illness of the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, the marriage of his son, Captain R. P. Mahaffy, with Miss Evelina Dillon is postponed.

Mr. Francis Culling Carr-Gomm, of The Chase, Farnham Royal, Bucks, and Chester Square, formerly of the Madras Civil Service, left property valued at £68,492.

Mr. Henry Charles Wenden, C.I.E., M.Inst.C.E., of Summerhill, Horsell, a director of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, left property valued at £9,939.

The King has given permission to the Archbishop of Canterbury to wear the insignia of the First Class of the Order of Saint Sava, conferred by the King of Serbia.

The *Sphinx* confirms the report of the murder, in the recent outbreak at Wasta, of Mr. A. T. Smith, Locomotive Superintendent of the Egyptian State Railways.

Mr. C. C. Garbett, C.I.E., I.C.S., who administered the Military Agricultural Development Scheme in Mesopotamia, 1917-18, has arrived in London from Mesopotamia on sick leave.

The Bishop of Southwark will officiate at the marriage of Prince Antoine Bibesco, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, and Miss Elizabeth Asquith, daughter of Mr. Asquith, which takes place on April 29 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

We much regret to learn that, according to the *Sphinx*, Lieut.-Commander Trumper, R.N., the famous cricketer, who is hon. secretary in Egypt of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and whose little booklets dealing with historical sites in Palestine are well known, has had to go to hospital to undergo an operation.

The marriage was celebrated on April 19, at the U.F. Church, Bombay, by the Rev. R. M. Gray, M.A., between Captain (Acting Major) S. L. Thompson, 113th Infantry, Benares, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Thompson, Worthing, and Gwynett, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monerief Dick, 72, Holland Park, W.11.

Bimbashi L. L. Bright, 9th Sudanese, and Bimbashi H. Garland, M.C., Department of Ordinance, have been awarded the 4th Class of the Order of the Nile.

The marriage of Captain Ian McEwen, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders and R.A.F., and Amethe, daughter of the late Donald Smeaton, C.S.I., M.P., took place at Shere Church on April 23.

The engagement is announced of Captain H. G. Sandercock, M.C., London Regiment, attached R.A.F., to Marjorie Jean, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Walker, of Heliopolis, Cairo.

The marriage took place on April 16, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, by the Rev. Canon H. F. Westlake, between Lieut.-Col. S. F. Newcombe, D.S.O., R.E., and Elsie Chaki, of Constantinople.

Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Chetwode, D.S.O., has decided to dispose of his Oakley estate in Staffordshire and Shropshire, including the hall and park, and embracing a total area of 2,400 acres.

In the *London Gazette* of April 22 were the names of officers and men who have been awarded decorations and medals for services on the Mediterranean Station between February 1 and November 11, 1918.

Dr. Mishitch, the representative of the President of the Jugo-Slav Committee, who has been visiting London for the purpose of winding up the work of the London Committee, left town on April 18 for Dalmatia.

The *Sudan Times* reports that Mr. E. N. Corbyn, Assistant Civil Secretary for the Sudan Government, left Khartoum on March 15 for Dueim to take up his new appointment as Governor of White Nile Province.

Arrangements have been made at King's College for a course in Roumanian and Roumanian Literature to be given by M. Marcu Beza, of the University of Bucharest. The course will commence on the 30th inst.

Colonel Lord Edward Herbert Gascoigne Cecil, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., late Grenadier Guards, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, of Great Wigsell, Bodiam, Sussex, son of the late Marquess of Salisbury, left property valued at £10,059.

Major F. Bailey, of the Indian Political Department, who was sent to Turkestan on a special mission last year, and was detained at Tashkent by the Bolshevists, has since succeeded in escaping, but his present whereabouts are not definitely known.

The engagement is announced between Lieut. Ronald J. Holmes, R.A.S.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Holmes, of Aldershot, Hants, and Kathleen, daughter of Mrs. E. Giles and the late Mr. Walter Giles, late Governor of the Civil Prisons, Cyprus.

An engagement is announced between Harold Alfred MacMichael, D.S.O., of the Sudan Civil Service, eldest son of the late Rev. Charles MacMichael and of the Hon. Mrs. MacMichael, and Nesta, elder daughter of Canon and Mrs. Stephens, 104, Belgrave Road, S.W.

On April 21, at the Oratory, Brompton, Mr. Charles J. Nevile, third son of the late Mr. R. H. C. Nevile, of Wellingore Hall, Lincoln, was married to Miss Muriel O'Conor, second daughter of the late Right Hon. Sir Nicholas O'Conor, formerly British Ambassador at Constantinople, and of Lady O'Conor.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on April 18, reports that M. Cambon, Chancellor of the French Legation at Bucharest and son of the French Ambassador in London, has arrived at the Roumanian capital, and is replacing the Count de Saint-Aulaire, the French Minister there.

An engagement is announced between Major (Acting Lieut.-Colonel) Harold J. H. Dayson, 82nd Punjabis, youngest son of the late Dr. F. A. Dayson, J.P., of Dartmouth, and Mrs. Dayson, of Torquay, and Marjorie, only daughter of Major and Mrs. Garraway, 10, Cornwall Road, Bedford.

The engagement is announced between Major W. F. Haynes, XXI. Punjabis, son of the late Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Haynes, 42nd Highlanders, and of Mrs. Haynes, Sowerby, Thirsk, Yorkshire, and of Helen Russell, daughter of Mr. J. R. Middleton, I.C.S. (retired), 24, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, 22, Albemarle Street, a lecture will be given on May 7, at 4.30 p.m., by Lieut.-Col. G. S. F. Napier, on "The Caucasus Front and Western Persia." The Rt. Hon. Lord Curnock, P.C., G.C.B., will take the chair. The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieut.-Col. Hugh Castle-Smith, 12th Foot (Suffolk Regiment), attached Egyptian Army, A.D.C. to H.H. the Sultan of Egypt, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Castle-Smith, late of Netherhall Gardens, N.W., and Maude Ellefred, only daughter of Sir Frederick Evans, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, and Lady Evans, 57, Wetherby Mansions, S.W.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. N. Voukitchevitch, who has been appointed First Secretary to the Serbian Legation at The Hague, left London on April 18 for Holland.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. McL. Porteous, Indian Army, has been appointed temporary Brigadier-General whilst in command of an area in India.

Professor C. J. Hamilton, who recently filled the Minto Chair of Economics at the Calcutta University, has gone to Berhampur as Principal of the College in that city.

The Pope has appointed the Rev. Felix Couturier, of the Dominican Priory, Woodchester, Gloucestershire, as Apostolic Visitor to Egypt. Father Couturier has for some years been Assistant Principal Chaplain to the E.E.F.

In the *Sudan Times*, it is announced that Major H. C. Maydon, 12th Lancers; Captain F. C. Roberts, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., the Worcestershire Regiment; and Lieut. G. C. R. Leecroft, M.C., Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Bimbashis, and posted to Camel Corps, Equatorial Battalion, and 11th Sudanese respectively.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on April 9, in India, of George Thomas Barlow, C.I.E., Chief Engineer, U.P., aged fifty-five.

The death occurred on April 19, at Meadowbank, Fortrose, of Colonel John Macdonald Smith, aged eighty-one, late Indian Staff Corps.

The death occurred on April 17 of Lieut.-Colonel Harry Levita. Colonel Levita served in the Sudan Expedition in 1885, and had the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

The death occurred on April 6, at Rohtak, South Punjab, after forty years' service, of Rev. Henry Chichele Carlyon, of the S.P.G. and Cambridge Mission to Delhi, aged seventy.

Colonel Albert Seagrim, late Bengal Staff Corps, died on April 21, in London, in his ninety-first year. He served in the Crimean Campaign of 1854-5, when he received the medal with clasp.

Colonel Miles Charles Seton, late of the Hampshire Regiment, has died in London in his eighty-first year. He served in the China War of 1860, the Afghan War of 1879-80, and with the Burmese Expedition of 1885-6.

Colonel Henry Sullivan Jarrett, C.I.E., has died, in his eightieth year. He served during the Indian Mutiny in 1858. He took part in the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and accompanied the second Eusofzai Expedition of 1863 as aide-de-camp to Sir Neville Chamberlain and Sir John Garvock. Later he became Assistant Secretary in the Legislative Department of the Government of India.

Colonel Henry Marsh Pratt, C.B., late of the Indian Army, died on April 16, in his eighty-first year. He went out to India in 1856, and he had not been there long when the Mutiny broke out. For his part in that campaign he received the medal. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, when he fought in several actions and took part in the march from Kabul to the relief of Kandahar. For his work in that war he was twice "mentioned" and received the medal with four clasps, the bronze star, and the brevet of lieutenant-colonel. In the Hazara Expedition of 1888 he commanded a column, was again "mentioned," and was rewarded with the C.B., together with the medal with clasp.

Colonel Sir Arthur George Hammond, V.C., K.C.B., D.S.O., of the Indian Army, died on April 21. Born in September, 1843, he received his first commission at the age of eighteen, and reached the rank of colonel in 1890. His first campaign was the Jowaki Expedition of 1877-8, for which he had the medal with clasp, and he fought in the Afghan War of 1878-80, when his gallantry earned him the Victoria Cross. His next service was with the Hazara Expedition of 1888, when he received the D.S.O. and a clasp. Two years later he was appointed A.D.C. to Queen Victoria and received his colonelcy. He next commanded a brigade in the Hazara Expedition of 1891. Again he was "mentioned," this time being rewarded with the C.B. and another clasp. In the Isazai Expedition of 1892 he again commanded a brigade, and three years later was with the Relief Force in Chitral. His last active service was with the Tirah Expedition of 1897-8, when he commanded the Peshawar Column, receiving mention in despatches once more, together with two clasps. Sir Arthur married, in 1886, Edith Jane, daughter of Major J. H. Wright, of the I.C.S., and had one son and two daughters.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Kali Nath Roy, editor of the *Tribune*, is the name of the Indian editor who was recently arrested at Lahore.

The Calcutta Corporation has decided to extend the municipal franchise to women on the same qualifications as that applying to men.

The monitor Abercrombie, Captain Rice, the first British warship to pass through the Dardanelles after the armistice, has arrived at Devonport from the Mediterranean.

From the *Busreh Times* we learn that owing to the introduction of the Arabic illustrated weekly magazine *Mirut ul 'Iraq* it has decided to discontinue its *Weekly Pictorial Supplement*.

The matinée in aid of the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women, Marylebone, organised by Mrs. Edward Nash, and held at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, resulted in the hospital benefiting by £1,140.

American Red Cross relief work in Aleppo, Aintab, Marash, and other districts north of Jerusalem is being handed over to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian relief, together with supplies valued at nearly £80,000.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that in Khartoum, owing to measures taken by the authorities, there have been very few cases of influenza, and that most of those who had caught the disease have now returned to their ordinary occupation.

The *Bengalee*, in reporting a case in which a local train conductor was concerned, said:—"With salt tears trickling down his weather-stained cheeks he reported the matter to the Bhowanipur thana." The *Englishman* comments:—"We understand that weather-stained cheeks are being worn now in the best tram conducting circles."

Some time ago, says the *Ceylon Observer*, a Sinhalese villager of Rakwana found a blue sapphire, weighing 1.020 carats. He was told that it was not worth much and to sell it if he got up to Rs. 100. The man sold it for Rs. 80 to two men, who now want Rs. 30.000 for it. Those who have seen the stone describe it as unique, peacock blue and extremely lustrous, although still uncut.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1919.

FIUME AND ADALIA.

In spite of the preference accorded it by the Peace Conference, the Adriatic question made no progress, and at the beginning of the week it became clear that it might well bring about a serious crisis. President Wilson on Monday withdrew from the discussion of the problem in order that those who were responsible for the Treaty of London might have an opportunity to undo without assistance the harm done by that unhappy pact. Unfortunately, the step failed to bring about the desired result, for the Italians maintained their stiff and unyielding attitude. They showed, and at the time of writing continue to show, not the slightest inclination to abandon any of their demands based upon the Treaty of London, while at the same time they invoked the principle of self-determination with regard to Fiume. Their delegates took up the attitude that Italy was well within her rights, and let it be understood that the whole country was solid behind them in their stand to secure the stipulated pound of flesh. In the circumstances argument appeared to be quite useless, and the question seemed—and still seems—to have reached a stage of absolute deadlock. On Wednesday President Wilson issued a statement on the subject, which concluded with an eloquent appeal to Italy to abandon the Pact of London and all its arrangements, and "to exhibit to the newly liberated peoples across the Adriatic that noblest quality of greatness, magnanimity, friendly generosity, the preference of justice over interests." It would appear, however, that the appeal fell flat, for the same evening the Italian delegation gave out a Note that, "As a result of the declaration by President Wilson on the Adriatic question, the Italian delegates have decided to leave Paris to-morrow." The telegram which conveyed the news added that several of the delegates had actually left that evening. Almost the only ray of hope on the subject coming from Paris is the information that Mr. Lloyd George, who appears to have accepted the rôle of chief mediator, has been having private conversations with Signor Orlando and M. Clemenceau, and that informal negotiations have been resumed between the Italians and the Yugoslavs.

In connection with Italy's attitude towards this Adriatic question it is of interest to note that she has formally announced her intention of establishing a naval station with headquarters in the Dodecanese, with powers extending over the Dodecanese and the coast of Asia Minor, from the Gulf of Skalanovo to Adalia and beyond. It seems natural to suppose that this precise moment has been chosen for making this announcement either on the principle that one may "as well be hung for a sheep as for a lamb," or for the purpose of having something else to bargain with in dealing with her Allies. It will be remembered that Italian marines were landed at Adalia on March 29, and that they were a few days later replaced by Bersaglieri and other troops. The landing was semi-officially explained as made "at the request of a number of distinguished Moslems," but it was generally regarded as a move on Italy's part to secure a firm footing on the southern coast of Asia Minor, to which she has for some time regarded herself as being entitled in case of the break-up of Turkey. The Gulf of Skalanovo lies opposite the island of Samos, within easy reach of Aidin, and it would seem that Italy intends to exercise—or hopes to exercise—control over some two hundred miles of coastline. Her claim to do so, if any claim she can be said to possess, must rest entirely on understandings and arrangements of the kind that have made endless troubles in the past, as they are, indeed, actually making at the present moment. As to the Dodecanese, she can hardly hope to retain the islands permanently, save at the cost of constant watchfulness and an unpopularity that will certainly do her far more harm than her occupation of the islands can possibly do her good. It is thus, surely, a case of the game not being worth the candle. Her conduct in this region is indeed difficult to understand to-day, though it would have been very easy to explain it in the days before the war.

At the moment, however, we are concerned with her attitude in regard to Asia Minor and the Dodecanese only in so far as it may affect her attitude towards the settlement of the Adriatic problem. In regard to that, it is at least quite easy to understand her sentiments and even her present conduct. In the past the feeling of insecurity regarding the Adriatic must always have been both trying and humiliating to the Italians; and that they should have formed the resolve early in the war to do everything in their power to make sure their mastery of that sea is quite easily understood. Moreover, if they choose to stand firm by their rights under the Treaty of London it is difficult to see how France and Great Britain can possibly deny them those rights or refuse their aid in securing them; and it is understood that such aid would, in fact, be forthcoming. But Italy's insistence on these things argues a certain lack of faith in the ability of the future League of Nations to achieve its purpose, and in this respect the Italian attitude must have caused some resentment in those who pin their faith to the League and its power to bring about better conditions in the new world that is to be. Thus we find President Wilson in his statement practically washing his hands of the Pact of London and all its influence, while Italy bases four-fifths of her claims on that pact; and accordingly we reach a situation that reminds us of the irresistible force meeting the immovable mass. It is impossible to avoid feeling sorry for Italy in the position in which she finds herself, but it is equally impossible to give her claims any moral support. It is to be hoped that Paris may yet find a way out of the difficulty, although the prospects certainly do not look bright. If President Wilson's appeal fails utterly, and it becomes necessary to strike a bargain, it will probably be found that, in spite of all her protests, Italy may finally accept the American view regarding the Adriatic, provided that she receives "compensations" in Asia Minor. That would not be an ideal solution of the difficulty, but it would perhaps be the most satisfactory one short of Italy's rising to a height which at the present moment she seems incapable of attaining.

THE NEAR EAST.

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THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

By LIEUT.-COLONEL A. C. YATE
(*Hon. Secretary, Central Asian Society*).

Students of history are well aware of the obscurity which veils the origin of many institutions which have made their mark in the world. It occurs to me, therefore, to record here briefly the circumstances which gave birth to the Central Asian Society; and it is to Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband and Sir Edward Penton that I am indebted in the first instance for the information upon which this exordium is based. For, although I was an original member of the society, it was not till 1905 that I left India for good. When we consider what the term "Central Asian Question" meant in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, we may wonder that it was not until the twentieth century, when the "Middle East" was already dawning, that the Central Asian Society began its corporate existence. "The fact that there was no suitable association for the discussion of the political aspects of Central Asian problems" had for some years been fermenting in the mind of Major (as he then was) F. E. Younghusband. Towards the end of 1900 it came to his knowledge that Dr. Cotterell Tupp, late of the Indian Civil Service, likewise entertained the idea of founding a society for the study not only of geographical, economic, social, and scientific, but also of political questions affecting the territories situated between Eastern Europe and India. A meeting took place between Major Younghusband and Dr. Tupp—a meeting at which Colonels Sir T. H. Holdich and Algernon Durand were present. It was then decided to form a society and to approach the Royal Asiatic Society for the favour of the use of their rooms.

The first meeting took place in those rooms on December 13, 1901, when General Sir T. E. Gordon presided, and was elected president for the ensuing year, Major Younghusband being hon. secretary, and Dr. Tupp hon. treasurer. Among the members of council then appointed I find Major-General Sir Edwin Collin and Sir Evan James. It was decided to hold the meetings on the first Wednesday in each month of the lecture season (October to June) at the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society, and on January 15, 1902, the first lecture was given by Mr. H. F. B. Lynch on "The Persian Gulf." Major Younghusband being then unexpectedly ordered back to India was succeeded as hon. secretary by Mr. Edward Penton, who continued to fill that office until the beginning of the late war. From 1914 to 1918 the Central Asian secretariat was in the able hands of Miss Hughes, the secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society. In a leaflet dated May 28, 1903, Mr. Penton placed on record the eleven lectures delivered before the society in the first seventeen months of existence, among the lecturers being General Sir T. E. Gordon, Mr. A. R. Colquhoun, Mrs. Archibald Little, Lord Ronaldshay, Mr. T. Gibson Bowles, and Mr. (now Sir) George Macartney, on subjects ranging from Persia to the Pacific. My collected copy of the society's publications starts with the papers read during the session of 1903-4. I find no record of the publication of the lectures of the period January, 1902, to May, 1903. Probably the society's funds did not, so early in its career, admit of expenditure for printing. In November, 1901, the society numbered thirteen members, in January, 1902, thirty, and in May, 1903, ninety-seven. The publication of the journal then commenced, and the expense was then more easily met with ninety-seven members than it is under post-war conditions with about 140.

From 1903 onward to the present time the society, with a membership gradually on the increase, has steadily pursued the aims for which it was founded. The evidence of that is to be sought in the personality of the lecturers themselves, and in the public importance of the subject-matter of the papers read, and of the discussions that ensued. At this moment it will not be out of place to review those papers and discussions in their relation to the incidents of the late war and the situation of the present hour. When Sir Valentine Chirol in 1906 addressed the society on "Pan-Islamism," Abdul Hamid was still seated on the Ottoman throne, and yet even then we find M. de Wesselitsky, while disclaiming for the Moslems of Russia any Pan-Islamic tendency, and not even hinting at "Pan-Turanianism," remarking that "there is a literary Pan-Turkism, an attempt to create a literary language for all the Musulmans of Russia of Turco-Tartar race common to them with the Turks of the Ottoman Empire," and "it seems to me that Pan-Islamism might become a very real danger if Musulmans felt themselves unfairly treated by Christians." In this war we have seen Islam go through this ordeal, and, as the outcome thereof, to use Lindsay Gordon's phrase, "two things stand like stone," one that Islam has rallied to the British Empire, and the other that, while Sunni Turkey fell foul of its professed best friend. Germany, over the Black Sea fleet and the Caucasus, Shi'a Persia, after coquetting and intriguing more or less all round, is now posing pretentiously before the Peace Conference in Paris. When in January, 1912, Professor Margoliouth lectured on this self-same topic, viz., "Pan-Islamism," he showed clearly that the Young Turks entertained ideas of Pan-Islam propaganda, and argued that it was under European protection that "the most favourable conditions possible existed for the propagation of Islam." At both these lectures the Central Asian Society had the good fortune to listen to the views on this subject of Mr. Ameer Ali, always an impressive and attractive speaker, views which have very recently led to friendly, but none the less definite differences of opinion between him and Sir V. Chirol. If Professor Margoliouth is right, then the Memorandum addressed by H.H. the Aga Khan, the Rt. Hon. Ameer Ali, Sir Abbas Ali Baig, and others, quoted in *The Times* of March 25, and sympathetically if critically commented on in THE NEAR EAST of March 27, misses its mark.

Not unnaturally Persia has figured largely in the lecture list of the society. In the first twelve years of its existence "Persia" was the theme which inspired the pen of no less than fifteen lecturers, among whom may be mentioned Lords Lamington and Ronaldshay, Sir Percy and Miss Ella Sykes, Professor E. G. Browne, Mr. Lovat Fraser, General Sir T. E. Gordon, and Mr. H. F. B. Lynch. The importance of the subject seems also to justify a mention of the lecture given by me in February, 1911, on "The Proposed Trans-Persian Railway." When preparing that paper I had a conversation with M. Timiriazeff, president of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, and towards the close of 1911 I attended a very interesting gathering at Paris of Russian and French promoters of that railway. Subsequent writers on this and cognate topics, such as Mr. Evans Lewin, and M. G. Demorgny, both of whose books appeared in 1916, refer to this lecture as still the recognised authority. Personally, when I reawaken my reminiscences of the whole affair, I am devoutly thankful that the Anglo-Franco-Russian scheme of 1912 for a Trans-Persian railway came to nothing. When it is at some future time constructed it should be in a greater measure under British control. In May, 1902, Lord Ronaldshay had told the society all about the Nushki-Seistan route; in 1916 Sir Hugh Barnes, writing in the *Indiaman*, urged the Government of India to build the Nushki-Seistan Railway, and in February, 1919, Colonel Webb Ware, in an admirable lecture, enhanced by a long and lucid speech from Sir Hugh Barnes, told a crowded audience how India had just connected itself by rail with Persia. Thanks to that connection, and to Brigadier-General Sir Percy M. Sykes and the troops under his command, Kirman was purged of Hun propagandists, and Bolshevism was checkmated on the Trans-Caspian Railway.

The recent tragic events in Afghanistan remind us of the close ties which unite that kingdom to India. It was in 1900 that Mr. John Murray, subsequently a member of the Central Asian Society, brought out the Ameer Abdur Rahman Khan's autobiography, and in 1907 Sir Mortimer Durand selected that same potentate—a ruler whom Sir West Ridgeway once classed among the greatest men of his day—as the subject for his lecture. As one who had been in Kabul with Sir F. Roberts, and instrumental in placing Abdur Rahman Khan on the throne, and in 1893 the head of a mission sent to him by the Viceroy of India, no one was better qualified than Sir Mortimer to speak of an Ameer who inaugurated in 1880 a rule and policy at Kabul which has aided us in this momentous war. The death of the Ameer Habib Ullah is to be deplored, and might well have been made by the Central Asian Society an occasion for demonstrating and publicly recognising the boon which forty years of stable government in Kabul has proved to be for the British Empire. If there is a Society that knows Afghanistan it is the Central Asian. All the Trans-Caspian territory and the Khanates are at this moment at a loose end, and a "mandate" is wanted to gather them into that fold which recognises Great Britain as its shepherd. Men, however, throw away their chances. Afghanistan is no mean instrument, and her patience merits reward. Russia must be coerced, says Sir George Buchanan. The compress which tightens from Archangel, Omsk, the Volga and the Don may tighten too from Kabul and Herat.

As may be supposed the Baghdad Railway has been well discussed within the "Central Asian" walls, by none more effectively than by M. Chéradame in May, 1911; and, indeed, the fertile topic of railways converging on India has been dealt with there by Colonels Picot and Beresford, Mr. Lynch, Mr. C. D. Black, and others, while Mr. Percival Landon, Mr. F. D Harford, Mr. A. Boddam Taylor, Mr. E. T. A. Wigram, Mr. Demetrius Boulger, and Sir Thomas Holdich, have made us familiar with Mesopotamia. Two bulwarks of the Indian Empire, Baluchistan on the west, and Burma on the east, were respectively dealt with by men who had ruled them, viz., Colonel C. E. Yate and Sir Frederick Fryer, while India's power for offence and de-

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fence found able exponents in Sir Edwin Collen and Sir Thomas Holdich. Chinese Turkestan drew old memories from Sir Thomas Gordon and Sir Henry Trotter, while Sir George Macartney favoured us with his more recent experiences On Asiatic Turkey and Asia Minor we heard the late Sir Mark Sykes, Mr. W. J. Childs, and Sir W. M. Ramsay, and with China, Mongolia, Japan, and Siberia we spent some pleasant and instructive afternoons. Commander O. Locker-Lampson and his armoured cars, ranging from Archangel to Erzeroum, held an audience spell-bound, and finally Mr. J. O. P. Bland, with General Sir Edmund Barrow, who was Sir Alfred Gaselee's Chief of the Staff at Peking in 1900, in the chair, paved the way for the restoration to China of the astronomical instruments taken away from Peking by the Germans in 1900, and since then kept at Potsdam. It was my old friend, Colonel E. St. C. Pemberton, R.E., an ex-councillor of the Central Asian Society, who on December 11, 1900, in the discussion which followed Mr. Bland's address, brought forward the question of making Germany disgorge. He had seen the instruments at Potsdam about 1907, and again later seen the desolate sites on the walls of Peking. The subject was well ventilated at that meeting of the Central Asian Society, and not in vain. Suffice it to mention that *The Times* of December 12, 1918, took especial notice of what General Barrow and Colonel Pemberton had said on the 11th to the "Central Asian" meeting, and strongly endorsed their view that the instruments ought unquestionably to be restored. As I write, *The Times* of March 19 lies before me, and says: "The German Government has decided to return to China the astronomical instruments which were transported from Peking to Germany in 1900. Negotiations have been opened for the shipping of the intruments to China."—*Wireless Press* (through the wireless stations of the German Government).

A very able journalist, who has attended all our lectures for years, wrote very recently to me: "In my opinion, the society is more alive to-day than ever before," and this success for China bears this out. During the eighteen years of its life the society owes its success to an able series of chairmen of Council: Sir T. E. Gordon, Sir F. E. Younghusband, Sir V. Chirol, Lord Lamington, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir T. H. Holdich, Lord Ronaldshay, Sir Mortimer Durand, Sir Henry Trotter, and finally Lord Carnock. The honorary president of the society is the Earl Curzon of Kedleston. Illustration by lantern slides has accompanied most of the lectures, and in this connection the services of Mr. Simpson, of the Royal Geographical Society, have been most helpful.

The war just concluded has introduced thousands of male and female subjects of his Britannic Majesty to Asiatic countries which under ordinary conditions they never expected to visit. It is hoped that many of these will join the Central Asian Society on their return to England, and thus bring double grist to the Society's mill—the grist of brain for the lecture-field and the grist of funds for the production and maintenance of a "Central Asian Journal" such as the Society may regard with pride.

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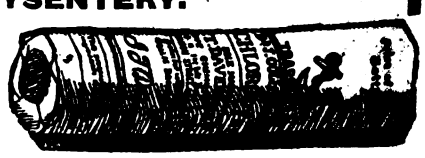
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The present economic position in Roumania is the subject of a long and vivid letter which appeared in *The Times* this week from "Three Englishmen" at Constantinople, who were in Roumania from December 10 to March 7, in which special emphasis is laid on the extreme need of our Ally for immediate assistance in the shape of food and other necessaries, and also on the total lack of manufactured articles in the country.

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As regards the food problem, the writers state that "the distribution of the few necessaries of life to be found in some districts is rendered practically impossible by the absence of coal to run the few remaining railway engines, the difficulty being increased by the shortage of horses and the bad state of the roads." During their stay there was officially an issue of bread twice a week, but in practice it sometimes amounted to a bi-monthly issue of black bread. They further add that it is literally true that people have died in large numbers from starvation, and that, except for the wealthy, life was almost impossible. In Constantinople, where they went from Roumania, they found a reign of plenty, white bread in abundance being "hawked" in the streets, and the shops being full of food, and they add, with some justice, that a neutral, ignorant of the circumstances, would mistake victor for vanquished. "We fully realise that ships with flour have been sent to Roumania," they continue, "but these have been totally inadequate to supply the needs of the starving population."

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I am glad to see that the writers laid great emphasis on the intense desire on the part of Roumanians for commercial relations with Great Britain. This aspect, which has been the subject of constant reference in these columns, cannot be given too much attention. "Commercially, it cannot be too strongly insisted on," they write, "that England has an opportunity which will probably never occur again. The overwhelming desire of commercial men in Roumania to-day is to transfer their business connections from German firms to English, but, should the present apathy on our part continue, the market will certainly be won by a more enterprising competitor. This country will repay any investment a hundredfold, but were it merely a barren land surely we owe it a moral obligation of assistance. The immediate need of Roumania is foodstuffs and coal, the supply and distribution of which should be wholly in British hands."

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The most interesting feature of this year's financial statement for Burma is the attention that is being given to the development of the province. Thus £873,000 is being devoted to public works, most of it for the improvement of communications—a modest beginning, in the words of the Finance Member, "of the enormous task of equipping the province with a proper system of roads." As showing the nature of the task, it may be mentioned that its completion will require rather more than six times this year's expenditure on public works. In addition to the allotment for public works a scheme is being prepared for the conservation and improvement of the network of waterway in the delta. Apart from projects of development chief interest in the financial statement attaches to the record estimate of the revenue from the forests of £900,000. In her forests Burma has a unique source of wealth, and while the war has resulted in a special demand for timber, it is believed, and no doubt rightly, that the work of reconstruction will occasion an even greater demand. With some significant exceptions Burma's great natural resources outside the forests are as yet undeveloped, owing to difficulties of various kinds, mainly the absence of communications. It may not be too optimistic to regard the road-making scheme now projected as indicating the speedy approach of a time when such handicaps will no longer be present.

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I am interested to learn that Montenegro has established a commercial bureau in Paris under the title "Office Central Montenegrin du Commerce en France," to give Allied and neutral merchants and manufacturers all the information they may desire regarding the external trade of Montenegro. The objects of the bureau, I am informed, will also be (1) to develop trade between France and Montenegro, (2) to give assistance to Allied and neutral manufacturers desirous of creating industrial enterprises in Montenegro, and (3) to negotiate with the authorities of the country on behalf of Allied or neutral financial groups who desire to obtain concessions. The director of the bureau is M. Alexandre Kapétanovitch.

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The initiative shown by Montenegro in this enterprise is most praiseworthy, but I am afraid I cannot say the same in regard to the choice of a capital for what is evidently intended to be—for the time at any rate a commercial information office for all the Allies and neutrals. French interests in the Near East, I am well aware, are very considerable, but so are those of Great Britain, and I do not know that there are any special commercial or other ties between Montenegro and France which entitle our Ally to an advantage over us in this respect. Apart from that, London, from every point of view, offers the greatest scope for a bureau of this kind, and if Montenegro wishes to obtain the best results from this method of furthering trade development it would be certainly advisable to open a similar office here.

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The evidence which comes constantly to hand in respect of the intentions of foreign competitors regarding the Near East markets suggests very forcibly that British traders will have to show much more enterprise if they are to take advantage of the openings that are now to be found in that part of the world. In recent weeks numerous references have been made in these columns to contracts for constructional work and the supply of material which have gone to countries less in a position to supply the requirements than Great Britain, to the activity on the part of competitors in opening trade bureaux in leading centres of the Near East, and to preparations in general for establishing a permanent foothold in these desirable markets. These and other indications of like nature serve to emphasise my remarks on previous occasions as regards the severe nature of the competition with which British merchants and contractors will presently find themselves confronted. I say "presently" advisedly, because if they take time by the forelock and enter the field now, when the competition from abroad is only developing, they will be able to make their position impregnable, for the merit of British goods and British workmanship may safely be trusted to withstand any subsequent attempts to oust us from these markets.

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A number of amendments were introduced by the Select Committee on the Indian Excess Profits Bill, among the most important being the proposal that the profits assessed in 1913 and 1914, or, in other words, the two pre-war years, might be selected as the standard profits. Two other alternative methods of assessing the standard profits were also given, and the committee stated that the options proposed were wide, and they felt that they had gone as far as possible in that direction. The question of the treatment of hard cases naturally received special attention. The committee made it plain that depreciation of assets includes the cost of replacement, and they provided that an appellant might have his case disposed of either by the chief revenue authority or by a board of referees, consisting of three, or in difficult or important cases, of four persons, two of whom would be non-officials with adequate business experience. It was further proposed that a board of special referees might be appointed by the Governor-General in Council to inquire into the circumstances of those businesses in regard to which there was a *prima facie* case that the Act would operate in an unfair manner. Finally, a concession was made as to the method of arriving at profits in the accounting period, making it optional for a concern whose year ended before March 31, 1919, to have its accounts made up to that date when the accounting period would be considered to be twelve parts of the months in the whole period.

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Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiring an Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to Mrs. FLETCHER, Matron.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take

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"We cannot speak too highly of it."—LANCET. **SARSAPARILLA**

(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—MEDICAL REVIEW.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.

The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

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A World-wide Reputation for over Three-Quarters of a Century.

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WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China, and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

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PURE MALT POT STILL

"SPECIAL" YEARS 10 OLD.

SCOTCH WHISKY

"LIQUEUR" YEARS 12 OLD.

MADE FROM SCOTCH BARLEY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

AGENTS FOR EGYPT: ISHERWOOD BROS., CAIRO.

THE LANCET says:—"It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

CHARLES TUCKEY & CO. LTD., London Offices, 3, Mincing Lane, E.C.

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BRITISH MERCHANTS IN MOROCCO.

Annual Meeting of Chamber of Commerce.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, April 10.

The fourth annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco was held in the Chamber's rooms on March 26. Mr. G. F. Moore, vice-president, presided. The Chairman, in opening the meeting, said he was sure everyone present would regret the absence of their president, Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, who was unwell. He then gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, especially Mr. R. S. Hunter, vice-president of the Morocco Merchants' Association and delegate of the Chamber to the Imperial Council of Commerce. The secretary, Mr. L. J. Brown, having read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the chairman then read the annual report.

The speaker reminded the members that the Chamber had been formed during the war, that much, if not most, of its work had been in connection with conditions arising from the war, and that this, being their first general meeting held under other than war conditions, marked an epoch in the Chamber's history, for with a final and definite settlement of the political situation in Morocco, which they all expected shortly, the work of the Chamber would take more of the character of that usually undertaken by Chambers of Commerce. Looking back to the meetings of the founders of the Chamber, none of whom had any experience of the work of such institutions, the diffidence they had all felt in undertaking such serious responsibilities, their anxieties as to the possibility of success, and the very modest beginning of the Chamber without any outside help, either financial or otherwise, he thought they might all feel gratified at the work which had been done.

Whilst believing that perhaps their most noteworthy work had been their memorial on British interests in Morocco, he thought the work of the Chamber and of their secretary when in England had had a good deal to do with the noticeable increase in the interest taken by the British Government, manufacturers, and merchants in trade with Morocco. He also thought that the Chamber had materially helped to dispel the uneasy feeling regarding the future of British trade in Morocco which had been evident for some time, and that it had also helped in establishing a better sentiment regarding British interests in the country, and wider recognition of their right of existence and extension.

British Trade Commission.

The Chairman then referred to the two commissions of inquiry which had been examining on the spot the conditions and prospects of British trade in Morocco—the first, non-official, consisted of the Hon. W. Cozens-Hardy, K.C., and Mr. W. B. Harris; the second, appointed by Government, comprised Mr. E. H. Muloch, of H.M.'s Consular Service, and Mr. L. N. Barker, of the Board of Trade. The committee had drawn up at short notice a report for the use of the Government commission in their work, and the members had been present at one or two committee meetings. An interim report by this commission on agricultural prospects for British settlers in Morocco had recently been published, but it was generally thought that the commission had taken a rather more pessimistic view than the conditions altogether justified, and had laid more stress on the difficulties than on the possibilities, and it was hoped that no one who had thought of trying agriculture there would give up the idea on this report alone without carefully studying the matter.

Mentioning some of the special subjects which had occupied the attention of the committee, the speaker referred to the promise made by the Manutention Marocaine of Casablanca that the rule limiting the free warehousing days would be applied in a liberal spirit. Questions regarding Habous lands again came before the committee. He believed that now most, if not all, British interests in the matter had been satisfactorily dealt with—a great deal of the credit for this being due to the Acting British Consul at Casablanca, Mr. Rabino. It was quite otherwise with the application of the increment tax. The British Government had not agreed to the year fixed by the French authorities as the basis for valuation. The Protectorate authorities had instructed their officials not to legalise any transfer of property on which the tax had not been paid, so British landowners could not effect sales without paying tax on a valuation the basis of which had not met with the approval of their Government.

The want of system in valuing for import duty had been discussed many times by the committee; other bodies, especially in the French zone and the newspapers there, had been complaining this last year of want of system by the Customs authorities. These complaints would be much minimised if the interpretation of *ad valorem* had a consistent application in all the ports, even though that interpretation might not be universally accepted. A matter in which the Chamber had been useful, especially to Mogador members, was in obtaining through the sympathetic action of H.M.'s agent an increase in the quantity of almonds allowed for import into England. This had not only helped holders of stock, but materially assisted native producers and aided British imports into the port. The hopes that free export of Moroccan produce would be allowed once the war ended had not been realised; restrictions on some articles had been gradually removed, but cereals were still requisitioned for France; not only 1918 stocks, but this year's harvest, were bespoke by the Intendance. Action had been taken by the committee, but so far without success.

Sugar Supplies.

The situation as to the import of Egyptian sugar into the French zone was somewhat obscure; the authorities very wisely took steps to assure as large a supply as possible of an article so very essential to the natives, and though the supply was necessarily limited, much more sugar, proportionately, had been available in Morocco than in France. Maximum prices were fixed, and though the ration was as large as possible, it had been, and was, far below the quantity ordinarily required by the natives. In view of the limited supply available and the large demand for more, some merchants since the Armistice turned their attention to Egyptian sugar, but found the cost would not allow of its being sold profitably in Morocco at the maximum fixed for French sugar. The executive committee inquired whether, if it should prove possible to bring sugar from Egypt, the authorities would desire to control it and fix prices. They were informed that they would, and it was understood that the maximum price now ruling would apply. It was admitted that it might have been difficult to find the transport from Egypt, but it was believed a means could have been found; the uncertainty about the maximum price had rather caused interest to slacken, but further information regarding this point had been asked for.

The fact that the more sugar they could obtain the more the natives were content, and that the wider the sources of supply the less the drain on France, would, it might be thought, have led the authorities to encourage and assist every effort to bring in Egyptian or other sugar; as had just been shown, it could not compete with French sugar, as it would be dearer, and it would not be a case of exploiting consumers, for they could still obtain their necessary supply of French sugar, and would naturally only buy the higher-priced article for extra supplies; indeed, even if this sugar could be sold more cheaply its importation might be expected to be welcomed for the relief it would give to France. Further than this, the more free the sale of sugar the larger the consumption of tea and coffee, and this would help to steady prices of these commodities, and be of great assistance to all holders of stocks. It was hoped that the question would be cleared up before long.

Appointment of Agents, etc.

Reference was then made to the number of applications the committee received to recommend agents, and their difficulty in finding suitable firms who were not already fully engaged. The committee advised British firms to send out their own representatives, or that several firms should combine to send out an agent. The chairman then mentioned the necessity of good and regular shipping services, the still bad state of the road tracks between Tangier and the French zone, and gave a short outline of some of the causes of the present commercial crisis in Morocco. He also spoke of the steps taken by the committee to obtain permission to re-export surplus stocks of British goods, which had met with success at Tangier, and a promise had been made that under certain conditions prohibition of re-exportation of these goods from the French zone would be withdrawn. The committee were anxiously looking forward to the time when, freed from restrictions and from disputes with labour, British manufacturers would be able to see just how they stood and to fix their prices, though no doubt these would be subject to reductions as the supply of raw material became more normal. To retain the Moroccan market cost would have to be reduced to the minimum, and all concerned, manufacturers, labour, railways, and steamship lines, would have to do their utmost to arrive at the lowest possible figure.

Speaking of the equality of treatment of British goods, the chairman said that this equality must not end at the Customs House. They did not ask for favoured treatment, but (referring especially to imports) wanted the same equality of opportunity as anyone else. The vice-president concluded his report by recording his personal thanks to Sir Herbert E. White, H.M.'s Agent and Consul-General, for the sympathetic way in which he had always received and examined the various matters which he had been delegated to bring before him on behalf of the Chamber.

The report, as also that of the hon. treasurer, which showed a satisfactory balance, were duly adopted. After the election of auditors and the re-election of the three retiring members of the committee—Messrs Chappory, Moore, and Russi—the chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the president, Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, K.C.M.G., who always took such great interest in the work, he pointed out, and had especially done so much to advance the proposal to establish a British school at Tangier. This was seconded by Mr. W. B. Harris, and was carried by acclamation.

Mr. R. S. Hunter, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, said he thought it was to be regretted that the Chamber of Commerce and the Morocco Merchants' Association had not been established years ago. He hoped their work would continue and meet with success, as from what he had seen during his visit the country was never so ripe for all sorts of British enterprise. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Cheshire (of Messrs. Lever Brothers), and was duly carried.

Mr. Penry Cooper, district manager of the Bank of British West Africa, proposed, and Mr. David Macleod seconded, a vote of thanks to the secretary, Mr. L. J. Brown, whose work, Mr. Cooper said, was highly appreciated by the members on the coast, where his visits were always most useful and welcome. The vote was carried with hearty applause. This ended the business of the meeting, but the chairman took the opportunity to refer to the question of a British school at Tangier, which he recommended to the generous consideration and support of those present.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

An English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

RUMANIAN, now trading in London, possessing considerable business experience, thoroughly acquainted with business conditions, requirements of Rumania and Balkans, excellent connections, good organiser, intends to proceed to Rumania shortly for the purpose of REPRESENTING British manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise.—Will those interested write to Box No. H4, care of The Near East.

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THE SUDAN BUDGET.

Further Increase in Estimates.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 1.

Details of the Budget of the Sudan Government for the current year have just been made public. Revenue and expenditure have been estimated to balance at £E2,685,000, there being, as usual, no provision for a surplus or a deficit. This represents an increase of £E430,000 on the figures for 1918, and of £E879,000 on those of 1917.

The principal heads of revenue are provincial receipts, which include royalties, land date and traders' taxes, £E690,850; finance department, £E541,600; posts and telegraphs, £E106,650; railways and steamers, £E1,233,700. These represent increases of £E72,400 in provincial receipts, £E138,600 in finance department, £E16,650 in posts and telegraphs, and £E172,700 in railway and steamer receipts.

Under expenditure the principal items are: Provinces, £E521,659; finance, £E259,453; public works, £E116,046; posts and telegraphs, £E121,457; railways and steamers, £E1,019,332; the main increases being £E21,113 in provincial expenditure, £E31,423 in finance, and £E21,756 in railways and steamers.

The increase in the provincial receipts is again due to improved internal economic conditions, as well as to the raising of the various forms of taxation which constitute the sources of income in the various districts. Every province shows an addition to its budget, such increases ranging from £E700 in the case of Berber to £E16,700 in that of the Red Sea. The rise in the receipts of the finance department is due to the fact that the Sudan Government is now itself importing all the sugar required by the country. Hitherto sugar was imported through the intermediary of wholesale agents, as well as middlemen from Egypt, where a special arrangement had been made with the Société Général des Sucreries with regard to the f.o.b. price and the maintenance of supplies. It was found, however, that wholesale agents profiteered in an exorbitant manner without their profits being taxable in any way, so the Sudan Government stepped in and arranged with the Société that all sugar sent to the Sudan should be bought by the Government, who would undertake to resell it to the local middlemen for disposal in the country at the same prices as have recently been in operation. Thus the price to the people remains the same, but the profit made out of them goes to the Government Treasury, and so assists in the matter of meeting the increased expenditure without adding to the burden of direct or indirect taxation. The expansion of the "Public Services" departments is also due to the improved internal conditions.

As regards the expenditure, the increase in that set down under the provinces is due to normal expansion, and is pretty generally distributed over them all. The increase in the provision made for the railways and steamers is, of course, due, as in the preceding year, to the cost of fuel and of renewals and repairs. It has been found necessary to increase the allowance made for war gratuities and travelling facilities on account of war conditions. This year an amount of £E230,000 is provided for this purpose in the Budget, as against only £E45,000 in 1918.

The authorities at the Residence-General in Morocco are considering the question of holding a great economic exhibition analagous to that of Rabat in connection with the organisation of a fair at Marrakech in October.

A petition of Sir Richard Redmayne, K.C.B., and others, asking for the grant of a Royal Charter incorporating "The Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau," has been referred to a Committee of the Lords of the Council.

THE SMALL CAPITALIST IN MOROCCO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier.

According to an interview which was published recently in a paper devoted to Morocco, a member of the British colony at Casablanca is stated to have advised a man who possessed a capital of £800, and who asked advice as to what he should do in Morocco, to return to England. British opinion here is that the advice was bad. The capital was certainly not large, but if the owner had commercial experience and was a worker he could have secured some good British agencies, and his £800 would have helped him to eke out his commissions until they became enough to keep him. He might even, when things became more normal, have made small shipments of produce, though, of course, he could not do this in the present state of affairs; or he might have obtained buying commissions for produce and worked through the banks. There are many British manufacturers looking for agents, and although a large proportion of the goods offered are new to the country, an energetic man with £800 capital should be able to work some of them up to good results.

PRINCE LINE.

The Prince Line announce the resumption of their pre-war service of steamers from Middlesbrough and London to the Mediterranean ports, the first sailing being that of the Merchant Prince, loading in the Tees about April 22, for Malta and Alexandria.

The death took place at Liverpool, on April 15, at the age of fifty-three years, of Mr. J. M. Stamper, formerly the secretary and manager of Messrs. Thos. and John Brocklebank, Ltd., who had been associated with the Brocklebank Line for upwards of thirty-five years.

PROMINENT INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
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The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Machinery for Brussa.

Brussa is a very important agricultural and commercial district in Asia Minor. The population of the province is over 1,500,000, mostly agriculturists engaged in the production of cereals, wines, fruits, etc. The manufacture of carpets, silk goods, and tapestry is a special industry of this district. Brussa, the capital, with a population of over 75,000, lies sixty miles south of Constantinople, having Mudana as its seaport in the Sea of Marmora. The use of modern agricultural machinery and implements has been spreading steadily in recent years in the region of Brussa. American manufacturers were the chief gainers by this, and before the outbreak of the war they were exporting to this district a good number of threshing machines and reapers annually; while France and Greece were sending ploughs. It has been estimated that the province of Brussa could take 800 to 1,000 ploughs a year. In the year preceding the war 260 mowing machines of American manufacture and 1,570 ploughs of Greek pattern were imported. British manufacturers seem to have overlooked this market, although British goods generally, and especially machinery, have been highly appreciated there. Before the war a firm in Brussa kept in stock a few agricultural machines and implements of British origin, but the prices of these goods were so high that little business could be done. British manufacturers should pay special attention to this market, which is also an acknowledged distributing centre for other fertile and naturally wealthy districts in the interior.

Small Light Plough.

It is often said that a drawback to the employment of the English plough in the East is its weight. This may be correct in some cases, where very small animals are available, but it is well known that in Thessaly, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and other agricultural districts, where the soil is often heavy and difficult, British-made ploughs are used and preferred, although, in some cases, the price is higher than those of foreign construction. It is often the fault of the local agent, who as a rule is a commercial man and not an agriculturist, or the buyers' inadequate way of ordering direct or through merchants in England, if ploughs or other implements are sent which, either in size, weight or design, are occasionally found unsuitable for the purpose required. Buyers may be quite sure that if their orders are properly defined, any British maker will be able to supply them with suitable implements. There are light ploughs, made in Scotland, Ireland, and the north of England, which could meet the requirements of the Oriental farmers in every respect, but apparently makers do not trouble to bring them to the notice of these farmers. It should interest agriculturists in the East to know that not only the ordinary light-weight type of plough, but even a very small plough, can now be obtained in England at very reasonable prices. This new plough had the distinction of being the smallest implement of the kind at a recent show. It is well adapted for colonial use, and is suitable for small holders, market gardeners, and horticulturists. Its weight is said to be only 50 lb., whilst it will plough 6 in. deep by 8 in. wide.

A Useful Road Roller.

Macadamised roads are in general use throughout the Near East, and as the use of road rollers is most necessary for their proper construction and maintenance the possession of these rollers is highly valued by all progressive municipalities. The price of the ordinary steam-roller is, however, an item which prevents many municipalities and contractors from acquiring this road-making equipment; while the lighter types of rollers drawn by animals are more or less inadequate for general work and high roads. It will be, therefore, of interest to such municipalities and contractors in the East to hear of a novel road roller which is propelled by an internal-combustion engine, and is fitted with a tank for carrying water for sprinkling roads, etc., and a receptacle capable of containing about 15 cwt. of tarmac for small repairs, such as pot-holes, etc. The roller is also fitted with a belt pulley for stationary work. The engine is started on petrol, and after warming up is run on paraffin. The maximum speed is about three miles per hour, but when the engine is rolling a road the required speed will not exceed 1½ mile. The whole arrangement is well thought out, and will appeal particularly to those who require an efficient road roller, which, when not required for such work, can be employed for pumping water, or driving any kind of stationary machinery. The weight of this automobile roller is, when light, 6 tons, and in working order 8 tons.

Italo-American Co-operation.

According to recent reports from the Near East, there is already evidence of American and Italian co-operation in those markets, which is probably connected with the recently announced Italo-American industrial and economic agreement. For this a committee was constituted about the time of the armistice, and has since directed its efforts to strengthening and improving the economic and industrial relations between Italy and the United States. It will seek to eliminate undue competition amongst producers, to promote the sale of non-competitive goods in the two countries on a reciprocal system, to develop Italian industries with American and Italian capital, and, by the same agencies, to utilise the natural resources and public undertakings in Italy proper and her colonies. The movement has the support of the Society of Italian Agriculturists, shipping federations, metallurgical, machinery, electricity, and other leading associations. The effect of such a combination is obvious. Apart from other commercial and economic advantages, Italy will be able to develop her engineering industries, and she will be in a position to produce manufactured goods at cheaper rates, thanks, to a great extent, to the utilisation of enormous water-power, and more favourable labour conditions. When it is also remembered that Italy can depend on the support of the Italian element which is to be found in all branches of industry and commerce in the Near East, it will be realised that she will prove a very formidable competitor in the future.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

A firm tone has prevailed in the market during the past week, but business to some extent has been upset by the Easter holidays and many buyers and sellers have been rather slow at getting to work again. Certain features in the situation give cause for anxiety, but the belief that current prices are not unreasonable is still prevalent, and buyers who have orders to place are afraid to delay. Private advices relating to the new Egyptian crop are generally healthy and there is every expectation of a much larger yield than during the current season. Merchants and users are still wondering what will happen at the end of July. Inquiry in Egyptian yarns has broadened somewhat, but business has been patchy, there being more done in certain qualities than in others. Stocks have recently appeared in some directions, and lower prices have been taken in order to keep down supplies in first hands. Nothing better can be said as to the demand in cloth for Egypt. Although the troubles are said to be over a feeling of uncertainty exists. Shippers are undoubtedly missing the opportunity of buying at the bottom. The turmoil in India has adversely affected cloth business for that part of the world. Something has been done, however, for Calcutta in grey and white shirtings. Bleaching cloths continue to be sold for China, Java and Singapore. A steady demand has been met with in printing cloths for certain minor outlets. Home trade buyers are now showing more activity. American yarns have hardened in quotation with a steady demand. Numerous producers have recently been enabled to reduce stocks at the mills to a considerable extent. In export bundles India has given rather increased support.

INDIAN COTTON COMMITTEE'S REPORT

A Reuter message states that the report of the Indian Cotton Committee recommends the establishment of a permanent cotton committee at Bombay, with the Agricultural Adviser to the Government as President. The main functions of the committee would be to act as advisory body to the Government and the trade on all questions. It would work through provincial committees. The report further submits proposals for the removal of obstacles to permit cultivators to grow long staple cotton and so enable it to compete with the short staple variety.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—April 4, 440,000 francs, against 330,000 francs; April 5, 6, 720,000 francs, against 240,000 francs.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

AMRIA CARPETS
—made according to ancient Arab methods of spinning and weaving, by Bedouin women of the Western Desert Province, under the Frontier Districts Administration.
Alexandria Agencies: Messrs. Roberts, Hughes & Co., Rue Sesostris. The Near Eastern Rug Stores, Rue Rosetta.
Cairo Agencies: The Original Galleries, Sharia el Manakh. Mustafa Abdel Rahman, Khan el Khalili & Head Quarters, Frontier Districts Administration, Bab-el-Look.

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Barkby Lane, Leicester.
Makers of the RUNWELL SEMI-ROTARY PUMP.

MICA
AND ALL
Electrical Insulating Materials.
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Contractors to British, American, French, Italian, Admiralty and War Office.
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DYES, CHEMICALS, Sizing Materials, Starches, etc.
STEAM & OIL ENGINES for Agriculture, Pumping, etc.
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ANIMAL INTESTINES
Cleaned and Packed in Salt or Dried.
L. & R. HEYMANS, Ltd',
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STEAM AND HYDRAULIC ENGINE PACKING
MANUFACTURERS.
(Flax, Asbestos & Cotton)
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THE NEAR EAST
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THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st January, 1919.

LIABILITIES.

	£E	£E	£	s.	d.
Capital:—					
Shares—496,000 Ordinary of £5 ..	2,418,000				
2,000 Deferred of £5 ...	9,750				
125,000 Preferred of £10 4 per cent. Cum.	1,218,750				
		3,646,500	3,740,000	0	0
Debentures—£2,350,000	2,291,250				
(3½ p.c.) £4,220,000 guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	4,114,500				
		6,405,750	6,570,000	0	0
Sundry Creditors, etc.:—					
Interest accrued on Preferred Shares	4,062.500				
Interest accrued on Debentures in circulation	53,651.553				
National Bank of Egypt's remuneration, as per Statutes ..	18,087.528				
Sundries	113,758.200				
		189,559.781	194,420	5	9
Ordinary Shareholders' a/c	247,581.810				
Deferred Shareholders' a/c	198,517.400				
		446,099.210	457,537	13	0
Unclaimed Dividends and Interest		91,003.614	93,337	0	10
Staff Provident Fund		53,403.926	54,773	5	2
General Reserve Fund		628,587.550	644,705	3	7
Special Reserve Fund (provided by Article 40 of Statutes)		44,925.299	46,077	4	7
Provision for Depreciation on Investments		191,000 —	195,897	8	9
Other Reserves against items per contra marked "a" to "d"		276,855.294	283,954	2	11
Interest on Loans accrued, due by borrowers after 31st January, 1919		73,256.303	75,134	13	5
Profit and Loss		510,413.622	523,501	3	0
		12,557,354.599	12,879,338	1	0

ASSETS.

	£E	£E	£	s.	d.
Cash:—					
Agencies	13,070.578				
Mixed Tribunals (Deposit Account)	1,950				
National Bank of Egypt	754,384.849				
Bank of England	19,421 257				
		788,836.684	809,063	5	4
Investments:					
Agricultural Bank of Egypt 3½ p.c. Debentures at cost	1,540,456.837				
Government Securities at cost ..	4,165,989.882				
(The value of these securities at mean market price on 31st Jan., 1919, was £E4,141,522.)					
197,471 Mortgage Cy. of Egypt, Ltd., Ordinary Shares of £5 stg. each, of which £1 5s. paid at cost	394,937.943				
		6,101,384.662	6,257,830	8	5
Advances against Securities		4,875 —	5,000	0	0
Investment of General Reserve Fund consisting of Government Securities at original cost		621,984.370	637,982	13	9
(The value of these securities at mean market price on 31st Jan., 1919, was £E568,211.)					
Staff Provident Fund Investments in Government Securities, at cost		43,290 —	44,400	0	0
Sundry Debtors		30,127.284	30,899	15	7
Loans:					
On Mortgage, over £E1,000	151,300.574				
On Mortgage (B) £E1,000 and under	3,824,347.211				
On note of hand	939 —				
		3,976,586.785	4,078,550	10	11
Buyers of land expropriated through Tribunals, for the part representing balance of capital due by former borrowers		35,112.507	36,012	16	7
Buildings, Land, Furniture, and Printing Office		56,054 —	57,491	5	5
Discount and Expenses of issue 3½ p.c. Bds. (to be written off by 31st January, 1949)		548,991.710	563,068	8	5
Buyers of land expropriated through Tribunals, for the part representing arrears of loans (a)	38,000 —				
Land acquired by foreclosure (b) ..	27,558.749				
Debtors for land acquired by foreclosure and resold, by the Bank (c)	64,969.898				
Instalments overdue (d):					
Capital £E98,638.459					
Interest £E52,688.188	151,326.647				
		276,855.294	283,954	2	11
Interest on Loans accrued, payable by Borrowers after 31st Jan., 1919		73,256.303	75,134	13	5
		12,557,354.599	12,879,338	1	0

THEO. LEVI, Chief Accountant. F. T. ROWLATT, President. R. G. WESTROPP, Managing Director.

We have examined the above Balance-sheet and certify that in our opinion it is a full and fair Balance-sheet, and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs, as shown by the Books.

Cairo, the 1st April, 1919. RUSSELL, HARRIS and CO.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the period from 1st February, 1918, to 31st January, 1919.

	£E	£E	£	s.	d.
General Expenses	81,993.491				
Writing off, Depreciation, etc.	18,453.455				
		100,446.946	103,022	10	2
Directors' Fees		2,535	2,600	0	0
National Bank of Egypt, as per Statutes		18,087.528	18,551	6	2
Debenture Interest, etc.		235,251.106	241,283	3	9
Interest on Preferred Shares		48,750	50,000	0	0
Loans and Instalments in Arrear Current year		28,096.871	28,817	6	1
Repayment to the General Reserve Fund under Art. 41 of the Statutes		18,280.324	18,749	1	0
Interest on amounts carried forward					
A/c Ordinary Shares	11,789.610				
A/c Deferred Shares	9,453.210				
		21,242.820	21,787	10	2
Reserve Fund		30,162.875	30,936	5	8
Special Reserve (provided by Article 40 of Statutes)		13,238.949	13,578	8	2
Amount available		510,412.622	523,501	3	0
		1,026,506.041	1,052,826	14	2

	£E	£E	£	s.	d.
Loans and Instalments in Arrear on 31st Jan., 1918, recovered in 1918/19		192,057.905	196,983	9	4
Amount recovered in diminution of Reserve required for Buyers of Land, etc. (see letter "a" in Balance-sheet)		6,000 —	6,153	16	11
Land Acquired by Foreclosure:					
Sales during 1918/19					
(a) By Cash £E25,751.552					
(b) By Instalments £E16,805.987					
£E42,557.539					
Less cost of Land acquired during 1918/19 ..... £E13,091.539	29,466				
Debtors for Land Acquired by Foreclosure and Resold by the Bank:					
Encashments during 1918/19 ..... £E39,246.072					
Less Sales by Instalments as above £E16,805.987	22,440.085	51,906.085	53,237	0	2
Interest Collected:					
(a) On Loans in arrear at 31st Jan. 1918	108,803.683				
(b) Interest on Arrears and Interest on Loans due in 1918....	377,808.832				
		486,612.515	499,089	15	2
Interest on Loans over £E1,000 ..		13,543.599	13,890	17	5
Interest on Investments, etc.		251,235.300	257,677	6	6
Interest on Bank Account		25,150.347	25,795	8	8
		1,026,506.041	1,052,826	14	2

Chief Accountant. THEO LEVI.

Managing Director, R. G. WESTROPP.

President. F. T. ROWLATT.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

EGYPTIAN ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT.

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

Gentlemen,—We beg to submit to you the balance-sheet for our fourteenth year, ended December 31, 1918.

We record with very great regret the death of our colleague M. Ernest Rolin, which took place at Castets-des-Landes, France, on July 17 last. M. Rolin was one of the founders of the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company, and in him the company loses one of the most active members of the board of directors. You will, of course, desire to join us in rendering homage to his memory, and in expressing our deep sympathy with his family and with our colleague M. Léon Rolin.

Agricultural Lands.

The minor development works which we undertook last year on certain parts of the Bercache estate have contributed to increasing the yield and the value in rent. The approaching conclusion of peace, with the return of normal conditions, it may be hoped, will lead to the resumption of the various irrigation projects whose survey or execution was interrupted by the war; and among these projects the conversion of the west part of the Guizeh Basin concerns the company most directly. This project, already decided on in principle before the war, would give immediately a much higher value to all the lands in that region. Some offers to purchase our lands reached us in the course of the year. We refused to entertain them, holding that a sale at present prices would mean the loss to the company of the benefit of a measure which has long been awaited, and which is, perhaps, on the point of realisation.

Building Lands.

There is no change to record under this heading. Our view of the future of building lands in general has not altered, and we consider as justified the figure at which those of the company are set down in the balance-sheet.

Business in Turkey.

Up to the date of closing the accounts we were without news of the properties which the company possesses in Constantinople and Syria. Some information more or less precise has since reached us regarding certain of these properties, but it only conveys a very imperfect view of the position. We hope that one of us will be able shortly to visit them to make the necessary examination, and to take on the spot such measures as the circumstances dictate. There is every reason to anticipate that this real estate will benefit greatly by the changes which are on the point of taking place in the status of the territories where the properties of the company are situated.

Portfolio.

The shares of the Gharbieh Land Company, which are quoted on the Bourse, have benefited in 1918 by a new rise of 9-16 as regards the ordinary shares, and of 7-32 as regards the "part de dividende." They stand in the balance-sheet at the price of December 31 last. Shares not included in the official list of the Bourse remain at the same price as in the balance-sheet of 1917.

Land Purchased.

This account decreased by £E6,614.350, including £E545.174 annuities in arrears.

Various Debtors.

This account includes rent in arrears, advances to cultivators, interest not collected, and divers debts of which a part is guaranteed by the deposit of shares.

Gharbieh Land Company.

The position of this company continues to improve, and the results of the past year are even better than those of the previous year. The increase of its debt is due to the fact that the sale of its cotton not commencing until very late this year, it was only able, up to the time our accounts were closed, to refund us a very small portion of our advances of 1918. This increase is, therefore, only temporary; it will entirely disappear when the Gharbieh Land Company has completely realised its cotton sales.

Koubbeh Gardens.

This account diminished in 1918 by £E1,550.549.

Contingencies Account.

A part of this account was utilised in 1918 to liquidate or redeem certain suspended accounts, legal obligations, uncertain or irrecoverable debts, etc., for which reserves had been made in preceding years. There remains a disposable balance of more than £E43,000, which we consider sufficient to meet all redemptions or depreciations which it might eventually become necessary to make.

Bank Credits.

This account decreased in 1918 by £E5,807.184. We only received the accounts from our bankers in Belgium a few days ago for the years 1915 to 1918. These accounts raise certain points which will necessitate an exchange of explanations, the result of which it is impossible to decide in advance. But we have in our reserve fund the means to meet such contingencies as we may be called upon to meet.

Profit and Loss Accounts.

The net profit for the year amounted to £E14,327.004, and includes the increased value of the shares of the portfolio, which are included in the official list of the Bourse. The debit balance of the profit and loss account, which in 1917 was £E134,520.484, is not to-day more than £E120,193.480. We hope soon to be furnished with the views of our Belgian shareholders regarding the reduction of capital, to which we referred briefly in our last report. If they agree to this reduction we shall call an extraordinary general meeting, as soon as circumstances allow, to decide on this question in accordance with Articles 45 and 46 of the Statutes.

H.E. Mansour N. Shakour Pasha's term of office will expire, and he is eligible for re-election according to the terms of the statutes.

We propose to re-elect M. Guido Lévi as deputy auditor for the year 1919.

Report of the Auditors.

Gentlemen,—We beg to inform you that we have compared the balance-sheet with the books and documents, and certify that we have found them in order. The shares constituting the directors' qualifications are in order. Owing to difficulties of communication with Belgium, we have not been able to assure ourselves of the existence up to December 31, 1918, of 2,000 Kafr-el-Dawar shares, 25,989 Koubbeh Garden shares, and 5,000 Gharbieh Land Company shares. For the same reason we could not ascertain from the solicitor of the company in Turkey whether the properties at Constantinople and Beyrout were free of any charges at the date of the balance-sheet. In the absence of our colleague, M. Jules Rolin, M. Guido Lévi, deputy-auditor, has signed the present report. With the above reservations we certify that the balance-sheet is in conformity with the accounts and statutes of the company.

(Signed) F. H. Russell, Auditor.
G. Levi, Deputy-Auditor.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously :—(1) The balance-sheet and the accounts for the fourteenth year, ended December 31, 1918, and discharge is given to the directors. (2) Resolved to transfer the debit balance to the profit and loss account, viz., £E120.193.480. to the new current year's account. (3) Re-election of H.E. M. N. Shakour Pasha as director. (4) Re-election of M. Jules Rolin as auditor. (5) Re-election of M. Guido Lévi as deputy-auditor for 1919. (6) The fees of the auditors for the year 1919 is fixed at £E150.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Cunard Steamship.

The directors regret they are unable to issue annual report and accounts as at December 31, 1918, until later in year. Dividends on preference have been paid to December 31, and directors recommend dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on ordinary (including shares recently issued on capitalisation of reserve fund) and on Government share. Dividend will be payable May 5. Directors propose to adjourn meeting to a date to be fixed later, when the report and accounts will be submitted. Meeting, Cunard Building, Liverpool, April 30, at 11.

Compagnie Algerienne.

At a recent meeting of the Compagnie Algerienne the accounts for the 1917 operations were approved and a distribution of 57.50 francs against 54 francs for the preceding year agreed upon. The report states that the agricultural season, which has just come to an end in Algeria and Morocco, has been one of the best that North Africa has experienced for more than thirty years. The increased price of cereals and the yield, which was very much higher than the average, have enabled farmers to obtain extremely satisfactory results, despite the fact that the cost of cultivation has doubled and even trebled during the past four years.

Ooregum Gold.

The report of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India for the year ended December 31 last states that the yield of gold per ton milled shows an increase of 4.9 grs. At the cyanide works there was a decrease of 3.4 grs. per ton. There was again a slight improvement in the total extraction of gold, the quantity left in the final residue averaging 1.73 gr. per ton lower than in the preceding twelve months. The total return of fine gold amounted to 89,631 oz., a decrease of 1,056 oz., and realised £380,220, from which was deducted £21,383 for royalty payable to the Mysore Government, leaving net £358,837. Including £7,170 for interest, rents, and sundry receipts, the total income amounted to £366,007. Working costs aggregated £222,225, profit being £143,782; £3,778 was brought forward after payment of balance dividend for previous year, which with £1,268, the dividend on the Kolar Mines Power Station shares, makes a total at credit of profit and loss of £153,828. Interim dividends of 2s. per share on the preference and 1s. per share on the ordinary shares, paid on October 26, absorbed £48,799, and after charging income-tax (£12,701), depreciation (£15,000), expenditure on circular shaft (£9,472), Kolar Gold Field prospecting department (£796), donation to British Red Cross (£105), transfers of £5,000 and £1,000 to reserve, and insurance and contingency funds respectively, a balance of £60,956 remains, out of which the directors recommend the distribution of £54,116 as a final dividend for the year of 1s. 6d. per share on both classes of shares, payable on 16th proximo to holders registered 18th instant. The total distribution for the year amounts to £102,193, representing 3s. 6d. per share, or 35 per cent., on the preference, and 2s. 6d. per share, or 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The reserve and insurance and contingency funds are raised to £100,243. The continuance of war conditions led inevitably to higher costs, the increase amounting to £22,973, and the rise in the rate of exchange on remittances to India accounts for a large proportion of this sum. On capital account £10,222 was laid out on buildings, machinery, and plant, and £9,472 expended on the sinking of circular shaft. The sinking of this shaft has been regularly carried on since August, and up to the end of the year it had been deepened 260 feet to a total of 332 feet from surface. Development work in the mine amounted to 7,763 feet. The reserves of ore at December 31 last were computed at 392,690 tons, a decrease of 22,093 tons. In October influenza of a very severe type broke out on the field, and remained for two months, considerably disorganising labour.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT ANNUAL MEETING to be held in Cairo on Tuesday, 29th April, 1919. It is proposed to recommend a dividend of 8s. per share on the ORDINARY SHARES and £40 per share on the DEFERRED SHARES.
17th April, 1919.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt recommend a dividend of 8s. per share on the ordinary shares and £40 per share on the deferred shares.

Ural Caspian Oil Corporation.—Extraordinary general meeting will be held at Winchester House, E.C., to-day at noon.

The transfer books of the Burma Railways Co., Limited, will be closed from May 1 to May 14 inclusive for the preparation of the half-year's dividend warrants.

The net profit of the Banque d'Orient for 1918 was 5,270,749 drachmæ. A dividend of 7½ drachmæ, as against one of 3 drachmæ, will be proposed at the next meeting.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank have declared an interim divdend of 5s. per share, free of income-tax, for the half-year ended February 28, payable on June 2.

The numbers are published of eight 4 per cent. "Latur Extension" debentures of the Barsi Light Railway Co., Limited, which have been drawn and will be payable at £103 per £100 debenture on June 1 next, with interest to that date, at the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, 13, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

NEW COMPANIES.

Egyptian Consolidated Lands.

The Egyptian Consolidated Lands, Limited, was registered on April 11, with a capital of £350,000, in 1,400,000 shares of 5s. each to acquire, develop, hold, let, and deal in land and other immovable property in Egypt, the Sudan, and elsewhere, to carry on an investment, financial, and agency business, etc. First directors to be appointed by the subscribers. Registered office, 1, Broad Street Place, E.C.2.

Euxine Trading Co., Ltd.

A private company with the above title was registered on March 29, with a capital of £50,000, in 49,900 ordinary shares of £1 each and 2,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. The company is to carry on the business of marine salvage, towage, lighterage, diving, fishing, and trawling, to carry on business as fish merchants, fish and caviare curers, fish, vegetable, and fruit preservers, canners and freezers, etc. The subscribers are:—D. W. Jackson, 7-8, Great Winchester Street, E.C., merchant; G. B. Marshall, Sulma, Roumania, Lloyd's sub-agent; and the first directors are D. W. Jackson, G. B. Marshall, F. W. Marshall, W. Norfolk and J. Fairburn. F. W. Marshall, G. B. Marshall, and D. W. Jackson are nominees of the deferred shareholders. Registered office, 7-8, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

Baku Consolidated Oilfields.

The Baku Consolidated Oilfields Ltd., was registered on April 1, with a capital of £1,000, in £1 shares. The company is to acquire certain oil, petroleum and mineral lands, claims, options, concessions, plant, pipes, refinery works and undertakings in Russia and elsewhere. The company is registered without articles of association, Solicitors: W. Watson Rutherford, 48, Cannon Street, E.C.

Burma Queensland Corporation.

The Burma Queensland Corporation, Ltd., was registered on April 19, with a capital of £600,000, in £1 shares. The objects are stated to be to acquire mining claims, mines, mining rights and metalliferous lands; to explore, develop and turn to account the same and to carry on the business of winners, workers and refiners of and dealers in tin, wolfram, molybenite, bismuth, gold, silver, copper, coal, iron, lead, zinc, aluminium and other metals and minerals, etc. The first directors are J. F. Allan, 21, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.3; A. F. MacLaren, 74, Cadogan Square, S.W.1; and Earl Russell, Telegraph House Chichester, and the registered office is at 244, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Palestine Syndicate, Ltd.

A private company with the above title was registered on April 11, with a capital of £10,000, in £1 shares. The objects are to carry on the business of goldsmiths, silversmiths, jewellers, watch and clock makers, electroplaters, general manufacturers, importers, exporters, etc. The first directors are Barnett Davis, Soloman Schonberg, Adolph Davis, and Harris Chiat.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
RAOUL MALLET,
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 38, Rue St. Ferreol.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caifa.

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

Railway Surveys.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 18 :—

Widespread rain in Assam and North-West Frontier Province. Light rain in parts of Bombay, Central Provinces, Burma, Bihar and Orissa. Local in Bengal and Kashmir. More required by North Bengal and Assam. Gingelly yield Madras estimated 28 per cent. below last year.

Bombay Cotton Market firm. Fully good Broach quoted May 488 rupees, July-August 497 rupees. Piece Goods Market very quiet. Calcutta Jute and Gunny Markets no change.

Surveys have been sanctioned of Metre Gauge Railways between Nandanpur and Gabsera by Bengal State Railway, Pochagar and Dinapur, Kissengunge and Nakourd (21 miles), Pirgunge and Bochagunge (eight miles) by Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions Company, Karad (in South Bombay) to Chiplumulva (202 miles) by Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. Reconnaissance survey has been sanctioned from Hardwar to Karnyprayag (84 miles) by the Hardwar Dehra Railway Company, and the survey for a light railway from Akhaura to Birendranagar (fifteen miles) by the Assam Bengal Railway. The construction of a narrow gauge railway between Parasia and Khairsadoh in the North-Western Railway system has also been sanctioned.

DEVELOPMENT OF EMPIRE RESOURCES.

The current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* (London : John Murray, 2s. 6d.) contains a comprehensive article on the Empire's trade in wool in its relation to the woollen trade of the world. The total amount of wool produced is estimated at about 3,000,000,000 lb., of which almost two-fifths is contributed by British countries, Australia alone producing nearly one-fifth. Of the 460,000,000 lb. of imported wool used in this country before the war, more than three-quarters came from British sources. Nevertheless, as is pointed out, Germany was actually using more Australian and South African wool than this country. It is interesting to note also that the total consumption of wool in Germany was greater than in this country, but it was chiefly of the inferior kinds. During the three years before the war this country was exporting woollen manufactures of the average annual value of £27,000,000 sterling. Since then the growth of the industry has been remarkable. The average annual value of the exports of woollen manufactures has increased to over 36½ million pounds, and at present nearly twice as much wool is being used by the weaving industry as in pre-war times, and nearly the whole of it comes from within the Empire. The article includes an account of the production of wool within the Empire and in foreign countries, and full particulars are given of the trade in woollen goods of the United Kingdom, the chief European countries, the United States, and Japan.

The same issue contains an informative article on the manufacture and industrial utilisation of paper yarns, which during the war were so largely used in Germany for fabrics of various kinds owing to the scarcity of jute and cotton. The manufacture of cordage and fabrics from paper yarn has been carried on in this country, but it appears unlikely that any extensive development of the industry will take place here so long as ample supplies of jute are obtainable at a reasonable price. The section devoted to an account of recent investigations conducted at the Imperial Institute includes a second report on samples of rubber prepared in Ceylon in order to ascertain the best methods of preparing plantation rubber of the quality required by manufacturers; a report on the value of Indian tea seed as a source of oil; and a report on minerals from Rhodesia, including a general summary of the mineral resources of that country.

A NEW SOURCE OF TURPENTINE OIL AND ROSIN.

Turpentine oil and rosin are already being produced on a commercial scale in India by the distillation of pine resin. A new source of supply, which, though comparatively small, may be valuable, especially for Indian use, has now been found in Indian frankincense, or olibanum. This material is obtained by the natives by making incisions in the stems of *Boswellia serrata*, a tree widely distributed throughout the dry zone forests of Central India. The resinous substance which exudes from the cuts contains a kind of turpentine, a resin and a gum. Investigations of the methods of separating these constituents in a marketable form, as to their commercial uses and value, and on the methods of tapping the tree, have been conducted since 1912 by the forest authorities in India, in co-operation with the Imperial Institute, the results of which have been published recently in a paper by R. S. Pearson, Forest Economist, and Puran Singh, Chemical Adviser at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

The general conclusion reached, based on the results of numerous trials carried out in India and in this country by the Imperial Institute, is that the turpentine oil is equal to good quality American turpentine oil, and that it could be used in place of the latter in the manufacture of paints and varnishes. The Imperial Institute has also reported that the rosin would be quite suitable as a substitute for pine rosin (colophony) in the manufacture of varnishes, being equal in value to grade "G" of American rosin.

The decree forbidding the exportation of castor-oil seeds to France, her colonies and Allied countries or neutrals, has just been rescinded.

An agricultural exhibition, organised by the Horticultural Society of Tangiers, will be opened on May 4, and will include four principal sections.

A Paris contemporary states that in order to maintain closer contact with the Casablanca region the French Resident-General in Morocco has installed a permanent office at Casablanca under the direction of M. Le Fur.

The report of the Rani Travancore Rubber Company for 1918 shows a profit of £14,300. Balance brought forward, after payment of excess profits duty to December 31, 1917, is £12,312, making £26,612. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. and to carry forward £8,112.

The report of the Poonmudi Tea and Rubber Company for 1918 states that net profit amounts to £5,962; the addition of £2,296 brought forward makes £8,258. The directors propose a final dividend of 7½ per cent. (making 10 per cent.), to put £500 to reserve, and to carry forward £2,428.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

There has been very little doing this week, owing to the Easter holiday. In a general way the market has continued in rather a nervous condition, in view of the unsettled state of affairs in Egypt, and most prices, where altered, are again lower, although the business done has been altogether of a trifling nature. The decline in values is due to the unwillingness of dealers here to put stock on their books until they see some kind of better news from Egypt and a renewal of enquiry from that quarter.

In Government stocks Unifieds have dropped 1½ to 90½, there having been some pressure to sell. The 2½ per cent. Prefs. are quoted nominally ¾ lower at 75, but there has been no business.

In Bank Shares, Nationals are ⅜ down at 20, Agriculturals have receded 3-16 to 6 7-16, and in Anglo-Egyptian Banks there is also a fall of ⅜ to 15⅛.

Amongst Railways, Delta Lights are ¼ down to 7⅞.

Land Descriptions are also easier here and there. Aboukir shares have dropped 6d. to 27s., and there has been a similar decline in both Delta Lands and New Egyptians. Exceptionally, Allotments have been enquired for, and are ⅛ firmer at 4¼. There has also been some small demand for Behéras round 13. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have also dropped 6d. to 14s. 9d., and United Egyptian Lands are 3d. lower at 2s. In Sudan Plantations there has again been a certain amount of activity, with an easier tendency, and the price closes a ¼ down at 6⅜.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares, Markets are 6d. easier at 26s., but, on the other hand, Alexandria Waters has been a very firm spot, and the price is ⅛ higher at 12⅛. Anglo-Egyptians B, after business up to 5¼, are closing rather quieter, on profit taking, at 5 1-32nd.

Amongst Greek Securities, the only change to record is a drop of 1 point in the Rente Loan to 56.

The report of the Madras Electric Tramways (1904), Ltd., for the year ended December 31 shows a gross profit of £31,697. After debiting interest and London office expenses, making provision for debenture stock sinking fund, and transferring £10,000 to depreciation and renewal account, there remains £14,444; £3,957 was brought forward, making £18,400. The directors recommend a further dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax, to transfer to general reserve fund £3,000, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty (if any), £4,820.

The report of the Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea Company for 1918 states that the net profit earned was £24,035. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 15 per cent., and carry forward £5,179.

The report of Rangoon Para Rubber Estates for the year ended December 31 last states that the net profit amounted to £7,499; £1,593 was brought forward, making £9,093, which the directors propose to carry forward, subject to manager's commission and bonus to staff.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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Telegrams : "Trabanque, London."

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	April 16	April 24
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	93	84½	84½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92	90½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75¾xd	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72½	72½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57	56
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66xd	66xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	83	83
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	84½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15½	15½
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	76	75xd
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9½	9⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅞	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7⅛	7⅛
London County and Westminster	—	162	17½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20½	20
National Bank of India	43	54	54xd
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	27/6	27/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/6	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/3	14/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/6	25/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	2⅞	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	—	6⅞	6⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3½	3⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/3	2/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12⅜
Anglo-Egyptian B.	—	5 7/16	5 7/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	26/6	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	3	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	5½	5½
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	4⅛xd	4⅛xd

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - £485,580
RESERVE - - - - - - - £85,000

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. **£2,000,000** | **Reserve Fund** **£1,550,000**

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 417.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On Monday, at a Plenary Session of the Peace Conference, the League of Nations came into actual being. A committee, to be nominated by the Powers represented on the Council, is to prepare an agenda for the first meeting of the Body of Delegates and plans for its permanent home; and its first Secretary-General has been appointed, in the person of Sir James Eric Drummond. Wisely, the Covenant of the League has been so drafted as to allow a very great degree of elasticity, and there is plenty of room for gradual expansion in almost every direction. This is all to the good, for experience teaches that a Constitution which is of slow growth is likely to prove more sound, better balanced, and more workable than one which emerges complete in every detail from the study of those responsible for drawing it up. The sponsors of the League evidently recognise that, if it is to live and to flourish it must, when all is said and done, depend upon the goodwill of its members rather than on any compulsory powers accorded to it, and they have drafted the Covenant accordingly. As it stands, the strength of the League would appear to be more moral than physical; and that is a fact which will be viewed with very different feelings by different nations. But with the passing of time the power necessary to make its will felt will certainly accrue, if the League be found worthy of being trusted with them. For the present, we may accept it as a thing admittedly imperfect, but by no means more imperfect than the system which it aims at superseding.

However short the League may fall of fulfilling the hopes of those who have been looking to it to secure the instant advent of the Millennium, it cannot fail to achieve one good purpose: the bringing together once a year of representatives of the various nations adhering to it. The value of such an opportunity to exchange views openly and freely can hardly be over-estimated. Perhaps the banning of all secret treaties is less calculated to arouse universal enthusiasm, even though the world is at the present time receiving a painful lesson in the danger of such pacts. But as far as the Near East is concerned, it will hardly be questioned that in the past frequent meetings of and perfectly frank discussion of differences by the statesmen of the Balkans would have removed many dangers that have since materialised to the great loss of the States concerned. Similarly, a secret treaty has played a terribly tragic part in estranging two of the Balkan States that should have remained good friends. Possibly, however, a cynic may urge that in the Balkans the great danger of a secret treaty lies, not in its secrecy, which is unlikely to be observed long in that region, but in the difficulty of interpreting its terms aright. To this the retort is obvious: the meetings of statesmen referred to will provide the best possible opportunity for clearing away any misunderstanding before it has had time to rankle.

An excellent illustration of the evils produced by the old style of Balkanic statesmanship — or what passed for statesmanship in the Balkans—is provided by the unsatisfactory state of our knowledge of what is actually happening with regard to Montenegro. According to a telegram circulated by the Serbian Press Bureau, the Montenegrin Great Skupshtina on April 20 adopted a resolution declaring King Nicholas and his dynasty to have been dethroned and the union of Montenegro with the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes to have been accomplished. The Great Skupshtina—the message adds—having "now terminated its labours, was then dissolved, amid cheers from all parts of the assembly." If the Skupshtina could be regarded as undoubtedly representing the Montenegrin people, this announcement would, of course, be accepted as final, and the union, which in itself would appear natural enough, would be regarded as closing a romantic page of history, in which one of the most picturesque figures in Europe loomed large. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The authority of the Skupshtina just dissolved has been repudiated by King Nicholas and his ministers, and though there may be no "possible doubt whatever" about the present standing of the Black Mountain and its people, it would take a singularly plausible Grand Inquisitor to convince the average Englishman of the fact. In the circumstances, we can only repeat what has been written more than once in these columns: that while it may be the destiny of Montenegro to be absorbed into Yugoslavia, the Allies should see that the union is carried through in accordance with the principle of self-determination.

Signor Orlando, on his return to Rome, has been received with an enthusiasm which cannot be denied; and it is clear that, with the exception of the official Socialists, the whole of Italy, from the King down to the humblest of his subjects, has adopted the official view regarding Fiume and the Adriatic question as a whole. No good purpose would be served by ignoring this fact; nor will it avail much to inquire whether the practical unanimity in Italy is spontaneous, or whether it has been brought about by propaganda. The essential point is

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that Italy refuses to give way: the emphasis with which she finds it necessary to repeat her refusal and her lavish use of what may be called stage effects really add little, if anything, to the awkward situation created by the refusal itself. We decline to believe that it will prove impossible to find a way out of the difficulty without resorting to an appeal to arms. Indeed a fresh war over this problem of the Adriatic is unthinkable. Some solution must and will be found. It is to be noted that Signor Orlando, in his speech in the Italian Parliament, was at pains to impress on his hearers that the Allies of yesterday must not to-day suffer the alliance to be broken off; and though he declared that he could not "at this difficult moment . . . determine in what form and by what means the end can be attained," the determination to attain the end—that is, conciliation—is fortunately apparent beneath the surface of the muddy waters. In plain words, a bargain will probably have to be struck, and, as we indicated last week, it would not be surprising to find that "compensations" for disappointments in the Adriatic were to be found in the Levant, or *vice versa*.

In connection with the trouble over the Adriatic, it is a little curious that Fiume should be so generally regarded as the only possible port for Yugoslavia. Putting political considerations aside for the moment, there is, for instance, Sebenico, which from the mariner's point of view is a much more desirable harbour than Fiume, being easier of access, and free from the visitations of the terrific winds that trouble the northern port. The Yugoslavs, who are not a nautical people, may well be pardoned for being unaware of these facts, if unaware of them they actually be, but we believe that most master mariners acquainted with the Adriatic will endorse the opinion set forward above. There remains the question of connections with the hinterland, and here it must be admitted that there can be hardly any comparison between Fiume and Sebenico as they stand to-day. That, however, is not to acknowledge that such a state of affairs must necessarily continue. To alter it would be a costly matter, no doubt, but it would be far less costly than another war.

The latest news from Egypt is as satisfactory as could be expected, but the very serious character of the disturbances from which the country has been suffering becomes more clear as fresh details of the disorders reach us. We publish to-day some particulars of these occurrences sent us by our Cairo Correspondent, which throw an unpleasant light upon certain aspects of them that have been overlooked, or kept in the background heretofore. From these and other accounts it becomes clear that the makers of trouble have had material to work on that was more adaptable than was generally believed. Fortunately, fanaticism, though not entirely absent, has not been able to make itself felt, at any rate in a direct fashion; the leaders of the movement having shown no little skill in contriving to give it the appearance of developing along "national" lines. It seems to be highly probable, however, that this comparative efficiency in direction is actually due to outside influence, and as our Correspondent suggests, indications point to Turkey, or Turkish agents, as playing an active part in the business. To connect Turkey with the idea of efficiency is no doubt startling at the first blush, but in the field of intrigue the Osmanli was ever an accomplished performer, and it must be remembered that lately he has had the benefit of German guidance.

The most important factor in bringing about an improvement in the situation has been, almost certainly, the employment of sterner measures, calculated to convince the agitators that such leniency as was shown towards them before was not in any way due to weakness. These steps include the creation of summary military courts and military courts to deal with offences committed during the disturbances, and among the powers granted to these bodies is that of inflicting fines up to ten pounds (Egyptian) or of having an offender whipped or flogged. These arguments are likely to appeal to the "rough" in Egypt as forcibly as they do to his fellow in other countries. Further, the military courts are empowered to try—and, if necessary, to punish—foreigners and foreign-protected subjects, and to deal with cases that are too serious to be adequately treated in the summary courts. In so far as this measure will enable the authorities to mete out justice to many highly undesirable folk who usually shelter themselves behind "foreign protection" it is likely to prove a veritable godsend to Egypt. Another step towards the restoration of more normal conditions is the termination of the Government officials' strike, under pressure of a threat that they would lose their employment if it continued.

On April 21 Rushdi Pasha tendered his resignation, and on the following day the Sultan accepted it. The Cabinet, which had held office for a fortnight only, had had no opportunity of showing what it was worth, its chief business having been to receive deputations of agitators, strikers and mischief-makers of all kinds, and endeavour to persuade them to see reason and act reasonably. In that thankless task the Ministers appear to have displayed some courage, and to have borne outrageous treatment at the hands of their countrymen with commendable patience. But their failure to stand by the country in its hour of need must disappoint their friends, and can hardly strengthen Egypt's claim to be ready for self-government on Western lines. Whether the resignation was in any way connected with the recognition of the British Protectorate over Egypt by the United States it must be left for the future to tell us. It is possible, however, that there was some connection between the two events; for the announcement of the American recognition was made to Sir Edmund Allenby by the United States Minister in Cairo on April 22. It undoubtedly came as a great blow to the "Independence" party, who, forgetting Mr. Roosevelt's plain words on the subject, had contrived to persuade themselves that America would champion their cause, and that such demonstrations as they have been indulging in would favourably impress President Wilson. How mistaken that view was may now have been brought home to them by the official Note announcing America's recognition of the Protectorate, in which any effort to obtain the realisation of the Egyptian people's aspirations by a resort to violence is specifically deprecated.

The news which reaches this country from India continues to give us glimpses of the operation of a carefully organised campaign against authority; but the positive information available is not yet sufficiently full to discourage theorists, and during the past week we have heard frequent suggestions that the disturbances must be attributed to interference from outside, from Russia, from Germany, or elsewhere. Such interference is, of course, quite possible; but at the same time it is well to bear in mind the scientific principle of economising hypotheses: nothing has yet been reported which India could not have acomplished without external assistance, and to scour the civilised world for possible disturbing agencies may obscure the hard facts of the situation, facts which must be faced and reckoned with if the measures now in preparation at Whitehall are to eventuate in a stable and progressive commonwealth.

Let us recall some of these elementary facts. Practically all the cities of India, and not a few of the villages, contain in normal times a dangerous population sufficient in numbers to produce local and temporary anarchy, even if the rest of the inhabitants should hold aloof; while apart from the dangerous classes—the criminals, the failures, the loafers, and the rest—there are even larger numbers whose passions can easily be aroused when times are not normal, as the present times are not. Just now there is widespread economic stress: the Indian Moslem world is in an agony of apprehension, the reasonableness of which is beside the present question; and, if we are not mistaken, the supporters of oligarchic ascendancy are feeling that their cause is almost lost. Many "interests" have of late been im-

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pelled to resent the exercise of authority, while authority itself has been somewhat discredited by the events of the last decade. In a word, India has been unusually full of dry tow, which could be fired by any casual spark, even though the spark might be struck by a saint.

No one who counts would dream of suggesting that Mr. Gandhi meant to start a conflagration; he has now recognised that his action has unfortunately contributed to that untoward result, he has called on his supporters to rally to the side of authority, and his name may fitly drop out of the discussion—one more saint whose ignorance of the world has led to a disastrous under-estimate of its capacities for evil. The other disclaimers which have been published stand on a somewhat different footing: when people who have for so long claimed a monopoly of knowledge of Indian politics admit that a movement originally favoured by them has been corrupted by "unscrupulous elements," they assert their moral rectitude at the expense of their reputation for political insight, and the world will be fully justified in refusing for the future to take them at their own exaggerated valuation. The moderate leaders condemned passive resistance, and thereby showed some appreciation of the actual position: the extremists who at first supported that movement have at any rate forfeited their claim to interpret the attitude and the sentiments of the country.

Meanwhile very little information is reaching the public regarding the momentous deliberations in progress on the question of Indian constitutional reform. Some indication of their tendency may perhaps be found in the hint given by *The Times* that the "dyarchy" may have to be adandoned as unworkable, and some simpler alternative chosen, but what that alternative may be, and whether simplicity is attainable in such a matter, are questions on which no light has yet been thrown. Incidentally, we may suggest that the application of the term "dyarchy" to the official proposals is not altogether exact: it fitted the Curtis scheme accurately enough, but Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu provide for at least three authorities, the Government acting as a whole in addition to its two semi-independent branches, and if language is to be extended to fit the facts we should surely speak rather of a "triarchy."

The appointment of Dr. Foss Westcott as Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India and Ceylon is in itself admirable, and should be welcomed with as near an approach to unanimity as is attainable in Anglican circles at the present time. The name of Westcott is a great asset, but the new Metropolitan is very much more than the son of his father, and his long tenure of the see of Chota Nagpur has demonstrated his capacity for even higher office. His administrative gifts were thoroughly tested not long ago, when it became necessary to provide for the welfare of the numerous enemy missions located in his diocese, and we believe the statement to be justified that through his efforts the good features of these institutions were safeguarded, while their dangerous elements were effectively displaced. Under his guidance the interests of the Church in India should be safe.

The sequel to the murder of the late Ameer of Afghanistan is given in a message sent to *The Times* by its Simla correspondent. He reports that at a public durbar at Kabul on April 13, Nasr Ullah Khan, brother of the Ameer Habib Ullah, was found guilty of instigating the murder, and was sentenced to imprisonment for life. A colonel who was accused of actually committing the crime has been executed, and a Court page has been sentenced to imprisonment for life for complicity. The correspondent adds that the news indicates that the new Ameer holds a strong position, "as the small number of persons punished suggests the exercise of marked restraint." As far as it is possible to judge at this distance, Aman Ullah Khan does, in fact, appear to have played a very straight game and to have shown real force of character.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 7.

The Political Situation.

The situation has undergone a dramatic change since I wrote my last letter. It may be as well if, for the purpose of record, I deal with events as they have happened during the past week. As already mentioned, a general strike of Government officials in protest against Lord Curzon's speech was decided upon. Owing to a misunderstanding, the strike started in some administrations on Wednesday, but it became general on Thursday, no work being done in any Government offices. Postal deliveries were suspended, and the telegraph and railway services were run by the military, with the assistance in the latter case of British residents. On the same day a serious collision took place on Abdin Square between the mob and the troops, in the course of which Mr. Dykes, an official of the State Railways, who had been seconded for service in connection with supplies and the police, was killed—it is believed by shots fired from the Palace Barracks—and a number of casualties were inflicted on the mob. It was not until late in the afternoon that order was restored. From that day no hostile gatherings of any importance have taken place; the only form of demonstration being funeral processions organised by the agitators, in which a large number of officials, students, and sympathisers of all classes took part.

The strike of Government employees, which was intended to be a three-day one and started on Thursday, has not ended yet. On Saturday a meeting was held in the Ibn Tulun Mosque, at which a decision was taken to continue the strike indefinitely until such time as Egypt had obtained her independence. The next day the approaches to the Ministries were picketed by the directing committee to prevent any officials attending at their offices. It should be mentioned that the senior officials did not approve of this decision, their view being that the three-day strike had attained the object of calling attention to the solidarity of the native officials with the independence movement, and that the continuation of the strike would serve no useful purpose, but would, in fact, be an unnecessary aggravation of the state of affairs. A meeting was accordingly held on Sunday afternoon, when efforts were made to get this point of view adopted by the opposition; but the latter rejected it. In the end a compromise was effected, in the sense that instead of a strike for an indefinite period the Government employees should absent themselves from work every Monday as a protest until their country had received independence. To-day, therefore, there is again stagnation in all Government offices. Meanwhile reports have shown that complete control has been secured in the provinces, where so far no further incidents of any importance have occurred, and where railway communication on the main lines has been re-established from the ports to Assuan, the last link on the Upper Egypt line having been repaired two days ago.

Two Proclamations.

Last evening the Sultan issued a proclamation to the nation, in which, after stating that he had desired to address these words to his beloved people ever since their national aspirations had been brought to his attention, he assured them of his great love for Egypt and of his keenest desire to assure the well-being and prosperity of his people, and called upon them to assist him to attain this end by refraining from the demonstrations, which had latterly led to regrettable incidents, to maintain complete calmness and serenity, and to attend, each of them, to their customary duties.

To-day this has been followed by a proclamation from the Special High Commissioner. This says:—

> Now that order has been in great measure restored, I declare, in agreement with his Highness the Sultan, that there are no restrictions on travel, and that Egyptians who wish to leave the country will be free to do so. Further, I have decided that Saad Pasha Zaghlul, Ismail Pasha Sidky, Mohammed Pasha Mahmoud, Hamad Pasha El Basel, shall be released from internment and be given similar freedom of movement.

On the contents of this pronouncement becoming known, Cairo—or, rather the Egyptian portion of

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Cairo—went mad, and as I write these lines the outburst of frenzied joy continues, and the streets are filled with crowds of every class and condition, waving flags, branches of trees, beating drums, and shouting "Long live Egypt!" "Long live Liberty!" "Long live Independence!" "Egypt for the Egyptians!" etc.

The early departure of the mail prevents me from recording the comments of the various communities and the real effect which General Allenby's decision has had on the Egyptians.

CAIRO, April 14.

The Week's Developments.

In my last letter I mentioned briefly the outburst of delirious jubilation which followed the publication of General Allenby's Proclamation. Cairo has never witnessed such spectacles as took place during the early part of the week. As soon as the news was known crowds quickly gathered in the centre of the city, flags of every description made their appearance everywhere, and vehicles of every variety packed with shouting natives, *effendis*, students, and Berberines, all equally excited, were careering all over the place, whilst those of the tramcars that were running were taken by assault, and could but very slowly make any progress owing to the extra weight of the people, who scrambled on the roofs and hung on to the sides as best they could. The most remarkable feature of that first afternoon was the passage of a huge crowd before the Sultan's private palace, shouting "Long live Egypt!" "Long live Independence!" "Egypt for the Egyptians!" etc. Each one of them waved a branch torn from the trees in the streets—in certain parts the onslaught on the young trees was so great that not a single one has been left standing—and the effect of this moving forest of waving branches was quite indescribable. Rejoicing was kept up until late at night, and was resumed early next day, when enormous demonstrations were organised both in the morning and the afternoon.

Ugly Demonstrations.

Unfortunately, what started as a peaceful demonstration ended in bloodshed. It is officially stated that the origin of the trouble lay in the fact that among the flags waved by the populace were old Egyptian ones (showing the Crescent and the Star), which were mistaken for Turkish flags by the British soldiers, who resented their appearance, and, trying to snatch them away, came to blows with the demonstrators. While it is quite possible that they mistook the flag—and, as one party of Tommies told me, they objected to having flaunted under their noses the "rag" against which they had fought by men whom they had protected from the horrors of war—at the same time there is no doubt that the people themselves offered serious provocation both by word and by gesture. The crowd at certain points behaved most disgracefully, and as a result of its brutal attacks two British soldiers were beaten to death on Abdin Square, a British officer was dangerously wounded outside the Continental Hotel, and four Egyptian members of the Cairo police and fire brigade were killed.

The next day the funeral of the four last-named victims took place, and the demonstrators, recognising the mistake made in these attacks, attended *en masse*, ostensibly as an act of reparation. This may have satisfied them, but it certainly did not deceive anyone else; for the funeral procession developed into nothing less than another political demonstration. Delegates from every section of the population participated, with the addition of the rabble and a crowd of Azharites, the fanatical excitement of whose gestures and cries, whenever they passed any Europeans, was sufficient to give one furiously to think. Indeed, looking at the procession as it passed, one felt that it only needed one spark for the whole gathering to burst into a flame of fanaticism and run amok in the city. Fortunately, the funeral went off without incident; but it is a matter of regret that one has to record that attacks on British soldiers continued, and those on Armenians and Greeks became more general.

As regards the attacks on British soldiers, these seem to have been directed particularly against men found walking alone. In this connection during the four days (8th to 11th) eight other ranks were murdered and four officers and fifteen other ranks were wounded owing to individual attacks, as distinct from casualties due to collision with the mob. As regards the attacks on Armenians, a systematic search was made for inhabitants of that nationality, and complete lists were drawn up for each street. On Friday, however, the extremists realised that things had perhaps gone too far, and that possibly their cause might suffer from a continuation; and addresses were therefore delivered in the mosques enjoining the people to refrain from murderous attacks, and not to molest the Armenians, while visits of apology for the recent "regrettable incidents" were paid by Egyptians to the Armenian notables. The fact that these attacks on British soldiers and Armenians have ceased since the pronouncement of these addresses would certainly confirm the impression that they were premeditated, organised, and inspired from certain political quarters. It is not improbable that the discovery that the Committee for the Investigation of the Armenian Affairs was in Egypt led the Extremists to cease their attacks on that element of the population.

On Friday morning the members of the Independentist Committee who had obtained permission to leave the country in virtue of General Allenby's Proclamation proceeded to Port Said and embarked on a French steamer for Europe. They will call at Malta, where they will pick up Zaghlul Pasha and his three companions. Care has been taken to make it perfectly clear that they do not go to Europe as a delegation of the Egyptian nation, but that they go each in his private capacity, and as such will be received by whatever authorities care to meet them. There was a large crowd to bid them farewell, but everything passed off in orderly fashion.

The New Cabinet.

Meanwhile, as a natural and logical consequence of General Allenby's Proclamation a new Cabinet has been formed. Negotiations had been in progress for some days, and it was expected that the Proclamation would be immediately followed by the publication of the decree announcing the formation of the new Cabinet. This announcement, however, was not made until Wednesday afternoon, when, together with the decree constituting the Cabinet, was published the correspondence exchanged between the Sultan and the new Prime Minister, Hussein Rushdi Pasha. The latter in his letter accepting office pointed out that it was only in view of the present difficulties and in the hope of being able to find a solution which would content the whole country that he had undertaken the task entrusted to him.

The Prime Minister takes the Portfolio of Education, but only temporarily. It is understood that he has assumed this post in view of the present difficulties with the students, which it is hoped his personal influence will overcome, and that as soon as the atmosphere has been cleared a Minister will be appointed for Education. The reason why Rushdi Pasha has decided to be Prime Minister without portfolio is that the Presidency of the Council nowadays has assumed proportions and entails duties and preoccupations

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which make it impossible for the holder satisfactorily to direct another administration simultaneously.

Yussef Wahba Pasha and Abdel Khalek Saroit Pasha retain their former posts as Ministers of Finance and Justice respectively, whilst Adly Yeghen Pasha takes the important Portfolio of the Interior, where it is generally considered that he should prove a success. Three Ministers are not reappointed—Ismail Pasha Sirry (Public Works, War, and Marine), Ahmed Helmi Pasha (Agriculture), and Ahmed Ziwar Pasha (Wakfs). Of these the best known is Sirry Pasha, who has held the same Portfolio since 1908, and who has taken a useful and prominent share in the Public Works activities of the country. There are thus three new Ministers, Gafar Wali Pasha, who is promoted from Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, where he has shown marked ability, to Minister of Wakfs; Ahmed Midhat Yeghen Pasha, who, after a short career as Governor of Alexandria, becomes Minister of Agriculture; and Hassan Hassib Pasha, who for many years was a Provincial Governor, and recently in receipt of the O.B.E. for his excellent work during the war, is promoted from Mudir of Gharbia to Minister of Public Works, War, and Marine.

It was expected and hoped that the announcement of the formation of a Cabinet headed by Rushdi Pasha would be followed by the return of the officials to their work and the cessation of activities on the part of the lawyers, the students, and the Azharites. But such has not altogether been the case; the officials formulated certain conditions, subject to the acceptance of which they said they would return to their posts; and the students and other elements maintained their hostile attitude in support of them. The Cabinet sat all day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to consider these demands, and on Saturday evening the President of the Council issued an appeal to the nation calling upon the population, including officials, to return to its normal occupation now that Egyptians had been authorised to travel and a Cabinet had been formed which intended to devote itself to the service of the country, was imbued with the sentiments of the nation, and appreciated at their proper value the national aspirations; and pointing out the grave responsibility which the strikers incur by persisting in their strikes. The answer to the appeal has been from the side of the officials a reiteration of their demands, acceptance of which they insist on *in toto*, and a declaration that if any action is taken against any of the strikers they will continue their strike until such time as the action in question is remedied. Here the matter remains for the moment; but it is obvious that something will have to be done to put an end to what is becoming an intolerable state of affairs.



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CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Legislative Council was opened on April 1. A short speech was delivered by the Acting High Commissioner, Mr. M. Stevenson. After expressing the regret felt at the loss of Sir John Clauson, the late High Commissioner, and the profound thankfulness and acknowledgment of the immense debt which the island owes to all sections of His Majesty's forces and those of his Allies for its immunity from the horrors of war, the speaker referred to the report of the Commission appointed in 1917 to inquire into the causes and effects of indebtedness in the island, and to advise what remedial measures are needed for the relief of the poorer classes.

As a result of this report (which has been printed in English, Turkish, and Greek) four Bills are to be submitted to the Council this session—viz., to prevent usury, to amend the law as to dealings between traders and farmers, for the relief of insolvent farmers, and to amend a civil procedure law of 1885. In addition to the usual Appropriation Bills there is a further list of about eighteen others, which includes one to restrict temporarily persons who may engage in business connected with certain non-ferrous metals and metallic ores, one to amend the Cyprian Mining Company, Limited, Law, one to regulate quarries and excavations, and one for the laying of pipes for the purpose of conveying oil.

The present session should be a favourable one for rapid legislation, and it is greatly to be hoped that the proposed Acts for the benefit of the rural population will at last bring a large measure of relief to the agricultural class that has so long suffered from the grinding exactions of money-lenders as their most serious foe.

EXPLORATION IN CENTRAL ARABIA.

Lecturing before the Royal Geographical Society on April 28 Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby described a journey he made in the southern part of the Nejd during May and June of last year. His journey was southwards from Riyadh, the capital of the Wahabi country, to the extremity of the country and back again by a different route. Riyadh itself he described as a walled city of some 12,000 to 15,000 souls, situate in an oasis. It was built of clay without regard to symmetry, and, besides its lofty embastioned walls, contained only three buildings of any importance. Of these one was a fort, the second a mosque, typical for the country—i.e., with a flat roof and short minaret—and the third was the palace of the ruler. Eastwards of Riyadh the desert sloped gradually downwards from an elevation of 2,000 ft. to the shores of the Persian Gulf. Westward the plateau of Tuwaiq extended another twenty miles, rising in a gentle slope another thousand feet, and ended in a steep escarpment, which fell some four hundred feet or more to the western plain. The Tuwaiq, flanked by sand deserts, presented a formidable barrier to an invader from the west. Through it ran the Wady Hanifa, main drainage artery of the country, and on its broad back were clustered the oases which gave the Arabs a respite from their nomad life. Travelling southwards, Mr. Philby reached the town of Kharj. There was, he said, a strong local tradition that the Wady had once been much more thickly populated than now, but that a double scourge of locusts and plague had ruined the oases. Such a theory, while it would account for the sorry state of some places, would not account for the survival of others; and a better explanation was ready to hand. Was it not possible that the Wady had in times past been the scene of one of those devastating floods of which we had accounts from other parts of Arabia? Such a flood would have poured down the narrow channel mercilessly sweeping before it the rich settlements lying in its path, but sparing those it could not reach on account of their greater elevation.

One place which Mr. Philby visited he described as an oasis covered with date palms, where the resident population consisted entirely of people of negro extraction. The absentee owners were a Bedouin tribe, who avoided the cramped life and sickly climate of the valley, and only visited the place once a year at the time of the date harvest to collect their rents. Another oasis, Qurain, was a kind of stud farm. At the time of Mr. Philby's visit there were some fifty animals in the spacious courtyard—stallions, mares and young stock, and even an occasional mule and camel. Each animal was tethered to a stone manger piled twice a day with lucerne. The single groom in charge confessed that he never exercised or groomed the animals, and that the stalls were only cleared of refuse when this became absolutely necessary. Yet the animals seemed none the worse except for a curious ailment attributed to a germ brought in with the lucerne, and which attacked the white parts of their skins, but otherwise did not affect them. At Dilam, a walled town of 7,000 or 8,000 inhabitants, Mr. Philby witnessed a funeral. The local custom, he said, is to dig the grave about five feet deep for a man and a little more for a woman. A raised ledge is left on either side of the body to prevent the whole weight of the earth resting on it. The body is dressed in a complete suit of white, covering every part, except that a small aperture is left over the face of children. If the grave is for a man, when it is filled in, a tiny stone is placed at the head and another at the foot. In the case of a woman a third stone is placed midway between the other two.

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THE NEW ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 9.

Transylvania's Act of Union.

On December 1, 1918, the Constituent Assembly of the Roumanian people of Hungary proclaimed unanimously at Alba Julia the union of Ardeal, Banat, and the Roumanian districts of Hungary with the mother country. This union was proclaimed by the unanimous votes of the 1,280 delegates, representing twenty-seven departments. Over 100,000 Roumanians, gathered together without the historic citadel, acclaimed the Act of Union. The text of the Act is as follows:—

I. The National Assembly of all the Roumanians of Transylvania, Banat, and Hungary, constituted by the lawful representatives assembled at Alba Julia on December 1, 1918, decrees:—

The union of all these Roumanians, and of all the lands inhabited by them, with Roumania. The National Assembly proclaims especially the inalienable right of the Roumanian nation to the whole of the Banat as bounded by the rivers Muresk, Tisa, and Danube.

II. The National Assembly reserves a provisional autonomy for the above-mentioned territories, pending the assembly of the Parliament to be elected on the basis of the universal vote.

III. In connection with these resolutions, as fundamental principles governing the creation of the new Roumanian State, the National Assembly proclaims the following:—

(1) Complete national liberty for all nationalities (inhabiting the above territories). Each nationality shall educate, administer, and judge itself in its own language, through agents chosen by itself; and each nationality shall obtain the right of representation in the Legislative bodies and Government of the country in proportion to the number of individuals constituting the said nation.

(2) Equal rights and full, autonomic, confessional liberty for all religious confessions of the State.

(3) Introduction, in the fullest sense, of a pure democratic régime in every branch of public life: universal suffrage (direct, equal, secret) by communes and by proportion, for both sexes of 21 years, for representation in communes, departments, and Parliament.

(4) Complete liberty of the Press, liberty of association and assembly, free propaganda of all thoughts and convictions common to Man.

(5) Radical Land Reform. By the reduction of large estates the peasant will be in a situation to acquire at least as much ground (plough-land, pasture or forest) as he and his family can cultivate. The guiding principle of this agrarian policy consists, on the one hand, in the promotion of a social levelling; on the other, in the increase of production.

(6) Industrial labour to receive the same treatment as in the most advanced States of the West.

IV. The National Assembly expresses its desire that the Peace Congress shall create the community of free nations in such a manner as to assure justice and liberty for all nations, great and small, and that war shall in the future be eliminated as a means of regulating international relations.

V., VI., VII. Messages of salutation to other States, etc.

VIII. The National Assembly expresses its gratitude and admiration for all the Allied Powers who, by their brilliant struggle carried on with unparalleled tenacity against an enemy prepared for war during many decenniums, have saved civilization from the clutches of barbarity.

IX. For the further management of Roumanian affairs in Hungary, Transylvania, and Banat the National Assembly resolves that there shall be constituted a great Roumanian National Parliament, which shall have entire authority to represent the Roumanian nation anywhere and everywhere, before all the nations of the world, and to take such steps as shall be dictated by the needs of the nation.

Some Statistics of Transylvania.

Ardeal (or Transylvania), Maramuresh, Crishana, and Banat, representing the territory included between the River Tisa (Teiss) and the Carpathians, occupy a surface area of 137,427 square kilometres, of which, from the ethnical standpoint, 118,000 square kilometres are Roumanian. This territory had, according to the last census, 1910, a population of 6,300,000, of which Roumanians form the absolute majority. Such corrections of the official Magyar statistics as it has been possible to make since then—for these statistics, of course, tend to reduce the actual number of Roumanians while exaggerating that of the Hungarian elements—would point to the Roumanian population between the Tisa and the Carpathians as numbering approximately four millions.

A little over one-third of the soil of Ardeal is ploughed, one-third forests, the remainder being used for other purposes. According to recent official statistics, three-fourths of the rural property belong to the inhabitants, while two-fifths are the property of the State, communes, different establishments, churches, schools, and other institutions. The number of rural homesteads amounts to more than a million. One-third of the owners of these have either no land or less than half a hectare, and are consequently obliged to seek employment as agricultural labourers. If we add those who own ½ to 2½ hectares (1-5 jugars; one jugar being a little more than half a hectare) we obtain a total of 50 per cent., which means that one-half of the peasant homesteads have insufficient land attached to them.

Small property (2½ to 50 hectares) represents 48.66 per cent. of the total land. The large property (over 500 hectares), with a total area of two million hectares, is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals, who scarcely represent one-thousandth of the total number of agriculturists. There are only thirty-five large Roumanian landowners, while seventy own estates of intermediate size. The remainder, who constitute the great majority, are either small landowners or owners of homesteads without any land.

The principal cereals cultivated are wheat (over 35 per cent.) and maize (32 per cent.). Before the war the harvests represented a value of over one milliard kronen. Also before the war no less than 67,000 hectares were devoted to the cultivation of the grape, while four million hectares represented the extent of timber land. There were 6,282 kilometres of railways, 47,000 kilometres of roads, and 12,000 kilometres of telegraph and telephone lines. Industrial enterprise has received a relatively wide development. There are over 500 factories of every variety. The number of artisans of all descriptions amounts to 300,000. Mines, quarries, and mineral waters constitute one of the chief sources of the wealth of Translyvania.

Saxon Resolution of Adhesion to Roumania.

Of all the populations of non-Roumanian nationality who become incorporated in Great Roumania the most advanced in every sense are without doubt the Saxons, who have adhered to the union of Ardeal (Transylvania) with Roumania. In the assembly held at Mediash on January 21 they voted the following resolution:—

"Events of world-wide range and importance have created a new situation in the districts in which the Saxon people of Transylvania elected its national home 800 years ago. King Ferdinand of Roumania, by the decree of December 27, 1918, assumed complete dominion over Transylvania. That section of the population of Transylvania and of the districts inhabited by Roumanians which is numerically the most important declared in the National Assembly of Alba Julia the adherence to Roumania of all the regions of Transylvania inhabited by Roumanians. This adhesion of national territories is clearly determined by considerations of an ethnographic character.

"Taking these facts into consideration, and convinced that by virtue of these an ancient ideal finds its realisation and a historic event of universal importance its fulfilment, we, the Saxon people of Transylvania, availing ourselves of the right of nations to dispose of themselves, declare our adhesion to the kingdom of Roumania, and address to the Roumanian people our fraternal salutations and cordial congratulations on the realisation of its national ideals. In taking this step the Saxon people of Transylvania recognises not only the evolution of historic events of world-wide scope, but the natural rights of the Roumanian people to national unity and the foundation of its State as well, and expresses at the same time its immutable hope that the Saxon people and its leaders will place its hereditary virtues at the disposal of the Roumanian people, and will be guided in its relations with the Roumanian people by those sentiments of friendship, abnegation, and justice of which the Saxon people has given evidence in the course of centuries.

"The Saxon people once had a constitutional autonomy of which, in spite of solemn and legal assurances, it has been dispossessed.

"The Saxon people is convinced that the new Roumanian State will offer it and will recognise its claims to all the requirements of its existence. It was affirmed categorically besides in the National Assembly of Alba Julia that every people should have the right to guide itself, to administer its property, to judge itself in its own language and through its own representatives, as well as to be represented proportionately in the legislation and administration which guarantee the autonomy of Church and school and respect for the national liberties, political, economic, and cultural, of the different peoples. The Saxon people adheres to the resolutions voted at Alba Julia to the effect that guarantees should be claimed at the Congress of Peace that equal liberty will be assured to all nations great and small, and sees in this the pledge of lasting peace. The Saxons express their hope and their desire that the other nationalities of Ardeal may rally to this resolution. The Saxon people, conscious of the significance of this resolution, considers itself henceforward as an integral part of the kingdom of Roumania, and regards its sons and daughters as Roumanian citizens. It, therefore, prays the Almighty that this momentous step, which it considers its duty to take, may prove propitious and receive His blessing."

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

In Transylvania.

Since Béla Kun established the proletariat dictatorship in Hungary there has been incessant fighting between the Roumanians and the Magyars. The Hungarian People's Commissaries issued a proclamation which runs:—"The Czecho-Slovak and Roumanian bourgeois bandits want to crush the Hungarian Revolution. We appeal to the Czecho-Slovak and Roumanian soldiers. Turn your weapons against your oppressors! We appeal to the Czecho-Slovak and Roumanian workers and peasants. Throw off the yoke of your oppressors, who, while strengthening their power and filling their pockets, have driven you into war with your brothers." They sent a great number of propagandists into Transylvania and supplied large sums of money for Bolshevist agitation. The Roumanian Government in Transylvania has discovered that the Hungarian banks in Kolozsvar (Chy), as well as in other towns on the borders of Transylvania, were giving financial support to the agitation against Roumanian rule. The Government was compelled to take energetic measures against the agitators, and searched the banks at Kolozsvar, and seized a large number of documents which prove that the Budapest Soviet has been fomenting this chauvinistic propaganda.

Magyar Provocations.

The Magyar chauvinistic propaganda has already produced its effects. It is now fully established that George Pop de Bareshti, the President of the Roumanian National Party, was murdered by Magyar agents sent direct from Budapest. Magyar regulars were sent into the so-called neutral zone in the Roumanian village Radaceu, where the family of Dr. Juliu Maniu, the President of the Roumanian Government in Transylvania, was living. The Magyars arrested the aged mother of Dr. Maniu, his sister, and a niece, tied their hands, and then marched them off on foot to an unknown destination. The other day came the news that the Roumanians had arrested the family of Béla Kun, the Hungarian Foreign Minister. They were compelled to take this extreme step to obtain the liberation of the arrested Roumanians and of the family of Dr. Maniu. Such occurrences make one feel that all discussions concerning the League of Nations and the European Brotherhood are nothing but empty words, and that we are still the sons of the old world, incapable of doing anything better than talking.

Congress of Socialists.

The Socialists from all the Roumanian countries decided to hold a congress in Bucharest on April 8 to discuss the organisation of a general Socialist compaign for the coming elections. The Social Democratic Party of Transylvania issued a manifesto declaring their indissoluble union with the Socialists of Roumania and Bukovina. V. Grigorovich, the leader of the Socialists in Bukovina, and one of the most prominent personalities in the Socialistic movement in the Roumanian countries, has arrived in Bucharest to discuss the general union of the Roumanian Socialist parties. The Socialists of Roumania were not so well organised, and very few of them were the followers of Rakovsky, a doctor from Dobruja, and now the President of the Soviets in the South Russia. Rakovsky was expelled some years ago from Roumania, and this is practically the commencement of his Socialistic career. During his exile he became acquainted with the Socialist leaders of various European countries, and contributed to some Socialist papers in Switzerland, as well as in Austria and Germany. Rakovsky owes his position to the stupid measures of the then Roumanian Government, who pushed him on his way by making him a martyr.

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THE PACT OF LONDON.

THE YUGOSLAV VIEW.

By Dr. Tresic' Pavitchic'.

You know that England and France are bound by the Secret Treaty with Italy in relation to the Adriatic question, and no doubt you cannot ask them to regard it as a mere "scrap of paper," as Germany did in another case. Let us look for a moment at the motives which led the various States to the war.

War was imposed on Serbia because she would not renounce her sovereignty. Russia came forward to protect Serbia and to prevent the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles from falling into German hands; France, because she did not wish to leave in the lurch her Russian ally; Belgium because she did not consent to break her neutrality at the expense of France; England because she had to punish Germany for violating international law; and the United States because they had to punish Germany for her crimes committed against humanity. All these nations entered the war from ideal motives, and the United States, whose entrance decided the issue, did not want any indemnity for themselves, and thus gave proofs of the highest altruism.

Italy bargained with both parties, and seeing that she would get more from the Entente brought to them the Pact of London to sign. At that moment the days were tragically dangerous, and the Governments concerned had not much time to consider whether every detail of it corresponded with natural laws, and especially with the principle of self-determination of peoples. Then the old diplomatic principles still prevailed. Besides, *primum est vivere, deinde philosophari*, and the Governments of the Entente had before them the problem of their existence, and therefore could not have been either quite free in or conscious of what they were doing when signing the treaty. In them the instinct of self-preservation was stronger than the principles of justice.

But Italy neither fulfilled her hopes nor her duties on the battlefield; nor did she keep the treaty, for she occupied Fiume, which she then regarded as not hers, and which she did not require for herself. And by that very treaty it was made impossible for her to justify all her hopes. By it she committed a crime against nature, and no such crime remains unpunished. She committed it by asking for Gorizia, which is purely Slav; by asking for a part of Carniola, where there are no Italians whatever to be found; for the whole of Istria, where the Slavs are in a great majority; and for more than half of Dalmatia, where, as is shown by the plebiscite made recently, only 2 per cent. are Italians, in spite of the terror caused by the Italian occupation. Therefore she had bad luck at Isonzo, and had to pay for her injustice with hundreds of thousands of her sons; being unable, for three years, with her army of millions, to fight some starving, barefoot, and poorly dressed regiments, who knew that they were fighting *pro aris et focis*.

The Treaty of London cannot survive, because it is not based on natural laws, but on a conflict with them; and natural laws will always be stronger than human ones. The sooner men bow before the former the better for them. In that treaty Italy asks a million of the best and the most cultured Yugoslavs to cut themselves off from their national body, and seeks to suffocate their national soul, to impose on them a foreign language, and to rob them of the remnant of their coast, thus making impossible all trade and economic development.

If the diplomatists of the old type who signed that treaty made a mistake, can it bind a modern diplomatist? Can it bind, for instance, Mr. Lloyd George, a modern, highly educated gentleman, moral to the backbone—in one word, one of our most ideal contemporaries, who is very capable of distinguishing human errors from natural laws, and who, with his keen mind, sees the ways of the historic progress and great laws which direct social development? Such a representative of the British people could not possibly allow the formation of a new Austria under the British protectorate, and through it the sowing of the seed of new wars. Is so much blood to have been shed and the ruin of so many trades and States to have been made, only to replace the old evil with a new one? To know the truth and to be unwilling to accept it is worse than sinning. It is no chivalry to stand by a treaty which is based on injustice; it is a crime equal to the German violation of Belgian neutrality. It is as wrong as breaking international treaties to stand by treaties made at the expense of some nation—treaties which are contrary to natural laws and to the interests of humanity, and which would no doubt be the source of new wars. Such narrow-

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mindedness ought not to exist in English and French diplomatists. The retention of the London Treaty would be equally harmful to Italy, too, for it would bring her the hostile feelings of her subjects, which would cost her much economically, and perhaps bring her to war in the future.

By the Treaty of London the Dardanelles belong to Russia, but does Italy care whether this clause is fulfilled? Besides, the Treaty of London neither binds the United States nor ourselves, who never recognised it. We are convinced that President Wilson will fulfil his mission unhesitatingly to the end, for the good of humanity.

THE BALKAN TANGLE: A DREAM.

[The following notes are by a correspondent whose long acquaintance with the Near East lends them particular interest for many of our readers. The views expressed are, of course, the writer's. How far the dream will "come true" remains to be seen.—ED.]

The fire burnt low in the hearth; the low rumble of the city outside acted on the tired mind as a cradle-song; the dwindling light helped to bring sleep to the weary brain: and the Great Man slept. For months he had been trying to solve the problems of the Peace Conference, and the solution of many of them seemed as far away as ever. He was beginning to be discouraged. The public wanted a settlement; his colleagues wanted a settlement; he wanted a settlement. And yet there was no settlement. In his sleep his mind worked as during his waking hours; but, whereas for some weeks he had been concentrating upon the problems presented by Germany, in his sleep his mind appeared to enjoy relaxation by going over the eternal difficulties presented by the Balkans and Turkey. All appeared so easy, and he smiled at the manner in which obstacles melted away before the courage to come to decisions which, awake, was wanting in all the Delegates. It was clear to him that the weakness he and his colleagues had shown was in the desire they had of offending nobody. And in his dream the Balkan and Turkish questions were settled, and on the whole the settlement gave satisfaction, for it was based upon equity within the principle of the self-determination of peoples.

His mind followed the countries from west to east and settled each problem as it came to him. To Greece he declared should be given the Dodecanese and Cyprus; for were they not inhabited by Greeks, and were they not islands and the Greeks a maritime people? But otherwise there should be no change in the frontiers of that country. Albania should have the boundaries given her by the Treaty of London in 1912, and the United States should teach her to govern herself, applying among the wild tribes of the mountains the principle which has knit Switzerland together. Serbia would be one of the elements forming the new Yugoslav State; and in his dream the Yugoslavs and Italians on the one hand, and the Yugoslavs and Roumanians on the other, agreed with respect to boundaries. Fiume under the Yugoslav flag and Trieste under the Italian flag became the two great free ports of the Adriatic. Salonika under the Greek flag, Kavalla and Dedeagatch under the Bulgarian flag, also grew and flourished under the blessings of unhampered trade and freedom for all the world to buy and sell within their respective municipal areas. Macedonia, that pile of stones left over (according to tradition) when the Almighty finished the work of making the world, was left within the borders of Yugoslavia; and the Strumnitza triangle was cut off from Bulgaria, who was told that she must finally and for ever renounce her ambitions westward. Thus was she punished for her perfidy. Her schools and churches converted to Yugoslav schools and churches, the Macedonian, who is Serb, or Bulgarian, or Greek, would thus have an undisturbed opportunity of development.

Bulgaria—the Great Man moved restlessly in his chair. His sleep was troubled. Bulgaria had been false to her traditions—she had been responsible for much that was evil during the war. He smiled—the spirit of the future and not of the past came to the rescue: the Turks as a Government were to leave Europe, anyway. The breath of the Ægean was necessary to the health of Bulgaria. Her virile, hardworking people, left alone to develop within reasonable frontiers, would mean quiet in the "cockpit of Europe." And so the Great Man fixed the boundary along the Enos-Midia line, while Roumania, now joined to her compatriots in Transylvania and the Eastern Banat, declared her agreement to return the Southern Dobruja up to about ten miles south of the Constantza-Bucharest railway to Bulgaria. The pleasure at this voluntary offer by Roumania caused a wave of joy to pass over the face of the Great Man, and in his sleep a sigh of satisfaction escaped him as he realised that the spirit of the past was dying among politicians even as it was among the peoples.

Trouble appeared on his quiet face as his mind went eastward and southward of the Enos-Midia line. Constantinople, that conglomeration of races and peoples; Constantinople, the city of intrigues, of ——. A light seemed to come from somewhere. Constantinople had always been the happy hunting-ground of intriguers of all outside Powers. Let Constantinople become a State—a Republic. Rapidly in his dream the idea developed until a concrete scheme stood out clearly and burnt itself into his brain:—1. A Republic of Constantinople. 2. Its frontiers: Enos-Midia and Chilé, Ismidt, Brussa, Bali-Kissar, Dalian, opposite the island of Tenedos. 3. A President, elected by the inhabitants from three candidates offered by the League of Nations. 4. A chamber of ten Turks, eight Greeks, six Armenians, four Jews, four each Americans, British, French, Italians, Germans. The smaller nations with smaller colonies to have one or two members each. In each case the members to be elected by the respective colonies. 5. A Ministry selected by the President, but dependent upon the goodwill of the Chamber. 6. An American gendarmerie (10,000) to maintain order. Seven hundred and fifty to return to their homes each year, and 1,000 to be recruited each year from among the native inhabitants and incorporated in the American police. Thus in ten years the locally-recruited men of 10,000 would have 2,500 American officers, non-commissioned officers, and some men. In the following five years a further reduction of 2,000 to be arranged, and by the end of twenty years the whole gendarmerie to be a wholly local force. 7. All fortifications destroyed, and the city the greatest and freest city of the world. 8. The Palace of Dolma Baghtché to become the seat of the executive of the League of Nations, thus giving to the whole scheme that moral force which is the great feature of the Great Idea.

The map of Asia Minor came into the vision of the Great Man. The ghosts of the massacred called aloud for protection for their descendants. The proposal to give the western shores to Greece caused an expression of anxiety to come over the face of the Great Man. He saw the future troubled by the fact that thus the small Greek nation would have over a million Turks as their subjects; he saw eight or ten million Turks in Asia Minor tyrannising over the Greeks remaining under their yoke. He saw the eternal pressure of these million Turks scheming and intriguing, supported in their schemes and intrigues by outside influences. He could not understand, try as he would, the vision of the man who was leading his people to such a future. War, massacres, raiding bands from each side crossing the new boundaries, burning and pillaging—all these came up before him, and his sleep became troubled again. The Greek claims came rapidly under review, and he saw the same bloodshed and life of terror in Thrace, should these claims have been agreed to; and thanked God that sweet reasonableness had finally prompted the retention of the Ægean Coast as far as the Enos-Midia line by Bulgaria. Asia Minor—in his trouble he turned to that home of justice and liberty, and made a great appeal. His face flushed; he seemed to be filled with emotion; an expression of earnest entreaty pervaded his whole countenance. And then relief—America had agreed. She accepted the mandate. She would control Armenia and Asia Minor. She would encourage emigration. She would help, financially and in every way, the transfer of Greeks from Thrace, from the highlands of Asia Minor, from the Black Sea littoral to the western shores of Asia Minor. Likewise she would encourage and help Turkish emigration from Thrace and western Asia Minor to the highlands of Anatolia; and exchange of the same character would be assisted in every way across the borders between Armenia and Anatolia on the one hand, and between Armenia and Kurdistan on the other. In this way, under the careful guidance of wise rulers, would be set up homogeneous peoples, which before the term of the mandate was completed would be free of the various *irredenta*, and in the case of western Asia Minor would be truly ripe and ready to be joined up to the motherland. Wealthy, numerous, happy, these people would, with their brethren across the Ægean, truly continue the glory of Ancient Greece.

The Great Man slept quietly; the other portions of the Turkish Empire, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, were to be guided to full independence under the mandate of France and England by mutual agreement, and did not cause him trouble.

He woke—the fire was nearly out—a cold chill struck him; but he was content, being still under the influence of his dream. And then with a shock he realised that it was but a dream; that he still had hours of battle before him; that the jealousies and intrigues of Paris, 1919, resembled those of Vienna, 1815. And he shuddered; for he realised that, if Paris in 1919 did not bring forth a better offspring than did Vienna in 1815, the peoples would not wait for the next war to clear the world of cant, but would do it now, in a form more terrible than even that of Lenin and Trotsky, and that the sacrifices of the last five years would have been in vain. He braced him, and went to the next Conference with great heart and determined courage.

W. G. M. E.

BRITISH VOLUNTEERS.

Large numbers of men now in India have voluntarily undertaken to remain during the continuance of the present unrest. There is, however, some anxiety among them lest their chances of employment on their return home should be prejudiced by this action, and it is hoped that employers, realising that these men have volunteered to remain from patriotic motives and in the interests of the Empire, will see to it that they are not subjected to the risk of unemployment on their return.

The men have asked that their case should be put before their fellow-countrymen, and the War Office does this with full confidence in the patriotism and sense of fair play of the men's employers.

In the rear of General Dënikin's Volunteer Army in the Caucasus Georgian levies have advanced towards Sochi and Gagri, on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, 160 and 140 miles south-west of Batoum, and have occupied the line of the Mekhadir River, 23 miles south-east of Sochi. General Thomson, commanding the British forces in the Caucasus, has taken measures to stop this advance and to bring hostilities to an end. This attack by the Georgians, which is attributed to Bolshevist agitation, appears to be entirely unprovoked, but it is stated that General Thomson's action has been successful in clearing up the situation.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

ITALY AND THE YUGOSLAVS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of March 20, Mr. Virginio Gayda presented to your readers the Italian side of the Italo-Yugoslav problem. In order that they may form an impartial judgment, I beg you to allow me to answer Mr. Gayda from the Yugoslav standpoint.

Mr. Gayda took pains to explain in detail why Italy could not accept the proposed arbitration of President Wilson. But his arguments belong to the old school of diplomacy. He speaks of the "necessity to prevent enemies and rebels from resuming their intrigues," of Cyprus, Tunisia, and Malta, of the "interests of all countries," etc. Malta, Tunisia, and Cyprus have nothing to do with the Italo-Yugoslav question. The Peace Conference has to deal with and decide regarding the territories for which the war was fought and won. Malta, Cyprus, etc., forming parts of Allied territory, cannot be drawn into the discussion at this moment. They may form subjects for deliberations of the League of Nations at a later date, but now to try to bring them into the discussion means that every argument is good for a bad case. And Italy's case is certainly bad if she, with unrelenting stubbornness, refuses to accept: 1. The plebiscite; 2. The neutralisation of the Adriatic; 3. The arbitration of President Wilson.

It is evident that Italy's case has no leg to stand on, and for that reason she clings to the Pact of London as a drowning man clings to a straw. If the claims embodied in the Pact of London cannot stand the test of the plebiscite or of Mr. Wilson's arbitration, that means that they are unjust. If "strategic fears" cannot accept the neutralisation of the Adriatic, that means that they are unfounded. Even one hundred signatures set to a treaty cannot make right what is wrong. And even a plain man can see that the sanctioning of the London Pact will cause a future war.

But what is the Pact of London in substance? A bargain. Italy first negotiated with Austria; then she turned towards the Allies, who, hard pressed, believed that with her help the war would be ended soon, and agreed to what Baron Sonnino demanded. But Italy brought no decision; the London Pact proved futile; Italy was forced to fight for life, as were England and France. A new power was needed to bring about a decision. That power was Mr. Wilson and his principles. Mr. Wilson undermined Austria-Hungary and decided the issue of the struggle. The Pact of London prolonged the war, imperilled the victory. Wilsonian principles won the war. How can the Pact of London hold good any longer? How can Italy expect the fulfilment of the promise contained in the Pact, if she did not fulfil her promise of deciding the issue? What Italy did not, America did. Consequently the peace must be concluded in the spirit of those great principles which brought victory to the Allies and freedom to the oppressed nations.

But let us be more explicit. Mr. Wilson should decide between two Allies—Italy and Serbia. Italy fought to free her brethren from the Austrian yoke; so did Serbia to free Serbians, Croats, and Slovenes. If Italy sacrificed 500,000 in dead, Serbia sacrificed 1,300,000, in a population of 5,000,000. Mr. Gayda says that Croats and Slovenes fought four years against Italy and Serbia. Technically that is true. But against whom fought 800,000 Austrian-Italians? Also against Italy, Serbia, and the Entente. Now, I should like to know, according to what principle Mr. Gayda demands that Croats and Slovenes who want to be—who have already—united with Serbia, should be considered as enemies, and Austrian-Italians as friends. Mr. Gayda, as one well acquainted with Austria-Hungary, will not deny to 100,000 Serbians of North Dalmatia their Serbian nationality. Yet Italy wants them.

As to Croats and Slovenes fighting against Italy and Serbia, Yugoslavs have an eloquent answer which Italy cannot refute: among Yugoslav war prisoners in Italy, 50,000 of them announced their readiness to join their Serbian brethren and fight against Italy's enemy—Austria. It was the Italian Government which frustrated their ardent wish. Italy would not allow Dalmatians and Slovenes to fight against Austria, because they wanted to fight side by side with their Serbian brothers; which would have been a proof that they really wanted to "become a part of Serbia."

Mr. Gayda prefers to ignore the fact that Croats and Slovenes have already united with their Serbian brethren into the kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; that they have a joint government and a joint Parliament holding its sessions at this very moment. As a fit answer to Italian "doubts" whether Croats and Slovenes wish to be united with their Serbian brethren, I may quote the fact that all the political parties of the three branches of our race sitting in our Parliament united in one single address in answer to the Speech from the Throne. The United States of America have recognised our State; so have Norway, Greece, Switzerland, Poland, and Czecho-Slovakia. Italy, Serbia's ally, persists in refusing that recognition, and it is owing to her efforts that England and France continue to withhold theirs. Italy, a country which the principle of nationality brought into existence, is denying the same right to our nation!

In fine, let me say that all Italian "rights" to Yugoslav territories are mere masks under which hide base material aims. Italy wants Fiume not because it contains 15,000 "Italians," but because it is the *unique* port of Yugoslavia. English commercial circles should see to it lest they be shut out of every competition in Yugoslavia, so rich in natural resources.

By solving the Italo-Yugoslav problem on just lines, Italy and Yugoslavia can be not only friends, but even allies, united in common defence against German peril; otherwise they will be eternal enemies. Yugoslavs under guidance and leadership of Serbia can be either a formidable ally or a formidable foe. Croats and Slovenes are worthy brothers to Serbs. This war has shown what they can do. We desire to be friends of Italy, and Italy should desire that too. But we cannot be friends unless in possession of what a plebiscite or President Wilson—which for us means the same thing, so sure are we of our cause assigns to us and to Italy. We want fair play—that is all. Let the people themselves decide, or let Mr. Wilson be the referee, because there is no other way which could lead to a peaceful solution.—I am, etc.,

T. F. VUKITCH.

Belgrade, Serbia, April 2, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly give me, as a native of Cyprus, space to enlighten the readers of THE NEAR EAST on some facts relating to the future of that island?

First, I wish to deal with the reply of M. Alexander Callinicos in your issue of February 21 to a very admirable letter by your correspondent I can see nothing more "startling" than that any person living at Manchester, one of the best cities of the world, should advance himself as a champion of the Greek cause, and should advocate the cession of Cyprus by the British, without any original knowledge of the history, civilisation, and sentiments of its inhabitants. Emphasising the fact that Cyprus has never been rightly possessed by Greece, I would ask why Mr. Alexander Callinicos was unable to give us the name of that authoritative history to which he refers? He at least grants that Cyprus was not politically connected with Greece: what right, then, have the Greeks of to-day to demand a political annexation?

But, let us suppose that Cyprus had been possessed and ruled by Greece for many years; even then it must be known that the Greece of to-day is not the Greece of old, nor the population of Cyprus those that lived here before Christ. Who dares to say, without any ethnological and historical investigations, that the majority of the Greeks of Cyprus are the descendants of Odysseus and Plato? They are Greeks, not by nationality, but by religion. They have not reached such a high standard of civilisation as to have the right of "self-determination." Their civilisation and feelings are illustrated in their publications of the last twenty years. The collections of *Phone*, *Elefteria*, *Patris* and others must be carefully read to see what infamous blasphemy is poured against their Moslem compatriots, even under the rule of the most humane government.

Perhaps there are a few exceptions, but these papers have for years educated Greeks to hate Moslems, so that to-day the greatest pleasure of many Greeks is to injure a Moslem. There are some Greek gentlemen, I am pleased to say, but the majority, especially of the villagers, are not sufficiently civilised to conceive of the natural rights of man, or to regard the self-respect of a Moslem. A few months ago I myself was insulted badly by a Greek guardian before the Statue of Venus, in the Cyprus Museum.

I shall not record the pitiful experiences of many Moslems, but I would request the Commissioners of the Peace Conference to investigate the real impulse of Greeks in seeking to dispose of the British administration. If they had the feelings of Greek nationality, first of all they would send their sons to Oxford and Cambridge to learn the meaning of "Liberty and Patriotism" in the original language of Socrates and Leonidas. Greeks, before demanding the annexation of Cyprus, must endeavour to have the humane feelings of Socrates, the justice of Aristides, and the language of Aristotle.

I cannot think that President Wilson has advised that every people, without restrictions and exceptions, should be given the right of "self-determination." He must surely know that this would turn the world topsy-turvy. What would America be to-day if the Indians were given the right of self-determination against the English colonists? Civilisation and education have widened with the dawn of colonisation. Every colonist is not a Stephano.

In these circumstances Great Britain should retain Cyprus, not only for political reasons, but *as her sacred duty* to guard the complete safety of thousands of Moslems who have been her loyal subjects consistently for forty years; and this surely *is not* "*Imperialism.*"—I am, etc.,

M. NEJMI BODAMIABIADE.

Paphos, Cyprus, March 24, 1919.

THE QUESTION OF THE DOBRUJA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to correct the following errors which occurred in my letter published in THE NEAR EAST of April 25? "Professor Ischirkoff" instead of "Tschirkoff." "In spite of the strongest protest made by the Patriarch of Constantinople" instead of "in fact, by the Patriarch of Constantinople."—I am, etc.,

THE WRITER OF THE NOTE IMPUGNED.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Evil Spirits in the Orient.

In the *Moslem World* of April the Rev. George White, D.D., has written a curiously informative article on "Evil Spirits and the Evil Eye in Turkish Lore." The author, who writes from Marsovan, Turkey, knows well the Oriental mentality, the habits of which he describes plainly and fairly. At the commencement of his article he says:—

Turkish *jinns* of modern times differ from their cousins, the *genii* of Arabian Nights stories, in that they work only harm to men. Anatolians have no trouble with the belief in a personal devil and his demon legions, which is the background of what we find in the Gospels on this subject. To the ordinary people of the country, earth and air and sky are peopled with spirits malign as well as benign, and to neutralise the one is quite as important as to utilize the other.

Fear of the evil eye appears to be an ineradicable characteristic of the people, especially in Asia Minor:—

It becomes serious business to break, or better yet to avoid, the wiles of the *jinn* and the spell of the evil eye. One method, naturally, is to invoke the aid of saints and all good powers. The Moslem teacher, Solomon *Hoja*, after relating that the earth is full of *jinns*, said that to avoid danger when one goes out at night he should "read" constantly, at any rate he should read (that is, repeat sacred passages from memory) just as he leaves the house door, and particularly as he puts on his shoes. If he does so he is safe for that walk, especially if he also gently blows in different directions, for blowing the breath is very efficacious in warding off evil spirits, as also is spitting in any direction from which they may be feared. Amulets and charms are very powerful, and their use is all but universal.

Piles of small stones are often seen by the roadside, and passers-by heap them higher by adding a stone or two to secure "traveller's luck." One theory is that the pile of stones holds the evil spirits down, and prevents their doing harm to people from home. If by casting a small stone on a pile a wagoner may secure protection for a mile, it is a cheap form of insurance, when on any mile of the road a horse may sicken, the wagon break down, or robbers waylay the driver.

It is strange to read of the methods employed to ward off the evil eye:—

To keep the evil eye from a child, blue beads are put upon it; to avert it from a field, garden, tree, or threshing-floor, a skull of some animal is erected on a pole; to counteract its influence on a mill, a great placard with the words "wonder of God" is nailed to the roof; to protect a dwelling, a bunch of garlic or a pair of deer's antlers is fixed in a conspicuous place; to prevent milk from souring, bits of charcoal are laid upon it; to protect a camel, its saddle is made of a particular kind of wood; and so forward *ad infinitum*. People's notions and fears of the evil eye vary with their environment and the degree of their intelligence, but there is no marked difference traceable to religious connection.

I was once asked by a villager, whom I had never seen before, to tie a knot on a string he had wound around his wrist. It seems he had malaria, attributed it to some evil influence, and thought he might use me to bind the spell. His notion was, perhaps, not that I would hold an acceptable brief for him with the super-human powers, but that I, as a Christian, would be so *unacceptable* as to attract the evil being, and release him. I would thus render a service similar to that performed by a skull planted on a pole in a garden, whose unsightliness transfixes the evil eye, and leaves the tender plants to grow without harm.

Almost the whole life of many of these people is passed in bondage to fear. Hence the frantic and earnest expedients to gain the intercession and influence of beneficent spirits.

On the whole, the power most trusted, whether as a prophylactic against or as a remedy for the ill-effects of evil spirits or evil eyes, is "reading"—that is, reciting from some of the sacred books. If a sheep does not come in from its pasturage at nightfall, read to protect it. Then if a wolf pursues, it cannot catch the sheep; if it catches, cannot bite it; if it bites, cannot pull its teeth out; and the sheep will reach home dragging the wolf as its victim, or rather as the victim of the powerful reading. If the charm does not work—God knows best.

Christians of Asia Minor.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on April 22, says that much comment has been aroused in Christian circles by a speech by Dr. Gates, the Principal of the Roberts College, on the Armenian question. In this speech Dr. Gates said he was convinced that an independent Armenia was useless, and that though Turkey must be placed under the administration of a strong Christian country, she must remain an integral whole. The Greeks and Armenians view this attitude with alarm, but the correspondent knows well the consequences of breaking down the power of Turkey. He says:—

The delay of the Paris Peace Conference in fixing the terms of peace has given time to the Committee of Union and Progress to complete their arrangements. To my mind there is absolutely no doubt that if the terms of peace are not satisfactory to the Turks there will be a general massacre throughout the country. In Armenia, where the Turks, as the result of the war and its horrors, are at present in a large majority, the Armenians will be massacred to a man. Should the Conference give the vilayet of Smyrna to the Greeks a similar massacre will take place unless the Greeks are allowed to take adequate precautions for their defence. In Thrace, if that province should be assigned to Greece, the Bulgarians will immediately declare war with the sole purpose of exterminating the Greek population still remaining. The Committee of Union and Progress have made all the necessary preparations. Using the examples of Russia and Germany, two huge nations best known to the average Turk, their leaders, officers on the retired list, preach the doctrine of the division of all wealth. Coupled with this doctrine is the theory that the Christian races are the owners of wealth, and the result will be racial and religious massacres. The Turkish population is well armed.

The country, the writer continues, is infested with brigands, and the conscription of Christians continues. He concludes:—

In many villages the population are so terrified that they dare not cultivate their fields, with the result that unless something is done there will be a bad shortage in this year's harvest. Against brigands the Christians can do little. They are disarmed, and it would seem impossible to disarm the Turks. Only where the Allied troops are stationed is there any comparative safety of life or property. Such are the conditions of Asia Minor at the present time, and they will get worse and worse in the interior until a Mandatory Power is nominated, and till that Power can take such steps as will give security to the Christians of the country.

Article to Note.

"British Rule in Egypt," by Judge Erik Sjöborg (the Swedish delegated judge on the Mixed Tribunals of Egypt from 1913 to 1918). in *The Times* (April 30).

VICTORIA COLLEGE, ALEXANDRIA.

As many of our readers know, Victoria College has during the war been used as a hospital. It is now shortly returning to its normal use. Mr. Barker, the chairman of the committee, has received letters from Major-General R. H. Luce, D.M.S., E.E.F., and from Colonel T. B. Beach, A.D.M.S., Alexandria District. The first one states. "In handing back the Victoria College School to the managers after the four years it has been so generously placed at the disposal of the Army, I wish to convey to them our high appreciation of the generosity and sacrifice, not only of the managers, but of the parents of the students which this has involved. It has proved an admirable hospital, and has done splendid work, so that they will have the further satisfaction of knowing that their generosity has been of the utmost value to the sick and wounded soldiers who have passed through it."

The second runs: "I have much pleasure in forwarding herewith letter of thanks by the D.M.S., E.E.F., to all concerned in the loan of the Victoria College Schools to the Army Authorities for use as a hospital. It will probably be of interest to you to know that the total number of officers and other ranks admitted to the hospital has been 82,602."

EARLY CENTRAL ASIA.

At the School of Oriental Studies, London, on Wednesday, Sir E. Denison Ross delivered an address on the migrations in early times of the hordes of Central Asia. Investigation tended to show, he said, that the people of Central Asia originated nothing in the way of civilisation, but they assimilated well and developed what they got from others. Thus, those who settled in Persia were Hellenised after the conquest of Alexander. Later their descendants were Persianised and finally Turkicised. After experiences of this sort, some of these people would return to their original home; with the result that you found in Tartary the remains of vast literatures in languages which it had never been suspected had been written down at all, a most interesting development of art, and an extraordinary religious toleration—half a dozen different religions in one small town.

Speaking of the origin of the Turks, he said that we early heard of their ancestors, the Hsing-tu, settled around Lake Balkash. The Chinese wall, which had been built about 250 B.C., isolated the Chinese and drove westward the Turko-Mongolian hordes which had previously overrun the country. One result was the sacking of Rome by Attila, but the normal course of a horde was to cross the desert of Gobi, make its way by either the northern or southern road between the mountains of Central Asia, and settle in the more fertile country of Persia or Mesopotamia. In the sixth century we heard of the ancestors of the Turks under the name of Tu-kueh, when they rose to power which they retained until the eighth century.

Sir George Macartney followed with a few remarks, saying that he had lived a good many years in Kashgar; but that during the whole of the time he had heard nothing about the Tu-kueh or other early peoples that had been mentioned. The present inhabitants of the town know nothing about their origin.

The members of the Yugoslav colony in London have sent the following telegram to President Wilson:—"The Yugoslav colony in London congratulate you and thank you for your admirable manifesto to the Italian people, with whom the Yugoslav wish to live in sincere and permanent friendship on the basis of justice and self-determination of nations."

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

According to Tchicherin, one of the Russian Bolshevist leaders, Asia Minor is now the proud—or the reverse—possessor of Soviets of its own, and "a revolutionary committee has been appointed in Constantinople." Of course, it was bound to come, sooner or later; and my only wonder is that it did not come long ago. For the peccant Pashas, yearning for the Good Old Days of the Bastinado and Bakshish, must be very ready to welcome the Bolshevists and all their beastlinesses; though, as I have suggested before, the most case-hardened Pasha would probably jib at the average Bolshevist's nasty ideas about marriage. As to the "revolutionary committee" in Constantinople, I wonder which one the Bolshevist Foreign Commissary referred to. Enver and Co. used to call themselves a revolutionary committee, I fancy; but they have retired from business, with a snug little bit of profit, if accounts are true. And though there may be many adventurous souls who would be ready to take their place if only it could be done with safety, I do not find it easy to picture the Bolshis tumbling over one another in their anxiety to try conclusions with the Allied warships that are now ready to blow Constantinople to smithereens if that should become necessary. I am not surprised, therefore, that Tchicherin's statement is not endorsed by those in a position to know the truth.

***

A correspondent writes:—"What is all this scare about rabies? It is quite right to take precautions, but in the first instance the guilty ones are those who brought dogs over from the Continent and avoided the quarantine in some way or other. Now our poor English dogs have to suffer. But there is no need of any scare. I lived in Constantinople for half a century, and, as everyone knows, that was the city 'par excellence' for dogs. Hundreds were in the streets, ownerless, unmuzzled, never undergoing quarantine! Yet I may truthfully say the cases of rabies were very few, perhaps one or two every three or four years. Then the dogs were seized and shot. If any persons were bitten they were at once treated according to the Pasteur system, and I can recall only one fatal case of hydrophobia, which occurred over twenty years ago. I think that whilst persons who have been bitten by a mad dog are under treatment, they have to be careful not to touch cold water. The word hydrophobia itself implies a fear of water (*hydro:* water, and *phobos:* fear—pronounced 'fovos'). I believe I am correct in stating that patients being treated for this terrible disease will, once they touch water, develop madness and even bark and bite like a dog." My correspondent is quite right: there is no need of a scare. Yet I, who yield to no man in my love for dogs, support wholeheartedly an universal muzzling of dogs at the present time. And on this point I know I am at one with the vast company of dog-lovers in this country."

***

Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. Newcombe, D.S.O., who was married to Miss Elsi Chaki at St. Margaret's, Westminster, a fortnight ago, must be, I think, an Englishman of the type of Burton (Sir Richard) and Kitchener. That is to say, he must have the Orient in his bones, as some of us seem to have it; though not all of us who have it turn it to such good account as the gallant colonel has done. His adventures in Turkey as a prisoner of war make up a really romantic story, even as told in the Press; and his escape and his subsequent share in bringing about the armistice with Turkey put in the shade many a romance. How he came to be taken prisoner I do not remember. But unless I am very much mistaken he was just before the war engaged on the important survey of the Sinai Peninsula and the desert between Egypt and Southern Palestine. In the introduction to the P.E.F. Annual for 1914-15, "The Wilderness of Zin," he is referred to in glowing terms by Mr. (now Colonel) T. E. Lawrence, who has since so greatly distinguished himself with the Emir Faisal and our Arab Allies. Praise from Colonel Lawrence in such matters is praise indeed, and this is part of what he wrote of Colonel (then Captain) Newcombe:—"He was ambassador for all of us to Arab tribes and to Turkish officials, and managed both, leaving behind him a reputation which will smooth the way of any future English traveller in the desert. . . . Off by dawn with guides and instruments, he would return to camp at dark, and work perhaps till midnight, arranging and calculating and recording for the benefit of other parties." It was clear from what Mr. Lawrence wrote that Captain Newcombe was no mere routine soldier, and though he has had some bad luck, he has certainly justified the hopes of those who expected him to distinguish himself in the war.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR.*

In this small volume of "Recollections" Monsieur Take Jonescu shows that his journalistic sense is as strongly developed as his statesmanhip. He recognises the value of the personal element in public affairs, and he has collected here a series of sketches and conversations bearing on the war and in particular on Roumanian and Balkan affairs as linked with it. We are introduced to a number of interesting personalities belonging to the Central Powers—Prince Lichnowsky, Count Tisza, Count Czernin, Baron Banfy, Prince von Bülow—and to others, such as M. Venizelos and Talaat Pasha. In each case the author has a definite contribution to make to our knowledge of the subject of his sketch. Most of the chapters have already appeared in print in a Roumanian journal, but M. Take Jonescu has done well to collect them in book form (as a preface, he tells us, to a volume on the origins and events of the war), as many have a distinct historical importance. An uncompromising patriot, he has been an active agent abroad on behalf of his country, and without doubt has been able to disseminate in Great Britain especially a wider knowledge of the affairs of South-Eastern Europe.

A THREAD-BARE THEME.†

Here is a story, for those who are able to read it, of that kind of love which in modern times serves as the basis of most novels. The fate of an American athlete is moulded in turn by a spotless maiden, a low Cairo dancer, a common type of French girl, a most dashing (and titled, of course) English female, and finally by the European War. None of the inelegant words which the author wastes upon his hero can convince us that Frederick Dayton is anything but a worthless creature, pitiably and avoidably weak; and the lush sentences which are poured round the heroine are like syrup without pudding. Into the book are placed (obviously with a view to later editions) inexpert descriptions of a life about which many are prurient enough to read, but into which few are daring enough to enter. The rich Americaness, the poor Cairo dancing girl, the wicked, passionate Englishwoman—these types people meet daily in modern novels, but how many times in real life? The effects upon man's nature resulting from bumping up against the various and eternal types of the female of itself has never been a worthy theme, and it is now worn threadbare. And this book is merely the wrapping up of that theme in garments so shabby and disreputable that it is no fault of the author if parts are seen which were best left covered. Neither wit nor seriousness, neither information nor imagination, neither boldness nor discretion, is to be found in "His Daughter."

BOOK NOTES.

"The Oxyrhynchus Papyri," Part XIII., edited by B. P. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt, has recently been published by the Egypt Exploration Fund, Græco-Roman branch, at 25s.

The Columbia University Press of New York have published, at 6s. 6d. net, "Aram and Israel; or, The Aramæans in Syria and Mesopotamia," by Emil G. H. Kraeling, Ph.D.

M. Dupont, 4, Rue du Boulnoi, Paris, publishes for Le Conseil National de l'Unit Roumaine a study of "La Roumaine nouvelle et ses problemes Vitaux" ("The New Roumania and her Vital Problems"), an address delivered by Dr. Nicolas Lupu on February 23.

* "Souvenirs." M. Take Jonescu. (Paris: Payot et Cie. Frs. 4.50.)
† "His Daughter." By Gouverneur Morris. (London: Collins. 6s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. May	1919. April.		1337. Shaaban.	5679. Iyar.
2	19	Friday	2	2
3	20	Saturday.....	3	3
4	21	Sunday	4	4
5	22	Monday	5	5
6	23	Tuesday	6	6
7	24	Wednesday	7	7
8	25	Thursday	8	8

The Roumanian Minister returned to London on April 29 from Paris.

Lady Evelyn Cobbold and Miss Pamela Cobbold have arrived at Claridge's Hotel.

Mr. W. Bevan, Director of Agriculture in Cyprus, is at present on leave in England.

The Greek Minister arrived at the Legation, 25, Knightsbridge, on April 28, from Paris.

Lord Dalmeny left England on May 1 for Egypt to serve on the High Commissioner's staff.

Prince and Princess George Bibesco arrived in London on April 25 from the Continent.

Brigadier-General Lord Montague, Adviser on Mechanical Transport Services in India, has arrived in London from India.

Sir William Brunyate, Judicial Adviser in Cairo, who has been seriously ill, left for England on April 25 with Lady Brunyate.

Lord and Lady Pentland left Madras for England on March 29 in the B.I. ss. Chindwara.

Prebendary Gough is starting shortly for Constantinople on a visit to the Army of Occupation. He expects to be absent for five or six weeks.

Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta, expects to leave for England at any moment. General Plumer, who succeeds him, will arrive in June next.

The marriage of Sir Berkeley Pigott, Bart., 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers, and Miss Christabel Bowden-Smith took place on April 21, at the Catholic Church, Naini Tal, India.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania arrived in London on April 27 from Plymouth, where he has been visiting Lady Beatrice Pole-Carew. He was met by Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché.

The engagement is announced of (Temporary) Captain James Elmslie Henderson, M.C., R.A., Egyptian Civil Service, only son of the Rev. George Henderson, B.D., Monzie, Scotland, and Edith Mary (Maidie), elder daughter of H. Michael Elliott, Hallamgate Road, Sheffield.

The marriage was celebrated on March 8, at Patiala, Punjab, India, by the Rev. A. Douglas, between Neil Christian Gude, 21st Cavalry, F.F., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Gude, Trondhjem, Norway and Eileen Frances, elder daughter of Lieut.-Colonel D. T. Lane, I.M.S., and Mrs. Lane, Patiala, Punjab, and Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Ireland.

In place of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Decies, Major Bryan Ricco Cooper, D.L., has been appointed to the post of Press Censor in Ireland. Major Cooper, who has an estate in County Sligo, served with the 10th Irish Division in Gallipoli and Serbia.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of April 4 reports that Mrs. Walter Davies, who is at present at the Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, is stated to be recovering from the wounds inflicted by the two natives who attacked her at the same time that they brutally murdered her husband.

The marriage of Prince Bibesco and Miss Elizabeth Asquith was solemnised on April 30 at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. Prior to this ceremony a service according to the rites of the Greek Church was held at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater. The marriage was witnessed by many distinguished personages, especially being honoured by the presence of Queen Alexandra, Princess Victoria, and Prince Nicholas of Roumania. M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, acted as best man.

The marriage was celebrated on April 3 at All Saints' Church, Cairo, between Wasey Sterry, C.B.E., Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government, elder son of the Rev. Francis and Mrs. Sterry, of Fort Hill, Barnstaple, and Renée Bonfils, eldest daughter of M. and Mme. Bonfils, of Brumana, Syria.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of March 29 reports that Judge Halton, Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal, who is now on leave in England, has asked for prolongation of his leave as his health does not permit him to return and resume his work. It is stated that sick leave has been granted the judge on medical advice.

The marriage was celebrated on April 23, at Saltwood Church, Kent, by the Rev. Canon A. J. Galpin, D.D., Rector, between Lieutenant-Colonel Alec F. Inglis, E.E.F. (Major, 1st K.G.O. Gurkha Rifles), eldest son of the late Colonel D. W. Inglis, 35th Sikhs, and Mrs. Inglis, Kelvin, Hythe, and Anne Stirling, elder daughter of R. Houston, Esq., of Milliken Park, Renfrewshire.

The Honours List published on April 28 contains few names connected with the Near East, but among them we note the following:—Charles Greenway, Esq., who has through the war done splendid national service, notably in his capacity as chairman and managing director of Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd.—in which capacity he was of great use to the Navy. He has received a baronetcy, as also has Sir John David Rees, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., M.P.

Shipping and trade are represented by Sir Kenneth Skelton Anderson, K.C.M.G., manager of the Orient Steam Navigation Company, upon whom has been conferred a baronetcy; and Sir Thomas Royden, Bart., vice-chairman of the Cunard Company, who is made a Companion of Honour.

Although Mr. Davison Dalziel is best known as an enterprising newspaper proprietor, he is also chairman of the International Sleeping-Car Company. For his public services a baronetcy has been conferred upon him. Among the knights created are Dr. William Ridgeway, Professor of Archæology, Cambridge Univresity, whose connection is rather with ancient than with modern Greece; and Mr. John Stavridi, the Greek Consul-General.

A correspondent writes:—The marriage took place on Saturday, March 8, at St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, of Lieut. G. Gustave Masson, O.E.T.A., only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Masson, Adelaide, to Jessie Mary Busby, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, of Sydney, New South Wales. The bride, who was given away by Sister Taylor-Williams, looked charming in grey silk uniform, carrying a shower-bouquet of Star of Bethlehem. She was attended by Sister Kelman and Sister A. R. Wilson. The duties of best man were performed by Capt. R. E. Evans, M.B.E., R.E. The officiating minister was Capt. Rev. O. W. Birch, M.C., A.I.F., assisted by the Rev. J. E. Wright, Bishop's Chaplain. A reception was held at the residence of the Bishop's Chaplain, among the guests being Major-General Sir A. W. Money, K.C.B., C.S.I., Brig.-General R. Storrs, C.M.G., C.B.E., Major and Mrs. Tadman, Capt. and Mrs. Bennett, a considerable number of well-wishers from the Headquarters and Military Governor's Staff, and many other friends of the bride and bridegroom. The happy couple afterwards left for Jaffa.

A correspondent writes:—The news of the death of the gallant French airman, Jules Vedrines, will be heard with regret in Egypt, where he made many friends—and, perhaps, to be frank, a few enemies—after his celebrated Paris-to-Cairo flight. A forceful personality, hot-tempered, good-hearted and humorous, Vedrines was very much in the public eye during his brief stay in Egypt, and some of his encounters with those in authority were a source of much amusement to the general public. Vedrines generally had the laugh on his side, and any ill-feeling which his half-joking, half-truculent methods may have aroused will be forgotten now. I remember forming one of an unhappy but rather distinguished assemblage which waited in a crowded room on a hot Egyptian afternoon to listen to a lecture by the great airman on the subject of his flight from Paris. Time passed, the flies were busy, the atmosphere was stifling; Vedrines did not arrive. At last, when the lecture was some forty minutes overdue, we were suddenly addressed abruptly from the doorway and told to "Come out here, as it is too hot inside." It was Vedrines, and we followed him out meekly, without a protest, like so many school children! The open-air lecture which followed well repaid us for our sufferings.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Mirza Mohammed Khan has been appointed Secretary to the Persian Legation in London.

Major F. Halliday, I.M.S., becomes one of the Civil Surgeons of Simla in succession to Colonel Sir James Roberts, who is to retire shortly.

The King has granted permission to Mr. Athelstan Riley to wear the Greek Order of George I., and to Mr. Vincent Drew the insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of St. Sava.

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Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, ex-Minister of Public Works, has been appointed member of the Board of Administration of the Suez Canal Company, on behalf of the Egyptian Government, instead of the late Yacoub Pasha Artin.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Justice Norman Cranstoun Macleod, Barrister-at-Law, Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Bombay, to be Chief Justice of the Court in succession to Sir Basil Scott, who is shortly to retire.

OBITUARY.

Colonel Frederick Ekins Lindoe, late Hussars and 81st Regiment, has died at Bath, aged seventy-seven. He served in the Afghan war, 1878-9, and was present at the capture of Ali Musjid.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Maxwell-Willshire died on April 26 at Elm Park Gardens, aged sixty-eight. He joined the Scots Guards and served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, taking part in the action at Mahuta and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, for which he had the medal and clasp and Khedive's star.

Captain Henry D. Shortt, late of the Royal Navy, who has died at Southsea, served on the coast of Syria in 1861 in the Greyhound during the disturbances between the Druses and Maronites, and in the Wizard was stationed at Crete during the insurrection of 1866-7. During the Egyptian War of 1882 he was Staff-Commander of the Inconstant, receiving the medal and the Khedive's bronze star.

A correspondent writes:—"Deep regret has been caused in this country by the news of the death of Mr. G. T. Barlow, C.I.E., the eminent irrigation engineer, who was employed in a preliminary reconnaissance of the sources of water-power in India. Apart from high professional qualifications, Mr. Barlow was endowed with a freshness of mind and a width of outlook which enabled him to face and conquer the difficulties arising from new developments of irrigation policy, and these gifts had full play when he passed from controlling the snow-fed rivers of the North to devising methods for protecting the droughty tracts of Bundelkhand, where perennial streams do not exist, and the seasonal rainfall must be held up and stored for use in time of need. The same qualities marked him out for the pioneer work on which he was engaged during the past winter, and India has material as well as sentimental reasons for mourning his premature loss."

Sir John Jardine died on April 26 at Applegarth, Godalming. Appointed after examination to the Bombay Civil Service, he proceeded to India in 1864, and served in the Revenue, Judicial, and Political Departments, and in 1873 became Registrar of the Bombay High Court. A few years later he was appointed Secretary for the Treaty with Portugal, and Law Officer to the Indian Government. Afterwards, for seven years, he was Judicial Commissioner for Burma, and in 1885 Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government, holding the Political, Secret, Educational, Persian, and Judicial portfolios. Sir John's next appointment was as Judge of the High Court of Bombay, and for a few years he was Acting Chief Justice, until his retirement in 1897, in which year he was created K.C.I.E. For thirty years he was connected with Bombay University as Examiner, Fellow, Syndic, Dean in Arts, Dean in Laws, and Vice-Chancellor, and was President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bombay in 1894. Sir John was the author of "Notes on Buddhist Law" and several works connected with Burma.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

An additional grant of £1,000,000 has been granted by America to Roumania.

Representatives of the Greek Government have arrived at New York to arrange for the establishment of credits.

British military permits are still necessary for all persons going to Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and Mesopotamia.

Six hundred and ninety-eight well-to-do Russian refugees and some British residents of Constantinople arrived at Malta on Saturday.

Over 10,000 of the Armenian Deportees in Palestine have been repatriated through the assistance of the Armenian Relief Committee.

After visiting the French ports the Japanese Fleet will proceed to Greece, and will not return to Japan until after the signing of peace.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes on April 27 that M. Flondor, the Minister of Bukovina, has resigned from the Bratiano Cabinet.

All letters and other postal communications for British troops detained temporarily in India (including those who had embarked for repatriation from Mesopotamia) should be addressed care of O.C. Base, Post Depot, Bombay.

Reuter's Bombay correspondent, writing on April 26, states that the Governor of Bombay, Sir George Lloyd, with the sanction of the Viceroy, has ordered Mr. Horniman, editor of the *Bombay Chronicle*, to leave India for England. The Government is satisfied that Mr. Horniman is in a fair condition to travel, therefore a passage will be provided for him immediately.

A Taranto telegram states that the Emir Feisal left that port on April 26 for the East.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, states that on April 25 General Allenby presided at a meeting at the Anzac Hostel, and gave an address in commemoration of Gallipoli day. Afterwards wreaths were deposited on the graves of Gallipoli soldiers in Old Cairo.

The *Pioneer* reports that in the Mysore Legislative Council on March 24 Dewan Bahadur G. S. Chakravarty, Financial Secretary to the Government, moved for leave to introduce a Bill imposing income-tax in Mysore State. He characterised the measure as one not only of financial necessity, but of financial justice.

Under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, the following lectures will be given in the Theatre, Burlington Gardens, at 8.30 p.m.:—On May 12, "Crete: Its Scenery and Natural Features," by Mr. A. Trevor Battye; and on June 16, "Tibitsi to Darfur," by Lieut.-Colonel J. Tilho (French Colonial Infantry).

A special meeting of Indians connected with the Ahmadia movement has been held in Star Street, Edgware Road, and has passed a resolution condemning rebellion and riot in India as a sin against the Sacred Law of Islam as interpreted by the Prophet Ahmad, the "greatest reformer of Islam." At the same time, the meeting recognised the need of political and social reform in India.

The War Office announces that British troops, including officers, who embarked for repatriation from Mesopotamia on and after the 3rd ult., and who in ordinary course would have arrived in England on May 11 and onwards, have been detained temporarily in India owing to the internal situation, but will be released at the earliest possible date. A diversion of mails has been arranged so that the men concerned may receive home letters in India.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on April 24, states that the first Government Conciliation Commission, headed by Prince Abdurrahman Effendi, fourth son of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, has left for Brussa and the provinces. The object of these commissions is to get in touch with the local elements, preach goodwill and brotherhood, teach forgiving and forgetting, find out local requirements, and form a programme, which is later on to be given legal shape.

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FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1919.

THE PROSPECT OF STABILITY IN THE BALKANS.

It is a commonplace of political geography that the world in general cannot afford to be indifferent to the conditions prevailing in the Balkan Peninsula, and even now, while a settlement of those conditions is being slowly and painfully hammered out behind the veil which screens the titanic Paris workshop from the public gaze, the question of the permanence of that settlement is perplexing the minds of men who are able to look a little beyond the happenings of the day. Assuming, as we are justified in doing, that the deliberations now in progress will result in a substantially equitable adjustment of conflicting aspirations and competing claims, what is the prospect that the adjustment will hold? Will the equilibrium be stable, or will it represent only a temporary balance of the disturbing forces with which the world has hitherto been compelled to reckon? The man in the street is already asking such questions as these, and if he is unable to find a satisfactory answer his difficulties must be attributed mainly to the unregulated enthusiasms of the authorities to whom he naturally looks for guidance. One might almost think that there is some peculiar element in the Balkan atmosphere which converts every visitor into a partisan; and when writers hailing from all parts of Western Europe present themselves as more Serbian than the Serbs, more Hellene than the Hellenes, more Bulgar than the Bulgars, or more Albanian than the Albanians, the ordinary man finds himself driven towards the conclusion that the Peninsula is inhabited by a small number of angels and a much larger number of demons, though he may be unable to determine which particular races come within either category.

The true significance of the facts is, of course, altogether different. Each race has peculiar attractions of its own, each has suffered terrible things in the past, and the union of affection and sympathy very commonly distorts the judgment of observers who know one race better than the others. The man who has no reasons predisposing him to espouse the claims of one particular nation does not hasten to divide the population of the Balkans into angels and demons, into white and black; he regards it rather as on the whole a fair sample of human nature, consisting essentially of men of like passions with himself, though the crust of convention may be thinner and the passions may lie somewhat nearer to the surface than is usual among nations which have suffered less. It follows that the questions we have stated can be answered with a reasonable degree of probability; it would be absurd to speculate on the actions of beings of a different order, but we can judge the Balkan peoples by ourselves, and can forecast their future acts by a consideration of what we ourselves should feel inclined to do. Let us, then, look at the facts from this standpoint. On almost all sides the greatest possible claims have been put forward. Some of them are incompatible in the strictest sense of the word, some are much better founded than others, but nearly all have been pressed by the claimants themselves, and by their enthusiastic supporters among other nations, with such insistent fervour that a refusal, however justifiable, can scarcely fail to wound. The material interests at stake are indeed important, but for the moment the question is rather one of *amour propre;* the partisans of each nation have pledged its honour, and in the light of that pledge the barest mountain spur may mean all that Jerusalem stood for to the Crusaders. In these circumstances it seems to us that the new settlement, provided it be substantially equitable, must inevitably give rise to general heartburning and disappointment among the nations most immediately concerned; it is highly improbable that the maximum demands of any single claimant can be met in full, and, whatever material advantages may be conceded, the sentiment of the moment will fasten rather upon what has been refused. In stating this conclusion we have no intention of imputing blame for an attitude which may not indeed be reasonable, but which is natural, and, to our mind, almost inevitable. Our object is to urge that the position must be faced by all who are concerned in the stability of the impending settlement—that is to say, by the Western world in general as well as by the leaders and the backers of the various Balkan nations. Disappointment must be expected, and such precautions as are possible must be taken to ensure that disappointment shall lead to nothing worse.

The duty of Western Europe at least is clear. The public must be prepared for outbursts of indignant protest, and must not allow the outlook to be clouded by any natural resentment. Great and lasting harm might result if the West were to conclude that the Balkan peoples are hopelessly irreconcilable, and that efforts to pacify them are necessarily vain; every allowance must be made for the facts on which we have insisted, and an attitude of patient forbearance must be sedulously maintained, so that nothing may be said or done to increase the difficulties of an undoubtedly difficult position. The maintenance of such an attitude is obligatory in particular on the declared partisans of individual nations; the disappointed elements will look eagerly to the West for any sign of encouragement to adopt an intransigent standpoint, and if that encouragement should unhappily be forthcoming the stability of the settlement might be seriously impaired. The Englishman or Frenchman or American who at this juncture should add fuel to the fire would be justly regarded an an enemy of the human race, and the world may surely demand that writers whose feelings are likely to overpower their discretion should, at any rate, remain silent during the critical time. The heaviest responsibility must, however, rest upon the statesmen and leaders of the Balkan nations; it is matter for profound satisfaction that statesmanship and leadership exist in Eastern Europe, and never will these qualities have a grander opportunity than in the years which lie immediately ahead. Time is of the essence of the problem. We have recognised that disappointment is to be expected at the outset; if that natural sentiment is fomented and encouraged to find expression in acts, then peace in the Balkans will remain a dream; but if a strong and clear lead is given in the direction of harmony and conciliation, it is not too much to hope that the wounds will gradually heal and that the advantages to be derived from an equitable settlement will become more and more apparent until a stable equilibrium becomes at last a fact. In a word, the future depends on wise leadership within and discreet forbearance without. It is impossible, however, to leave the subject without alluding to the dangers of interested intrigue, which may go far to nullify the effects of even the greatest leadership. In the past such intrigue has been endemic in the Balkans, and we may be confident that the old diplomacy will die hard if it dies at all. The expectation has indeed been held forth that one fertile cause of intrigue, the competition for the supply of munitions of war, will be definitely limited by international action, but in the past that cause has not stood alone, and we are as yet without information whether the Paris Conference will be able to dispose of the larger question and secure the complete exclusion of extraneous disturbers from the troubled waters of the world. We may, however, confidently anticipate that any measures of the kind will command the hearty co-operation and support of Balkan statesmen, who must realise the extent of the evil in the past and the gravity of the dangers which its reappearance would threaten to the future of the peoples whose destinies are in their hands.

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THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 14.

The more one studies the facts, the more convinced does one become that the upheaval which has taken place in the country during the past month was organised. The Extremists may say what they like, but they certainly planned to dislocate the whole country, in the hope of thus bringing their demands to the attention of Europe; and, having aroused the hidden forces of violence, they must bear full responsibility for the excesses which it has inevitably produced. No section of the population has been left out; each has been prevailed upon from the standpoint from which its members could be the more easily aroused against the Government in general and the British in particular. Every opportunity has been seized to aggravate the situation and combat the British authorities—as, for example, the passage in Lord Curzon's speech referring to the manner in which the officials had stuck to their work—which was the signal for the organisation of a strike of Government officials.

Even to-day, when the great grievance of the restrictions imposed upon travelling has been removed, when not only have Egyptians been allowed to proceed to Europe, but their travelling has been facilitated by the abandonment in their favour of steamer berths already reserved for officials proceeding on leave, and when a Cabinet has been formed for the government of the country, the Extremists still continue their obstructive tactics and are coming forward with demands which are as unacceptable as they are inopportune.

For example, the Government officials have refused to return to their work unless: (1) Zaghlul is recognised by the British Government as being the delegation of the Egyptian nation; (2) the creation of the Cabinet is not regarded as an acceptance of the Protectorate; (3) public security in Cairo and the towns is entrusted to the Egyptian Army and the Egyptian police, and British military guards and patrols are withdrawn. These demands are unreasonable, since they are inconsistent with the existing state of affairs and run counter to the declarations of H.B.M.'s Government. That they should have been made indicates a complete lack of the sense of fitness of things, since it is obvious that a continuation of the political agitation, once the grievances which were the basis of the original agitation have been redressed, cannot possibly influence in their favour the opinion of the League of Nations; in fact, it is rather calculated to prejudice the world against them.

In this connection it is only right to point out that the reason why there is such solidarity of action between the various sections of the Egyptian population is not because they all agree with the demands made, but because they have been subjected to a deliberate campaign of intimidation. Numbers of the Egyptian officials had no desire to strike at all, and of those who favoured the strike, many considered that three days were sufficient to signify to the world their sympathy with the national movement, but they had been threatened, in their houses and on their way to work, by word of mouth and by letters, to such an extent that they dare not continue their duties however much they would wish to. Only the other day the officials of certain administrations who had returned to work were driven out of their offices by the more violent of their colleagues; the sitting of the Cairo courts had to be stopped, as lawyers intimated that if it continued the mob would come in and smash up everything; whilst the Cairo Post Office, valiantly trying to cope with the traffic, has repeatedly opened to the public, and as repeatedly has had to shut down again owing to the persistent attacks of the obstructionists on the staff working within.

The situation as regards the fears of the strikers has been aggravated by the appearance on the scenes of "The Black Hand," which by means of threatening letters and so forth has introduced a positive reign of terror into Egypt. This Black Hand is in reality nothing so serious as the dread American Camarilla from which it takes its name. Its appearance in Egypt is in reality but one more instance of the ill-effects of the cinematograph. Of late years films depicting the doings of secret societies have been screened with great frequency in Egypt; and, knowing as one does, the great popularity of the film with the students and other members of the younger generation of Egyptians, one has little doubt that the Black Hand in Egypt consists of a clique of students and lawyers who have seized upon this device as a means of intimidating their compatriots and, accurately calculating the effect, have succeeded in introducing a positive reign of terror which is now paralysing the whole country. Should the present Cabinet not be able to restore law and order and bring about a speedy resumption of normal business, it will be left to the military authorities to take the situation in hand. Whatever course they may decide to adopt will have been amply justified by the leniency and patience shown by them hitherto and the uncompromising and hostile attitude of the Extremist agitators.

Before leaving this topic I should like to draw attention to the fact that while the present disturbances have had a political origin, yet, as must inevitably be the case in a country like Egypt, they have to a certain extent assumed a fanatical character. There are many indications of this in the reports received from the provinces and in the events which have taken place in Cairo. The Azharites have been active in stirring up the fellaheen in the provinces, and have been prominent participators in the demonstrations in Cairo and Alexandria; inflammatory sermons have been delivered in the mosques; the attacks on the Armenians and Greeks, albeit it is alleged that they were started through an Armenian firing on the crowd, have been proved to have been organised and premeditated; and anyone witnessing the funeral processions which have passed through Cairo during the past week could no longer have any doubt in his mind as to the fanatical attitude of the uneducated masses towards Europeans. This is no alarmist view, but is the result of careful observation and investigation; it is, moreover, confirmed by many Anglo-Egyptian students of the Egyptian character.

In conclusion, I might add that there is a strong impression that the disturbances have not been altogether home-made; that, in fact, there has been some strong foreign influence at work behind the scenes. What that influence is time alone can show, but the fact that the murderous attacks were turned in such a systematic manner against Armenians and Greeks leaves in the minds of those who know anything about Near Eastern matters the unpleasant suspicion that the underlying influence has in part been Turkish, a suspicion which is strengthened by the knowledge that Turcophile sentiments have always been strong in Egypt and still are so in many circles to this day.

Turning now to British opinion on the situation, it must be admitted that General Allenby's proclamation announcing the removal of all restrictions in so far as travelling was concerned, and the liberation of the four pashas interned at Malta, came as a shock and a surprise to the British community. The latter had long been of opinion that a blunder had been made in handling the political crisis ever since it came into exist-



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ence last autumn. Who it considered was to blame for the commission of the blunder is not so material as the fact that the mistake was recognised. Whilst, however, the community recognised the latter, it had possibly not made up its mind how or when the mistake should be rectified, and so the High Commissioner's decision in the circumstances came as a thunder-clap. No sooner was it known than a general chorus of criticism arose wherever one went. For the first two days this state of affairs persisted. Englishmen waxed very eloquent on the damage done to our prestige, and there was a general atmosphere of soreness. But saner views gradually began to prevail, and the matter came to be viewed more in its proper perspective. As one man said:—"If in the course of a campaign you find yourself five miles down the wrong road, it is surely obvious that the thing to do is to get on the right road as quickly as possible and not continue down the wrong one." It is now generally recognised that this is what General Allenby has done. He has rectified the mistake made, and by so doing has not only removed the great ground for grievance which had excited the Egyptians, but has at the same time put them in such a position that if they continue their anti-Governmental activities they will be entirely in the wrong, and any drastic action on his part will be amply justified by their attitude.

While sympathising very deeply with General Allenby in the very difficult and delicate task which he has taken upon his shoulders, and while being prepared loyally to assist him by every means in their power, nevertheless the British community feel the present position very acutely. They realise that serious mistakes have been made in the past, and they hope and trust that one result of the Commission of Inquiry will be that a repetition of those mistakes, which are errors as much of omission as of commission, will be made impossible in the future. They are, however, equally exercised in their minds as to the future situation in Egypt. They fear that the Home Government may go further as regards concessions than is justified by the circumstances, and they are specially concerned with regard to British prestige.

It is no exaggeration to say that at no time since 1882, not even at the blackest period of the war, has British prestige been at such a discount; and it will take years to restore it to anything approaching the height at which it stood under either the Baring or the Kitchener regime. Everything depends upon the manner in which the situation is handled. Any weakening or sentimental pandering to Utopian ideas cannot fail to react on British prestige. The measure of the respect in which it is held to-day is indicated by the frequent attacks on British soldiers by the Egyptians, and by the insults hurled at them even by little children. In any event it will be a long time before British officials will be able to go about the country as freely as they have done in the past; certainly no women will be able to live in the interior unless in the same town there is a strong British guard.

At the same time there is indeed no doubt that whether the Independentists succeed in their demands or not, and whether British prestige regains its position or not, Egypt has been put back at least forty years in her social and intellectual development; and her economic advancement has undergone a check from which it will take her a very considerable time to recover.

LORD MILNER FOR EGYPT.

Reuter's Agency understands that the Government has under consideration the dispatch of a special mission to Egypt, with Lord Milner at its head. This mission has no connection with the present trouble, but is to report to the Government at home as to what changes are necessary in the constitution of the Protectorate. It has not yet been definitely settled whether Lord Milner will go.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The outstanding feature of the Budget of 1919 is the reintroduction of the principle of Imperial Preference, which, by the most felicitous coincidence, it fell to the son of the great statesman who made it an issue of practical politics to enunciate. Briefly, existing duties on sugar, tea, coffee, dried fruits, tobacco, and wines, and a few other commodities are to be reduced in respect of articles of Imperial origin. Of the articles in question the case of sugar is of special importance. During the war there has been a development of sugar cultivation on a large scale within the Empire, but the future of the industry has been in doubt in view of the fact that before the war British sugar had to compete with the German product, which was subsidised, thus enabling sugar to be dumped in the British market. Either a subsidy or preferential treatment was a necessity for this industry, and the recognition of that fact in the Budget will be received with great satisfaction in India, Australia, the West Indies, South Africa, and Canada, the latest region within the Empire to take up sugar cultivation.

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At the special meeting this week of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company the announcement was made that the offer of £6 per share had been accepted by the holders of rather over 60,000 ordinary shares. The offer was made, it appears, by the British Trade Corporation, which is prepared to include further shares in the transaction up to May 14. It will readily be understood that the Khedivial Mail would prove a most useful instrument in the working out of the plans of the Corporation for the revival of the activities of the old Levant Company, and this development cannot therefore be regarded as unexpected. In the short period of its existence the work of the Corporation has been such as to rouse the greatest hopes as to the results of its endeavours to further British trade interests in the Near East in the future, and on that account its action in regard to the Khedivial Mail is a matter for peculiar satisfaction, since under the direction of the Corporation it may be taken for granted that the services of this important shipping company would be developed to the best advantage.

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The announcement by the Board of Trade at the end of last week that with a few exceptions all controls on internal trade exercised under the Defence of the Realm Act, either have been, or will be abolished by May 31, is a step for which all British manufacturers and traders have been waiting, so that without delay they may begin their preparations for trade expansion. As regards trade with the Near East, the importance of the decision lies in the fact that apart from other difficulties, such as exchange, British firms who have not hitherto entered the Near East markets and are desirous of doing so have been reluctant to take any measures in that direction because of the uncertainty of being able to give delivery of goods. They know their position now, and the immediate result, it may be hoped, will be that they will lose no time in making a bid for the Near East trade in their special commodities.

In the final debate on the Indian Excess Profits Act an amendment moved by Mr. Hogg, that if the total amount produced by the duty exceeded eleven crores a proportionate sum should be refunded to each person who had paid the tax, brought from Sir James Meston the promise that, if as the year went on their estimate was shown to be materially on the low side, the Government would reconsider the whole position, and see if it were possible to bring the position into accord with their present intention of raising six million pounds net. For the rest it remains to be noted that the trend of the speeches showed general agreement with the nature of the changes made in the measure by the Select Committee, one speaker, for instance, who declared himself an opponent of the principle of the Bill, thanking the Finance Member for the way in which he had met the representatives of commerce. In no circumstances could the Act be popular, but every attempt has undoubtedly been made to allay criticism, and to make it palatable to the business community.

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I would draw my readers' attention to the announcement which appears elsewhere in this issue that trade catalogues on a number of specified imports are desired by the Chief Administrator, Occupied Enemy Territory Administration for South Palestine, who states that facilities to inspect them will be offered to interested parties in Jaffa, Haifa, and Jerusalem. It is to be hoped that an ample response to this suggestion will be made by firms who hope to do business in the future in this promising region. They are afforded a unique opportunity of bringing their goods by this means to the notice of importers, which should result in a satisfactory development of business there. The authorities are greatly to be congratulated on the enterprise shown in this step, which affords a further illustration that in the post-war trade struggle British traders will no longer be able to complain, as they did in the past, that they were handicapped by the lack of official assistance.

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A similar opportunity presents itself in Greece, where catalogues are required from British manufacturers by the Air Department of the Ministry of Marine. It has been my experience that hitherto there has been a reluctance on the part of British aeroplane firms to enter the Near East markets, apparently because they believe that business is unlikely in that region. This demand for catalogues should serve to convince them that this impression is totally unfounded.

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In submitting the final Budget figures to the Imperial Legislative Council, Sir James Meston stated that the estimated surplus had been reduced from £868,000 to £669,000, owing to an increase in famine relief. A sum of £33,000 had also been included in the Budget to form the nucleus of a new public health fund. In this connection Sir James said that the importance attached by non-official members to the necessity for strengthening the equipment of Government for dealing with epidemic diseases, such as the recent disastrous outbreak of influenza, was fully appreciated, and they considered it desirable to emphasise by a small initial grant the acceptance of the principle that their public health machinery should be developed. Great satisfaction was expressed by Sir James with the great increase in postal savings bank deposits in the course of a few months, which was the more striking at a time when a considerable part of India was suffering from scarcity.

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It is doubtful whether the importance of having suitable agents in Morocco is as yet fully appreciated by British firms who wish to do business there. But it is really, of course, a most vital point, for the agent is the pivot of the selling scheme, and on his activity, enterprise, and knowledge of the market success or otherwise will largely depend. His co-operation in the past when British imports were not only restricted, but were also mainly confined to the articles in chief demand, was admittedly a matter of minor significance, but it will not be so in the future if British traders are going to play the part in the Morocco market that is expected of them. In the future it will be a question of finding outlets for new imports, of gauging the trend of local requirements, and of meeting and facing competition; and for this a satisfactory agent is an imperative necessity.

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Algeria has not hitherto been very promising as a market for dyes. There is a demand there for dyes in connection with carpet-making, an industry carried on at three factories whose output has been from three to four thousand carpets a year. Dyes are also used by the natives for dyeing their outer garments, and other articles manufactured locally, and by Europeans in the country for dyeing cloths. In all three directions an extension of the demand is to be anticipated, and it might be worth the while of British firms to enter the market now with a view to the future. American firms, I believe, are showing some interest in it, a fact which carries an unmistakable moral.

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My readers will be interested to know that the paper to be read by Professor H. E. Armstrong, F.R.S., before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on May 15, on "Soil Deficiencies in India," will also deal fully with the present position of the indigo industry.

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COMMERCE IN ALEPPO.

Openings for British Goods.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Whatever may be the decision of the Peace Conference as to the many problems arising out of the conquest of Syria and the defeat of the Turkish Empire, a brief study of the possibilities of increasing the trade between those countries and the British Empire may be of value. We may be sure that Germany, after a three years' "occupation" of Syria and Palestine, will have a cut-and-dried plan for her commercial "post-bellum" war. It is to be hoped that our Board of Trade have taken steps to propagate the knowledge we have acquired since our troops have occupied Northern Syria. The intending trader, if he is a novitiate in dealing with an Eastern population, composed as this is largely of Jews, Greeks, and Armenians, may rest assured that plums will not be found hanging on trees for the picking, and that he will have to get up very early to defeat the Eastern in a bargain. On the other hand, there are undoubtedly immense possibilities in the development of trade with such naturally rich countries. Before the war trade was largely limited by the lack of transport facilities, but now, with rail communication between Aleppo and Constantinople (thirty-six hours express), Aleppo and Kantara (fifty-four hours), Aleppo and Baghdad (shortly to be completed), no such drawbacks exist.

The Chamber of Commerce.

The Aleppo Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1884 by the Ottoman Government. It consists of a president, a vice-president, and ten other members. The Chamber is composed at the present time of six Moslems, two Jews, two Greek Christians, and two Armenian Christians. It is non-political, and the members are chosen by a meeting of twenty-five leading local merchants. The duties of the Chamber before the war were to keep a register of trades in the city and to supply the civil and military authorities with information about any trader applying for a Government contract. The Ottoman Government, the Government of the Vilayet, and the Army never made any contract with an Aleppo trader except through the Chamber of Commerce, and it was the duty of the Chamber to report on the trader's financial stability. Before the war traders paid no fee for registration, which was purely optional, and there was no penalty for non-registration. In the event of a trader not on the register getting a Government contract, the Chamber were allowed to charge him double fees for drawing up the contract. Private contracts were made between individuals without reference to the Chamber. Private individuals might consult the Chamber as to the financial stability of a trader, but the Chamber were not bound to give information. They always gave all possible help to the Government, the railway officials, and the Ottoman Bank.

Since the occupation of Aleppo the Chamber has, under powers given by the Arab Government, registered all trades in the city under the following categories:—

1st Class: merchant who can purchase goods to the value of £5,000-£10,000.

2nd Class: merchant who can purchase goods to the value of £5,000.

3rd Class: merchant who can purchase goods to the value of £2,000.

4th Class: merchant who can purchase goods to the value of £500-£1,000.

For this registration the Chamber receives fees ranging from £E2½ to £E½, and with this income it is hoped to develop the Chamber on European lines—*i.e.*, to draw up statistics and reports, and to supply local traders with all possible information as to new inventions and improvements, openings for trade, etc. The annual exports from Aleppo before the war amounted to nearly £1,000,000 sterling, and consisted of the following:—

Exports.

Wool.—The Aleppo district exports in peace time about 1,000 tons of wool. Most of this wool goes to France, Italy, and the United States. Small quantities are also sent to England.

Silk.—To France and Italy.

Carpets.—(From the interior) to America.

Hides and Skins.—Goat skins to France; skins of sheep and lambs to Austria; tanned hides to England.

Furs.—To Germany (Leipzig), Austria, and Constantinople

Offal.—Guts (sheep, lamb, and goats) to Austria (Trieste), and America for charcuterie.

Eggs.—Fresh eggs to France; preserved eggs to France and Germany.

Castor Beans.—(For manufacture into castor oil) to Italy.

Livestock.—Sheep and cattle to Egypt.

Cattle.—To Beyrout, Zahle, and Smyrna.

Grain.—Wheat and barley (but not in large quantities) to France, Italy, and Macedonia: also sesame.

Soap.—To Constantinople.

Butter.—To Constantinople and Egypt (500 tons a year). The Imperial Palace used to be supplied with 50 tons of butter a year from Aleppo district. The butter of Hadidie (near Homs) is the purest of all butter.

Cotton.—From the Idlib district to Italy, Greece, and Macedonia.

Gall Nuts.—(Noix de Galles) for tanning. to France and Italy.

Glue.—To Germany.

Gum Arabic.—It is reported that large quantities of this commodity have been bought for export to Germany, and are held by the Deutsche Orient Bank.

Liquorice.—To America and Italy In America this is used in the manufacture of tobacco. (Exported by MacAndrew, Forbes and Co.)

Pistachio Nuts.—1,200 tons a year, mostly to United States and Italy. Largely used for seasoning and confectionery.

Apricots.—To Damascus and America.

Nuts.—To France and Germany.

Almonds.—200 tons a year to France.

Antiquities.—To Egypt and America.

Imports.

The total annual imports before the war amounted to about 2½ million pounds, of which nearly a million consisted of Manchester goods. The following is a list of the goods imported and the countries which export them:—

ENGLAND.—1. Manchester Goods: Cotton (only water 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 are imported from Manchester); Yarn (only water 6, 8, 10, 12 are imported from India); Cotton reels and thread (Clark and Co.). 1. Textiles: Mercerised cotton and cotton glace, unbleached calico, shirtings, printed calico, madampolam. 3. Manufactured woollen goods (especially cloth) from Bradford. 4. Hardware Metals: tin and pewter; copper; ironmongery; galvanised iron; iron girders. 5. Drugs and Chemicals: Arsenic. The greater part of these commodities is imported from Germany. 6. Steel: (From Sheffield) cutlery; bicycles. 7. Agricultural machinery (very little German machinery is preferred). 8. Perfumery (Atkinson). 9. Chocolate. 10. Shoes. 11. Biscuits and confectionery.

FRANCE.—1. Objets de Nouveauté (blouses and ladies' wearing apparel). 2. Manufactured silks from Lyons. 3. Perfumery: Best quality. 4. Drapery, from Sedan, Lille, Roubaix and Turcoing. 5. Wines and spirits (Champagne, Cognac, Bordeaux, etc.). 6. Sweets and confectionery. 7. Manufactured leather, especially boot soles for ladies, of which large quantities are imported. 8. Drugs. 9. Wax (best quality). 10. Pianos. 11. Velvet. 12. Sugar from Marseilles. 13. Cheap jewellery. 14. Mirrors.

BELGIUM.—1. Firearms. 2. Iron girders. 3. Nails, wire, horseshoes. 4. Window glass and mirrors. 5. Wax and candles (cheap). 6. Stamped cotton goods. 7. Drill. 8. Mattresses.

ITALY.—1. Stamped cotton goods (Milan). 2. Silks (Como). 3. Macaroni (Naples). 4. Marble (Carrara). 5. Flannel goods and hosiery, underwear. 6. Hats (felt).

GERMANY.—1. Steel; Iron; Iron girders; nails; copper (all in very important quantities). 2. Drugs and chemicals (very large quantities). 3. Aniline dyes (large quantities). 4. Agricultural implements. 5. China and porcelain. 6. Cotton goods and cheaper kinds of cloth. 7. Cheap jewellery. 8. Pianos and musical instruments. 9. Catgut. 10. Patent leather shoes, box calf, etc. 11. Lamps. 12. Electric fittings and machinery of all kinds. 13. Mercery and hosiery. 14. Velvet. 15. Sugar (small quantity).

AUSTRIA.—1. Furniture. 2. Paper of all kinds in large quantities (stationery, cigarette paper, packing paper, etc.). 3. Stoves. 4. Matches. 5. Cloth (good and inferior qualities), and special cloth of poor quality for Bedouins. 6. Fez, felt hats. 7. China and porcelain. 8 Glasswars, lamp-glasses. 9. Shirting (large quantities). 10. Timber. 11 Sugar (large quantities).

CHINA.—Tea, buffalo hides, and raw silk.

HOLLAND.—Shirtings, wax candles.

SWEDEN.—Matches, pig iron.

UNITED STATES.—Petroleum, agricultural machinery (small quantity only), shoes, rubber.

RUSSIA.—Petroleum from Baku, sugar (large quantities), rubber, timber.

ROUMANIA.—Petroleum, timber.

Market for Agricultural Machinery

From a perusal of the above, the chief openings for British trade would appear to be Manchester goods and manufactured woollen goods, cloth and clothing, hardware, steel, drugs, and biscuits and confectionery. An important new market should be opened to British trade in agricultural machinery There is a very real demand there for light agricultural machinery, which would enable large areas at present uncultivated to be brought into cultivation. As soon as transport is available, it is to be hoped that British firms will be encouraged to send out experts to study the requirements of the country and if possible to send samples of light ploughing and reaping machines, with mechanics capable not only of driving the machines, but also of instructing the Syrian farmers in their use Efficient repair shops would be required in Aleppo and other centres for the repair and upkeep of these machines. At the present moment customs dues of 11 per cent. *ad valorem* are charged on all goods coming into Aleppo from outside the boundaries of Syria and Palestine. All goods imported into Syria by sea from Europe pay customs duty before they reach Aleppo, and are not subject to any further charge. It is certain that Germany will seek to renew her trade connections with this country the moment her hands are freed. During the war Germany had the field to herself, and we must not let the grass grow under our feet or we shall find ourselves forestalled by her commercial armies. Let not delay nor lack of enterprise lose this field for British trade won for us by the forces under General Allenby.

MINING PUBLICATIONS FOR SERBIA.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Belgrade reports that the "Direction of Collieries of the Serbian State Railway Board" at Senjski Rudnik desire to be put in touch with publishing houses in the United Kingdom which could supply English mining publications and literature such as those used at colleges where there are special courses for mining engineers. Communications should be addressed direct to the "Direction of Collieries of the Serbian State Railway Board" at Senjski Rudnik.

PASSENGER SERVICE TO EGYPT.

The Peninsular and Oriental Company announce that, under arrangement with the Government, they will until further notice maintain a weekly passenger service from Marseilles to Port Said. The Caledonia, the first steamer fixed to sail in the new service, will leave Marseilles at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7. First and second saloon passengers will be carried, but the accommodation will be subject to the requirements of the Government.

ROUMANIAN OILFIELDS.

Information has been received from Professor J. Murgoci, expert adviser to the Roumanian Peace Conference Delegation on a recent visit to the company's London office, that prior to the evacuation of the country by the enemy the total production from the Roumanian oilfields had been restored to 75 per cent. of the pre-war total by the German organisation carrying out their development, and that certain of the properties belonging to Maisels Petroleum Trust were included by the Germans in their undertaking. Professor Murgoci stated that all outstanding debts on these properties were liquidated by the Germans during their occupation.

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AIR ROUTES IN THE NEAR EAST.

Trade Development.

In the following interview Mr. Handley Page, head of the famous Cricklewood firm of aircraft manufacturers, discusses the development of air routes in the Near East and the value of aviation in relation to commercial enterprise:—

"Of what use is that to me?" says the business man laying down his morning paper with its account of a fresh flight to Egypt or India. He has read of machines carrying gangs of mechanics with their kit, complete engines and spare parts, and doing the trip with ease and reliability. He is being urged by trade experts in and out of trade journals to "look to it" and to "get there," and otherwise to show fresh commercial enterprise. He knows the transport systems of the world are in a sad state of disrepair; that, if he can get passports in the first instance it will take weeks, or perhaps months, for him or his travellers to get to the heart of the matter—to reach some distant market in Syria, Asia Minor, or the Balkans, for instance—and conclude actual business. So he reads and sighs. What can the aircraft industry offer him in the way of really reliable transport, and what will it cost him?

The actual shipment of the goods is of little importance compared with securing the order itself. Briefly, the aeroplane can help him to get that order in some far distant land, while it must leave the actual delivery of bulky goods to its slower but larger comrade, the steamship.

Stages to Egypt.

Competition is even now becoming keen in the countries on the route to India. My remarks, therefore, refer in particular to these countries. The departure of a representative to the East has hitherto been regarded as rather an impressive function, wherein the directors line the doorstep and wave farewell. There is no reason why it should continue to mean more than a week or two away. India is not to be gained in this time, but shorter services will first be opened, to be connected up later in an organised through route. Only those countries which have actually been covered, and are seen to be capable of intensive development by air, will be served in the initial stages. Those who followed the Handley Page flights to Egypt will have seen that the line taken was generally by Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, Rome, Naples, Otranto, South of Greece and Crete, to Alexandria or Cairo. This is in itself an illustration of the principle of small services being run first—*e.g.*, viâ Paris-Marseilles and Rome-Otranto, and being linked up into the complete chain of stages to Egypt.

A number of these stages are of great importance, but for the sake of example, the aerodrome in South Greece may be considered. Here the traveller for the Balkans, Turkey, or Asia Minor will alight and take his local line by air along subsidiary routes serving these countries. South Greece promises to be one of the most important junctions of world air routes, a point where even the Central Europe and Cape-to-Cairo lines must join when such are instituted. The development of Syria and Mesopotamia is also being most carefully considered. Beyrout, Damascus or Aleppo, Baghdad and Busreh form one day's work for a large commercial aeroplane, while Egypt would be connected up viâ Jerusalem. A great future is expected for the Tigris and Euphrates basin now that the country has been freed from the oppression of the Turkish yoke and its dilatory administration. While these routes are being perfected they are forming the foundation on which the line to India, and ultimately Australia, will be built up; so that *the countries concerned will never again sink to a secondary position in commerce.* On the contrary, it is to the interest of air transport firms to see that they prosper and flourish considering their certain importance in the future. Just as a new railway enriches the country through which it passes, so will it prove with airways.

The air transport manager, then, can offer high-speed journeys to the Near East in comfort and at a cost commensurate with land and sea travel. Passengers will be carried at a fare somewhat above present first-class rates, and this will include personal kit to the amount of the average suit-case. Considerations of baggage are not governed by weight so much as by space. Each passenger will be accommodated in an average space of 30 cubic feet, which approximates to the allowance in a railway carriage.

Too much prominence could hardly be given to the comfort of present-day flying in every stage. When seating is designed it will be arranged on the most scientific lines. Large windows will be a feature of air saloons, and will be kept clean! The fuselage will be heated so that it will prove unnecessary for passengers to emulate the Polar bear or return to the appearance of our simian ancestors. If a traveller must wait at an aerodrome, he will find it a pleasant and interesting experience compared with the changing at railway stations as they are to-day.

Cost of Journeys.

Consider the case of a firm's representative, or even its head, taking in person two cwt. of samples to Greece for distribution, either by himself or travellers with an intimate knowledge of the country. A ton of samples could accompany him if necessary. This journey is 1,650 miles by air, and can be covered by two days' flight, with a night in comfort at Marseilles or Rome. The cost would be £27 10s. for the passenger and his personal baggage at 4d. per mile, and £19 5s. for his two cwt. of samples at 2s. 4d. per ton mile. Considering the extra food, accommodation and odd travelling expenses incurred during the extra *time* of the same journey by land and sea, this will be seen to be much cheaper, at least twice as quick, and less tiring.

This is the aircraft organiser's offer to traders with the East. It is superfluous to dwell here on the openings for commerce in the Levant. Syria, and Mesopotamia. Every trade journal urges them. Greece, especially, is awaiting the Allied manufacturer with British quality to offer, and Serbia would welcome him with open arms. The prospective traveller by air need not worry about organisation of the service or ask what becomes of the aeroplane when he leaves it in Greece. The transport company sees to that. The only points with which he need concern himself are the reliability, safety, and comfort of the modern air-liners, and the fact that he can leave London, transact two days' business in Athens, and return fresh and untired—within the bounds of one working week.

But this cannot take place immediately Government restrictions are removed, nor even when their effect has passed away. Nor will the regularity of such a service immediately approach that of rail or steamship—no sane person would expect it to do so. Pilots have still a serious enemy in the weather, especially fog, and general organisation will take some time to complete. The examples quoted herein are such as can be reasonably looked for with our present equipment and experience, which is daily being augmented. True, there are obstacles; but business men will realise the immense advantages to be gained by such a saving of time, if they know that in the extremely improbable event of a breakdown goods and passengers will be diverted at once to the usual land or water routes.

Air Travel for Distances.

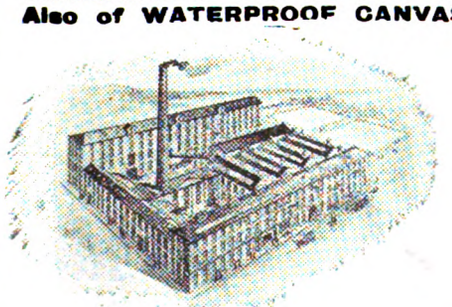
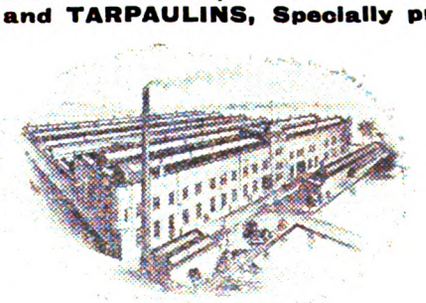
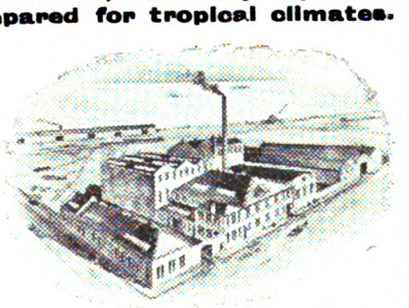
I have seen the Ipswich-India flight attacked on the ground that it took a month. As well attack a pleasure steamer agency for spending ten summer days on a 200 mile stretch of beautiful coast, when the steamer could do the distance in ten hours. A fortnight was spent in Cairo alone, and at no stage was there any attempt to eliminate delay or run to schedule. Another attack was on the efficiency of aerial transport, and showed that there were some trains an aeroplane could not beat on a sixty-mile journey; Again, it is not for such distances any more than the motor is for a call 200 yards down the street. The aeroplane is essentially a time-saver; the greater the distance, the more heavily it scores on this count. Long journeys usually mean many stages and consequent delay, whereas the slowest air-train to South Greece will stop at five points en route, involving less than one hour's delay. Undoubtedly this will mean much to the business man, but he must not expect perfection at once. To-day, when pen and tongue move perhaps too quickly, patience should be the text, the theme, and moral of every dissertation on this subject.

A special Government forecast gives the estimated out-turn of wheat in the Bombay Presidency, including Sind and Native States, as only 277,000 tons, against 926,000 tons, the final figures last year. The second forecast estimated the area at 1,178,000 acres, as against 2,880,000 acres last year.

In order to protect the interests of British exporters, a Serbian delegate has been attached to the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, who will supply information on the status and bona-fides of consignees in Serbia. United Kingdom firms desiring any information about Serbian firms should make an application direct to the Commission at the above address.

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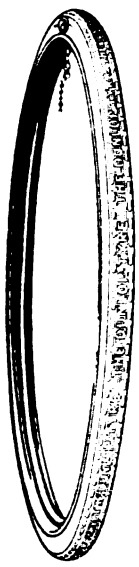
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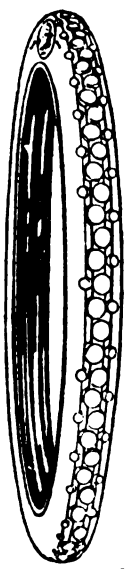
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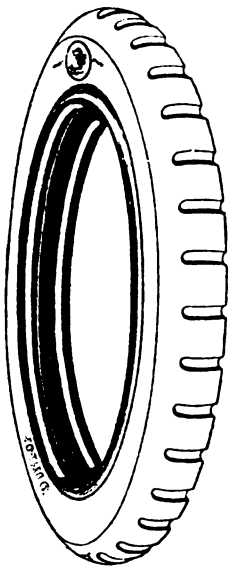
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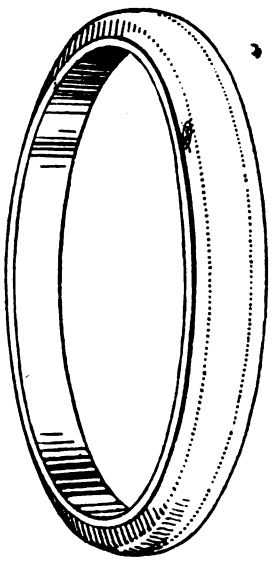
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

In Search of Water.

The season is approaching when, in many districts of the Near East, the scarcity of water becomes very serious, and, in their efforts to mitigate the suffering of the people, responsible authorities experience an anxious time. Whole towns and villages depend on the rain water which is collected during the winter from the roofs of the houses, and stored in underground built-up cisterns, or else on wells averaging from 40 to 200 ft. deep, from which the water is drawn in the old patriarchal manner—with hemp cords and wooden buckets. Some municipal authorities and many landowners have recourse to artesian wells, and, indeed, there are many districts throughout the Near East suffering from scarcity of water which could have an abundance of it by the use of the artesian wells. But, unfortunately, authorities as well as landowners, instead of employing competent engineers or experts for the discovery of a water supply by mechanical or other means, often entrust ordinary mechanics with the work. These men, armed with some boring rods of very small diameter and of local construction, after many fruitless tests and laborious efforts, are sometimes successful in finding water, but more frequently, owing to their lack of knowledge in the employment of other technical means, the water cannot be brought to the surface, and, in their ignorance, they report a boring which perhaps struck an excellent supply of water, as unsuccessful. Such "unsuccessful" borings occurred in Northern Syria. They were closed and neglected for two or three years, until an American engineer, who was passing through the district, found that there was a good supply of water at the sites of the borings, and by employing a set of deep-well pumps secured a good flow of water for the district, and a good many orders for pumps and agricultural machinery for his firm.

There are now mechanical and other special means for finding water, which are employed with apparent success in this country, but, probably, nothing is known or heard of them in the Near East, or else the various municipal authorities, as well as the landowners and farmers, who spend annually large sums of money without satisfactory results, would have hastened to avail themselves of the opportunity.

For the inventors or makers of such mechanical or other reliable means for finding water there is a very large and most desirable field in the Near East, which they may be strongly recommended to enter.

Valveless Pumps.

In a foreign contemporary a commercial engineer who recently returned from the Near East says that there is a great demand for pumps and pumping machinery there, and that the demand will be greater as soon as peace is concluded. Ordinary second-hand, and in some cases nearly worn out, pumps are offered and bought at double the price (and sometimes more) that they cost when new. In mentioning this we would remind British manufacturers that rotary and valveless pumps are in great favour throughout the East. Owing to the scarcity of skilled mechanics and the climatic conditions, especially during the hot season, ordinary pumps with pistons, cylinders and valves are a source of trouble to owners who employ them in remote districts. When rotary pumps were first introduced in the Near East by Americans there was a rush for them, and makers began to establish depots for the sale or hire of these pumps in various districts. But the American, and later the German, designs proved unsatisfactory, whereas centrifugal or rotary pumps of British manufacture were found to be the best, and, in the long run, the cheapest. Firms who may intend to send out now or in the very near future consignments of pumps, especially to Palestine and Syria, should bear this in mind. In this connection it may be noted that the Americans, who have already studied those markets under the present conditions, are it is said, preparing the introduction of new designs of rotary pumps.

Rice Industry in the Near East.

Although the soil and climatic conditions in many districts in the Near East have proved quite adaptable for the cultivation of rice, comparatively small progress has hitherto been made in the development of rice cultivation into a popular and organised industry. This may be attributed to a certain extent to existing difficulties of transport, which deter farmers in distant or remote districts from raising a crop which will require cleaning and finishing in mills situated far away before it is offered in the market. Such mills are very few indeed in the Near East, and are engaged generally in the preparation of the rice produced in their respective localities. It may also be attributed to the belief that the establishment of a nice mill requires the outlay of considerable capital, a matter of great consideration, at least under pre-war conditions, to any enterprising industrialist or agriculturist in the Near or Middle East. Also, very probably, it is partly due to the fact that the majority of, if not all, the well-to-do landowners and farmers in the East are not aware of the existence of British-made rice-cleaning machines, each of which forms in itself a complete plant for the purpose. Such a machine is designed to produce on a small scale exactly similar results to those of the largest elaborate systems, which are composed of numerous separate machines, entirely in one automatic plant, and driven by one belt. It generally occupies little space, takes very little power, and is comparatively inexpensive in first cost. It is easily fixed in position, and no extra accessories are needed. Such machines are simple to operate, and require very little technical skill, as the rice is fed to the machine at the top through a hopper, and the finished cleaned rice comes out with a very small percentage of broken grain and little waste.

How the Rice Cleaner Works.

The process through which the raw rice goes is as follows:—It passes from the hopper through a regulating slide on to a shaking sieve separator, which takes away all impurities larger or smaller than the rice itself. It then drops into the sheller, composed of a pair of discs, which takes off all the husk or shells. As it falls from the sheller it is aspirated and all the husks removed. The rice is then elevated on to a further separator, which takes out any unshelled grains and returns them to the sheller, while the shelled rice passes on to a polisher by means of a second elevator. Here the rice is well scoured or rubbed until it has a very clean, white appearance. The rice is now ready for the market, and is of two grades—first quality whole, sound pure rice, and second quality, consisting of broken grains, about 14 to 20 per cent. These machines are suitable for estates of the average size in the Near East, and their introduction in those regions will undoubtedly conduce to the extension of rice cultivation, even to the remote but very fertile districts in the interior.

Machinery for Crete.

The question of supplying agricultural machinery and implements for the use of the island of Crete is, according to recent reports, one which is likely to increase considerably in importance in the very near future. In Candia and the neighbourhood oil engines are largely in use, and have been imported almost exclusively from the United Kingdom. It would be well, however, for British makers to extend their consideration to Canea and the district, where a similar class of engines is in use for pumping water and for operating corn mills and olive presses. A German oil engine was the first to be introduced, and before the war apparently maintained its hold on the market. In small accessories and parts the Germans paid great attention to local requirements, and established a remunerative trade. In the early part of 1914 efforts were being made to introduce into Crete from the United States motor-ploughs at prices ranging from £48 to £240. The implements and machinery required in Crete are chiefly of the simplest description, such as small ploughs suitable for ploughing on hillsides, other types of light ploughs, with wheels and shafts proportionate to the small native bullocks, mules, and horses, small harrows for clearing the fields of weeds, small drills, mowing and reaping machines, threshing machines, grain sorters, presses for forage and hay, and automatic windmills, with water pumps. The wine industry also has its requirements in the shape of presses, filters, and apparatus for pasteurising and for the distilling of pure alcohol. Hydraulic presses and filters of large and small capacities are also required for the oil trade; while there is a profitable business to be done in small cream separators capable of dealing with about 11 gallons of milk per hour, and there is a demand also for butter churns and cheese presses. Makers of agricultural tools, too, will find an opening for pruning shears, grafting knives, hatchets, scythes, sickles, spades, picks, and forks.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND SERBIA

Future Trade Relations.

Mr. H. Kramrisch, Serbian Consul at Bradford, writes to THE NEAR EAST as follows on the development of trade relations between Great Britain and Serbia:—

Before the war Serbia was practically ignored by industrial and commercial circles in this country. Austria-Hungary was the main factor in the country's trade, and it was the endeavour of the Dual Monarchy to keep all the strings of Serbian business relations in her own hands, so as to make it impossible for Serbia to maintain and enjoy direct relations with other countries in the West.

The famous "Zollkrieg" (tariff war) between Serbia and Austria, brought about by the latter, produced a great alteration in Serbia's commerce. She was obliged to find new markets and look out for favourable outlets for her products. This was Germany's golden opportunity to capture that market, and she did it with her well-known thoroughness. She not only found a good field for Serbia's products, but an outlet for her cheap articles. There have existed all over Europe many prejudices and errors in regard to Serbia. These were created in the first place in the Austro-Hungarian Press, reproduced in Germany, and spread by her over the civilised world. From the point of view of the Hapsburg Monarchy, it seemed to be quite justifiable, as she had an interest in doing all in her power to discredit the Serbian nation in the eyes of the civilised world in order to preserve her trade monopoly. Whilst Germany helped Austria to discredit Serbia in the eyes of this country through the newspapers, she undertook propaganda on a vast scale in her own country with a view to convincing her own people of the advantages of Serbia as a market.

It is necessary that the business community in Great Britain should try to get better and more thorough information about Serbia than hitherto. This can be achieved by diplomatic and consular activities and through the medium of the Press. British manufacturers and export and import merchants should try and see for themselves in future conditions in Serbia, and should visit the country and form their own opinion. Henceforward, also, no publicity must be given to misleading reports, and merchants must not do business through agents only, but must send their own representatives in order to have first-hand information and knowledge of the country and of her people. If Great Britain intends to establish thorough economic relations in Serbia, it is essential to have the most direct communication possible between the two countries. A port on the Adriatic is of the most vital importance to Serbia for the direct export of her products to Great Britain and for the import of British manufactures. Finally, a railway line from the Danube to the Adriatic would free Serbia from dependence on the Central Powers.

The following figures published in 1911 will show what Great Britain has to do to capture the Austrian and German trade in Serbia:—The total imports in 1911 were valued at 115,424,000 francs, whilst the exports amounted to 116,916,000 francs. Of this the lion's share fell to Austria-Hungary, with 47,448,000 francs and 48,433,000 francs respectively. Germany followed next with 31,347,000 francs and 28,933,000 francs, and Great Britain was third with 9,524,000 francs and 87,000 francs. The balance was divided amongst other European States.

In trying to capture Serbian trade from Austria before the war, it will be admitted that Germany no doubt had sound reasons for her action, and in this connection we must ask ourselves the question: Where could be found the alluring richness of this small Balkan State? The answer is (1) In the products of the soil; (2) The enormous riches in minerals and coal hardly yet developed; and (3) The vast forests and orchards. To this must be added the growing wealth of the population, who are thrifty, careful, and industrious, and, therefore, good consumers of manufactured articles.

The economic activity of Serbia suffered for a while on account of unsettled political conditions. But the last few years before the Balkan war progress was taking place, and Serbia was being placed on a solid financial and commercial basis.

The Credit Question.

The Serbian merchants and peasants are trustworthy. The latter pay what has been advanced to them to buy implements and seed. In years of bad crops a peasant might be behind with his payments, but eventually he pays. The merchants have to ask longer credits because they are obliged to lay in large stocks and keep them for a while, and also have to grant credit to their customers. Bad debts are not numerous—in any case, not more than elsewhere, and in most unfavourable times failures not more than usual.

Whilst British houses, and especially banks, did not offer financial facilities to Serbian merchants, the Germans did, knowing that the majority could only pay their foreign debts twice a year, and for this she claimed full interest. An Anglo-Serbian Bank after the war would be of great assistance in the development of British trade with Serbia.

Regarding the customs duties, Serbia had to introduce a maximum and minimum custom's tariff owing to constant disagreement with her neighbour, Austria-Hungary. The maximum tariff applied to countries where Serbia had no special agreement or preferential duties, and *vice versâ*. This double tariff came into force at the end of February, 1910, and affected principally Austria-Hungary. In the case of some goods, especially clothing, millinery and articles of luxury, the maximum tariff meant an increase up to 250 per cent *ad valorem*, viz.: 200 per cent. against 150, or an increase of 100 per cent. of the material tariff.

Serbia offers to capitalists who wish to invest in industrial enterprises many concessions, viz.: (1) Free land and timber for building purposes; the minimum transport tariff on railways for bringing up all building materials; (2) The import of machinery and all the necessary implements duty free, also that of all raw materials and semi-manufactured goods, which cannot be obtained in the country; (3) Freedom from income-taxes for a period of ten years; and (4) A reduction of 25 per cent. on freight for all raw materials imported for manufacturing purposes, etc.

In conclusion, I would emphasise the fact that Serbia is a rich country, and offers British enterprise a wide field.

OVERSEAS TRADE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—We have heard and read a great deal recently about "reconstruction," "capturing trade," etc., etc., and of the steps that are being taken for this purpose by certain Government departments and industrial combinations, etc., etc., but so far it all appears to be a question of meetings, of forming organisations, etc., of action all on paper, but nothing concrete. Special mention is being made of the Near East, the Balkan States, Palestine, Mesopotamia—as if these countries were new and hitherto unknown and unexplored markets!

The few old-established British firms who were for many years the pioneers of commerce in such centres as Constantinople, Athens, Sofia, Smyrna, Beyrout, etc., and who, during the last four and a-half years, have been obliged, owing to war conditions, to suspend their businesses—some of whose members are now in this country, they being entirely conversant with all the requirements of the countries in question—have been endeavouring to arrange to resume their business operations once more, but have failed to obtain any facilities whatever from any of the Government departments. Meanwhile, it is a positive and undeniable fact that our Allies, neutrals, and others have not wasted their time in forming new departments or industrial combinations; but individual initiative has received from the respective Governments every encouragement, backing, and facility, thus enabling their steamship lines to be started, and shipments effected without hampering restrictions; also, their nationals who were already established in the afore-named centres have experienced no difficulty in procuring passports, but have been allowed, and even urged, to return without delay, so as to book orders and push their respective countries' commercial and other interests, whilst we are still "organising."

I may add that, apart from the question of trade, the French, Italian, and Greek schools in Constantinople, Smyrna, and elsewhere have been reopened, but we British, not profiting by the lessons of the war, appear still to prefer to "wait and see." Are we going to be "too late" once more?—I am, yours faithfully, S.

London, April 23.

The Hunslet Engine Co., Leeds, have on hand 26 one-metre-gauge locomotives for the Eastern Bengal Railway, while for the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Messrs. Kerr, Stuart, and Co., of Stoke-on-Trent, are to build two 4-6-0 locomotives.

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THE DISTURBANCES IN EGYPT.

Economic Consequences.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 7.

It is to be feared that the economic effects of the past month's disturbances will be serious. The greatest amount of damage has been done to the railway and telegraph system, where the permanent way has been pulled up at various points over long stretches, the sleepers and telegraph poles have been taken off for consumption as fuel, the signalling and transmission apparatus have been smashed beyond repair, and a considerable amount of rolling stock and buildings have been burnt or destroyed. On the other hand, the people have interfered very little with the irrigation works, and only in a few places, and then to a minor extent, have the canal control works suffered interruption. At the same time, the interruption of railway communication, particularly in Upper Egypt, has necessitated the transport of relief parties by water, and since the levels of the river at this time of the year are too low to permit of the navigation of the steamers in question, it has been found necessary to release the water stored at Asiut and Aswan so as to raise the river to the requisite level. This will naturally mean that later on, when the crops will as usual require further water for irrigation, there will not be sufficient to supply free flow, and in view of the difficulty in transporting the fuel required to work the lifting machinery it is to be expected that cultivators will suffer considerably as a consequence.

To a certain extent, the damage done to the railway can be repaired locally, but the signalling and transmission apparatus cannot possibly be replaced locally, and it will take some considerable time to restore the system to the condition in which it was six weeks ago. It has in the past only been due to the modern mechanical contrivances for controlling traffic which have been introduced throughout the system that the railways have been able to handle the considerable amount of produce of every description, including cotton, produced in Egypt, but, as a result of the present state of affairs, it is very much to be feared that it will not be possible to move even the coming cotton crop in a satisfactory manner, and that a great portion will be left up-country. There is likewise bound to be difficulty in feeding the urban population, since the cereal stocks and the cattle from the Sudan cannot be transported, for, although railway communication has been re-established, it is as yet quite impossible to deal with goods traffic.

In what measure and for what period the effects of the recent disturbances will be felt must to a great extent depend on the length of time during which the existing excitement lasts, and the celerity with which the damage can be repaired, but, even allowing for the wonderful recuperative power which Egypt and the Egyptians possess, it is much to be feared that the consequences will make themselves felt in the social and economic life of the country for some considerable time after order is restored.

FOREIGN TRADE ORGANISATION IN SERBIA.

With the assistance and under the direction of the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, says a British Consular report, Belgrade importers have formed nine "Associations" (Consortia), for the purpose of replenishing Serbia and renewing commercial relations with foreign countries. The associations are :—(1) Textiles; (2) iron goods, agricultural machines, and implements; (3) leather, material and implements for manufacture of boots; (4) colonial goods and provisions; (5) haberdashery, hosiery, fancy goods, and ready-made articles of clothing and footwear for town population; (6) ditto for rural population; (7) glass and glassware, porcelain and earthenware, paints and colours, and electro-technical articles; (8) books, paper and writing materials; and (9) drugs, medicines, etc.

Owing to the scarcity of money for purchases abroad, the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce has asked the Government that they should give to the merchants (importers), for their credits abroad, State guarantees through the National Bank of Serbia and its branches throughout the country. The State guarantee asked for and accorded for present requirements amounts to 100,000,000 francs (£4,000,000).

The purchase of goods, fixing the credits, etc., will be decided and carried out by a special committee composed of members of the Chamber of Commerce and members of the above-mentioned "associations." State and private papers of value (bills, shares, etc.), real estate, Serbian paper money, as also foreign paper money at the rate fixed by the Ministry of Finance, will be accepted as cover deposits for credits. Credits, without a deposit such as the above, but on the signatures of reliable and well-known persons, will only be issued to such persons (firms) who during and owing to the war have so seriously suffered as to possess nothing which could serve as a deposit.

Each of the above "associations" will depute two representatives to visit the markets abroad and conclude purchases for the importers concerned. Messrs. Svetislav Okanovitch and Jovan Jovanovitch, who represent the "Associations" of Importers of Drugs, Medicines, etc., have already left Serbia for that purpose. It is understood that similar "associations" will also be formed at Agram, Laibach, Serajevo, and Spalato, with branches in all the more important centres in the New Kingdom.

TRADE CATALOGUES FOR PALESTINE.

It is announced that the Chief Administrator, Occupied Enemy Territory Administration for South Palestine, desires to obtain as many catalogues as possible upon numerous import lines, all of which should find a profitable market in Palestine. Facilities for inspecting these catalogues will be offered to interested parties in Jaffa, Haifa, and Jerusalem, and it is conceived that they will tend in no small measure to the replacement of enemy importation by United Kingdom goods.

The main object is to draw inquiry; the question, therefore, of uncertain catalogue prices should not debar the sending of trade literature. Actual prices and delivery can be settled by correspondence with the manufacturers and gradual substitution of newer catalogues. Catalogues in the three principal languages of the country—English, French, and Arabic—are much appreciated, and were a great feature in the German pre-war trade propaganda.

The following are the principal imports required, and it is suggested that suitable firms should send their catalogues addressed to Headquarters, Economic Section, O.E.T.A., Jerusalem:—Agricultural machinery and implements, flour-mill installations, all kinds of motors, furniture, bedsteads, enamelware, pottery, glassware, lamps, stationery, hardware, ironware, articles of construction, book-printing and book-binding machinery and types, boots and shoes, drugs and chemicals, brushes for painting and household, travelling bags and necessaries, locks, musical instruments, typewriters, all kinds of tools, engines for petroleum and gas, and perfumery.

SUDAN TRADERS' TAX.

A special *Sudan Government Gazette* contains the text of an ordinance, to be known as the "Traders' Tax Ordinance, 1919," intended to amend the Traders' Tax Ordinance, 1913. It gives the Governor-General in Council the power from time to time, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to alter or amend the schedule of the rate of the tax, or to cancel any existing schedule and to bring into effect a new schedule. H.E. the Acting Governor-General issues an Order that the tax assessed for the current year should become due on April 30, and payable by two equal instalments, on April 30 and October 31, 1919. The schedule to the Traders' Tax Ordinance, 1913, has been cancelled, and a new schedule substituted. The new schedule divides merchants into three classes: the first class are those whose assessed annual profits exceed £E500 per annum; the second class are those whose profits exceed £E100, but do not exceed £E500; and the third class are those whose assessed annual profits do not exceed £E100. The first class pay at the rate of £E6 per cent. on the whole assessment.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Produce.

Gum.

The C.E.B. report for February states that the exports of gum during that month were, via Port Sudan, 2,144,953 kilos of hashab, of the value of £68,136, and 19,540 kilos of talh, of the value of £403; and via Halfa, 63,500 kilos of hashab, of the value of £2,018, and 32,249 kilos of talh, of the value of £674. 1,723 tons of gum were carried on the Kosti-El Obeid Railway, as against 1,189 tons in January.

Kordofan Province.—18,150 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during February, as against 14,598 kantars in the same month last year, at an average price of £E1.030 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 9,382 kantars, as against 4,638 last year. At Um Ruaba 6,685 kantars were sold during the month, at an average price of £E1,120, as against 5,158 kantars in the same month last year. At Rahad 4,321 kantars were sold during the month, as against 1,828 kantars in the same month last year. The price varied from £E1.050 to £E1,130.

Sennar Province.—Gum has come in well, and much energy is being directed to working the forests.

Upper Nile Province.—January and February.—The price of gum fluctuates between PT113 and PT125 per kantar; 39¼ kantars of hashab and 818 kantars of hashab were exported from Renk district in January and February respectively.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar.—The cotton presented a healthy appearance, and had recovered a great deal during the preceding few weeks, but it is difficult at the moment to say anything definite as to the probable amount of the crop. The cotton market is to open on March 15, and there is little doubt that the crop will be a very late one, and it is therefore to be hoped that good weather will continue into June to enable the cotton to be picked to the last, as was the case in 1918.

Kassala Province.—The Inspector of Agriculture reports that the crop, on the whole, is about three weeks earlier than last year. Cotton from the better districts is well up to last year's quantity, but there will be a slight falling off in the class on the whole. The total crop may be put at 18,000 kantars of 100 rottles.

Berber Province.—At Wad Hamid Basin cotton on the experimental area was looking extremely well, and the provision of shallow sakia wells should add a kantar or more to the yield per feddan. At Gendettu cotton has done excellently. Elsewhere cotton has been bad, though the company's land at Zeidab has given a yield above the average.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 25:—

General rain in Assam Lower and Deltic Bengal at Chota Nagpur, Kashmir, and Mysore. Thunder showers elsewhere. More required by Bengal and Surma Valley.

All India final Sesamum forecast revised acreage, 3,501,000; yield, 258,000 tons. (Last year, 4,023,000 acres and 333,000 tons.)

Bombay cotton market firm. Fully good Broach quoted, April-May delivery, 518 rupees: July-August delivery, 530 rupees. Piece-goods market, no improvement. Calcutta jute market firm. Gunny market very firm. Rice market, Government control price maintained, 4 rupees 14 annas.

Motor vehicles may now be imported into Ceylon subject to a duty of 7½ per cent. *ad valorem*.

The *Bulletin Officiel* of Morocco of March 17 contains a Dahir authorising the establishment of general warehouses at Kenitra. The rates charged will be those in force at the warehouses at Marseilles.

The Alexandria Municipal Delegation, at a recent meeting, discussed a proposal for the reconstruction of a quay on the bank of the Mahmoudieh Canal, to facilitate Nile shipping in Alexandria. The scheme was referred to the members of the Commission for study.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

CAISSE HYPOTHECAIRE D'EGYPTE.

The following is a translation of the report of the board of directors read at the general meeting held at Brussels on April 15 :—

"Since our statutory general meeting of April 16, 1918, at which we were unable owing to the difficulties of communication to present to you the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account for the year 1917, the armistice, concluded after the glorious success of our armies and those of our Allies, has permitted the gradual re-establishment of our communications with our offices in Paris and Cairo. In conformity with what was agreed upon at the meeting in question we have the honour to submit for your approval the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account for our fourteenth and fifteenth financial years combined, so far as it has been possible for us to bring them up to December 31, 1918, with the information already in our possession.

The transactions of the company have resulted in a total of 6,017,284 francs for interests, commissions and sundries, and the credit balance of the profit and loss account amounts to 221,979 francs against a debit balance at December 31, 1916, of 629,349 francs. In the course of the year 1918 46 new loans were arranged for an amount of 2,221,964 francs. The average value of current loans at December 31, 1918, stands at 40,453 francs. At the same date the percentage of loans on country securities was 78 per cent., and that of loans on town securities or both 22 per cent.

As regards the general outlook, Egyptian agriculture has benefited by two years of good crops sold at exceptionally high prices, which has placed in the hands of the cultivators considerable disposable sums and has enabled them to meet their mortgage obligations. Without venturing to forecast the economic situation which will develop for Egypt from the definite re-establishment of peace, it can be said that as regards cotton, in view of the exhaustion of manufactured goods throughout the world, the position will be maintained for some time yet. The position of the real estate market also shows a marked improvement. The high prices obtained for all produce has brought about an era of affluence for landowners, and has favoured the resumption of land transactions—a revival conduced to by the greatly increased value of good agricultural land in particular. With regard to moderate and poor lands, they are still suffering from the bad effects of the suspension of irrigation works, the carrying out of the vast programme drawn up by Lord Kitchener having been suspended since the outbreak of the war. It is in this class of security that we have suffered some disappointment.

Finally, the foreign trade of Egypt, which has increased to a remarkable extent, shows a steady predominance of exports over imports, which enables it to be said that a considerable surplus remains each year in the country. Thanks to these various favourable factors our company is freed from the anxiety which marked the first years of the war. The amount of arrears standing over has been reduced, thanks to the collections of 1917 and 1918, to satisfactory proportions.

As regards the "lands acquired by expropriation" they also begin to decrease. From 9,658,816 francs at December 31, 1917, they have been reduced, indeed, to 7,143,620 francs at December 31 last, and that descending curve will probably be further accelerated in the course of 1919. We find that in 1913 and 1915 the amount of securities redeemed was three times greater than that of the securities sold, while in 1918, on the contrary, the sales were three times greater than the redemptions. Here also the situation will end by becoming normal. The settlement of our landed property will involve, however, of necessity some loss. Granted the marked upward tendency in the value of landed property in Egypt, we have every cause to hope that the loss will be adequately counterbalanced by our profits on redemption.

Our mortgage investments have greatly decreased owing to the fact that since the outbreak of the war we have scarcely made any new transactions, while the receipts on annuities have been very active during the last two years. The repayments included in these annuities appear in our disposable funds and our provisional investments. Respecting the reinvestment of these funds in Egypt, it is necessary to wait for some time yet until the return of normal conditions makes possible the resumption of irrigation works and drainage schemes; that resumption will place at the disposal of cultivators considerable areas of land at present uncultivated, the outlay on which will necessitate new capital for which the cultivators will offer as security their lands already in full yield.

In addition to this, neighbouring countries like Syria and Palestine will offer new openings for mortgage loans as soon as their definite status has been decided. That field for enterprise was foreseen at the time when our articles of association were drawn up.

M. Frederic Jacobs, M. Jules Rolin, and M. George Eid, administrators, and M. le Comte de Bouthillier-Chavigny and M. Charles le Grelle, commissaries, retire in the course of rotation, and are eligible for re-election.

You will have to regularise, as far as is necessary, the offices of members of the board of administrators and of the commissaries, who have been prevented from acting by reason of their situation.

Our colleague, M. de Trincaud La Tour, asked us, in the course of the year, to relieve him of his duties as administrator, not being able, for reasons of health, to give us his active collaboration as he has hitherto done. We deeply regret his decision, which deprives us of his great business experience and of his most valuable assistance.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Ltd., adjourned on March 10, was resumed on April 28 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ernest Hamilton, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman said the meeting was adjourned in order to allow Mr. Reeves to secure the opinion of certain shareholders in Egypt.

Mr. Hugh Reeves said that at the annual meeting there was a considerable volume of opinion in favour of taking the opportunity afforded by the largely increased value of the assets to realise the property and distribute the proceeds among the shareholders. An extraordinary general meeting, convened to deal with the suggestion, was held on March 10, when the holders of 51,000 shares who desired realisation were present or represented by proxy. He then stated that a small body of shareholders had been formed, who had been approached by more than one possible purchaser of the undertaking or of the shares, and that the best prospect seemed to lie in the direction of one whose name he was now about to divulge. They, therefore, asked for an adjournment to enable shareholders to be asked for their authority to offer their shares for sale. The meeting was adjourned, and on March 17 a circular was issued stating that a powerful group might be prepared to give £6 for each ordinary share if a sufficient number—that is, a number representing voting control of the company—were offered at this figure, and recommending shareholders to do so. The circular stated further that if the transaction were completed the purchasers would pay the expenses of clerical work and a commission of 1 per cent. to himself, who had conducted these negotiations. The result was that offers to sell rather over 60,000 ordinary shares at £6 net each had been received. This enabled him to state that the buyers were the British Trade Corporation, the Governor of which had written that day that the 60,000 shares offered were sufficient, although he would prefer more. He, therefore, proposed to close the business on behalf of those shareholders whose authority to sell he held. Up to May 14 further shares could be included in the transaction on the same terms; beyond that date he could not make any definite promise. Treasury consent had been received to the remittance to Egypt of the purchase money of any shares sold by holders there. In reply to the chairman, Mr. Reeves said that the purchase of the ordinary shares offered would immediately be proceeded with, irrespective of whether or not more offers to sell were received.

As a matter of form, the resolution instructing the directors to realise the assets with a view to the ultimate liquidation set down for consideration at the meeting of March 10 was unanimously negatived, and the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Indian Electric Supply and Traction.

The report of the Indian Electric Supply and Traction Company for 1918 states that the surplus on the year's working in Cawnpore was £19,271 (against £17,767), and including transfer fees and exchange adjustment in England, the credit side of net revenue account shows a total of £20,674. London expenditure was £2,227 (against £2,217), and after providing £3,900 for debenture interest profit was £14,548; £685 was brought forward, making £15,233. The board have placed to reserve for depreciation and renewals £6,000; to debenture issue expenses, written off, £1,000; and recommend a final dividend of 5½ per cent., which, with the interim dividend of 2½ per cent., paid on November 19, 1918, makes the dividend on all shares issued prior to December 5 last at the rate of 8 per cent. for the year, and on all shares subsequently issued 5½ per cent. The balance carried forward is £1,171. A resolution will be submitted giving the directors power to pay an underwriting commission up to 10 per cent. on the issue of any new capital. Meeting, Orient House, New Broad Street, E.C., 6th instant, noon.

Barsi Light Railway.

An interim report of the Barsi Light Railway Company states that the net revenue for the year ended March 31 last, as advised by cable, amounts approximately to £37,000, compared with £28,000 the previous year. From this has to be met the interest on the Four per Cent. Debenture stock and the interest and sinking fund instalment on the Four per Cent Latur Extension Debentures, totalling £11,249. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent., or 6s. per share (at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum), which will absorb £7,800. The restrictions on the through booking of traffic with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway via Kurduvadi Junction have continued, with little variation, throughout the year, but during the last three months the main line railway has been able to supply a larger number of wagons, and the traffic returns have considerably improved. The influenza epidemic caused much dislocation of business for a time, and passenger traffic has also suffered from the prohibition of the through booking of pilgrims to Pandharpur. Conditions generally are improving, though still far from normal. The reports on the probable quantities of produce in the district are not unsatisfactory.

LAND AND MORTGAGE CO. OF EGYPT,

The directors of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt state in a circular letter to holders of 4½ per cent. debentures that having funds available they are prepared to purchase outstanding 4½ per cent. debentures at a price not exceeding £90 for each £100 nominal, and holders who may desire to avail themselves of this opportunity of disposing of their holdings are invited to make a tender of the same. The price payable for the debentures, the tender for which may be accepted, will be paid on May 16, 1919, or so soon thereafter as the debentures shall be delivered to the company. It is added that the invitation to tender must not be taken to imply that the lowest or any tenders will necessarily be accepted by the company.

The official liquidator of the Amritsar Bank, Ltd., announces a fourth dividend of 4 annas in the rupee, making up the 16 annas.

DEMOBILISED BRITISH CAVALRY OFFICER (28), desires Employment in TURKEY—SMYRNA, CONSTANTINOPLE or Inland. Has had nine years experience timber trade, home and abroad, and has a thorough working knowledge of woodworking and constructional machinery. Used to outdoor life—good horsemaster and used to the management of men.—Apply Box H.6, NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Compagnie Ottomane des eaux de Salonique.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at 36, Rue de la Pépinière, Brussels, on May 30.

Tramways and Lighting of Belgrade.—As soon as it is possible to present the balance-sheets for the last five years a general meeting will be called.

Société Anonyme des Brasseries d'Egypte.—The general meeting, which was to have been held at Brussels on May 7, has been postponed to a later date.

The ordinary general meeting and an extraordinary general meeting of the Compagnie générale d'exploitations aux Indes orientales will be held at La Haye to-day.

Barsi Light Railway.—The warrants for the interim dividend for the year ended March 31, 1919, on the shares of this company, Nos. 1 to 26.000 inclusive, have been posted.

Coupon No. 27 of the preference shares of the Société Anonyme du Behera is payable on and after May 1 at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, Cairo, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4).

The report of the Indian Peninsula Rubber and Tea Estates for year to June 30 last states that the year's working shows a net loss of £8,565, and deducting the credit balance brought in there is a debit of £2,601.

Transfer books of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company's three-and-a-half per cent. preference and four per cent. second preference stocks will be closed from May 10 to May 24, for the purpose of preparing the dividend warrants.

Tramways of Alexandria.—A series of five general meetings of this company will be held at the company's offices, 99, Rue Royale, Brussels, on May 7, to consider the reports and balance-sheets for the years 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918.

Persia 5 Per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1911.—The numbers are announced of 125 bonds, amounting to £6,900, of the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1912, which have been drawn for redemption on May 15 next, when all interest thereon will cease.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

An English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

TURKEY.—Business gentleman proceeding early May to Turkey on three months' business trip would entertain business propositions of firms in United Kingdom wishing to do business with that country, especially in the way of import of produce, carpets, tobacco, etc., etc.—Write to Box H9., NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The necessary number of Shares required to pass the Resolutions at the Sixteenth Ordinary General Meeting of THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT, held in Cairo on Tuesday, the 29th April, 1919, not having been represented thereat, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SIXTEENTH (ADJOURNED) ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the said Bank will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo on Friday, the 16th May, 1919, at Four o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of :—

Receiving the Directors' Report.
Receiving the Auditors' Report.
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1919.
Declaration of Dividends.
Election of Directors.
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration.
And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 5th May, 1919), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places.

In Egypt.—At THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT, Cairo. At THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT, Alexandria.

In London.—At THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 29th April, 1919.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

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

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY.
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET,
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall. | **MARSEILLES:** 38, Rue St. Ferreol.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East).

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The prospects in the market continue brighter. A considerable inquiry has been dealt with, and numerous producers are now strengthening their position. The Government continues to remove restrictions upon trade and the activities of merchants are being freed in many ways. It looks as though Egyptian cotton will be the last article to be decontrolled by the authorities. Much uncertainty exists as to what will happen after the end of July. A good deal depends upon the course of values in the American staple. In the meantime producers are afraid to purchase with any freedom in Egyptian qualities. Some improvement is now showing itself in yarns made from Egyptian cotton and quotations are more firmly held. After being very quiet for several months demand in piece goods for Egypt is broadening and some fairly substantial contracts have been put through this week chiefly in standard makes. An extensive business has been offering for India in light fabrics such as dhooties, mulls and jaconets. Shippers to Calcutta after being slow for a long time are now purchasing larger lines. Operations in grey shirtings seem to be near at hand. Trade to some extent for China has been checked by the higher prices required by manufacturers. Some encouraging sales have taken place for Java and Singapore. Home trade buyers are now displaying more life. There has been a further increase in the amount of machinery running in weaving districts. Spinners of American yarns have now resumed production after the fortnight's stoppage. A fairly healthy demand has been met with, but some users seem to doubt whether producers will be able to maintain their recently improved position. An encouraging demand has come through in bundle yarns for India and in crops for the Continent, especially Holland.

BRITISH CATALOGUES REQUIRED FOR ATHENS.

H.M. Consul-General at Athens reports that a catalogue library is being formed in connection with the Air Department of the Ministry of Marine, and that they would be glad to receive catalogues from British manufacturers. In the case of any catalogue of goods not used by the Air Department, it will be transmitted to the Ministry of the Greek Government, which may be more immediately concerned. Catalogues should be sent direct to Commander J. Weston, British Naval Mission, Director of Technical and Equipment Section, Royal Hellenic Naval Air Service, Ministry of Marine, Athens.

Mr. P W. Monie, I.C.S., has been appointed Commissioner of Bombay Municipality for a further term of three years.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. state in their bullion circular that the net imports of gold into India on private account amounted in 1917-18 to £13,000,000, as against £9.000.000 in 1916-17, and £19,000,000 the pre-war average. The net imports on Government account in 1917-18 were valued at £3,493,000, as against a net export of £27,000 in the previous year, and of £477.000 the pre-war average, and consisted mainly of sovereigns.

NEW COMPANIES.

New Egyptian Companies.

A number of new companies have recently been registered at the Alexandria Mixed Tribunal, among them Victor Mizrahi and Co., with a capital of £E5,000 for general trade, and Charlton Eugenides and Co.. with a capital of £E5,000 for bourse transactions and brokerage.

Anglo-Canadian Association for Roumanian Traders.

A private company with the above title was registered on April 8, with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. The objects are stated to be to place, obtain or negotiate orders relating to the manufacture of goods, wares and merchandise, either as principals, agents or factors, etc.

Haynes Spanish and Moroccan Trading Co., Ltd.

A company with the above title was registered on April 17, with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. The objects are to acquire any concessions, grants and powers in Spain, Morocco, or elsewhere; to carry on the business of capitalists, merchants, brokers, shippers, etc. Subscribers are:—S. Davis, Brompton Avenue, Egremont, Cheshire, produce manager; F. M. Soulsby, 7, Marine Terrace, Waterloo, Liverpool, contractor. Manager, J. S. Haynes. Registered office, 37, Moorfields, Liverpool.

During February 32 joint stock companies were registered in India, with an aggregate capital of £3,000.000, among them the E. D. Sassoon United Mills, Bombay, with an authorised capital of £2.000,000, the object of the company being the spinning and weaving of cotton, silk, etc.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON APRIL 12.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20⅞
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	109½
Div.	Frs.	162
" "		
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	12
priv.	L.E.	4 1/16
"		
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	205
Bons de Panama	Frs.	168½
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	97½
Priv.	Frs.	106
"		
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	103⅞
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	35/32d
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 3/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 1/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	1 9/16
Unifiée	L.E.	92⅛
Privilégiée		79¼
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7½
Nungovich Hotels	£	7½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅞
" " Fond.	£	475
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4 9/16
" Ord		111/11¼
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	13⅝
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅝
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	115/32d
" Jouissance	Frs.	178/32d
Egyptian Markets		25/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	408
Div.	Frs.	370
"		
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	252
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 9/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		53/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	744
" Fondateur	Frs.	990
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	440½
" 1903 "	Frs.	316
" 1911 "	Frs.	283⅜
United Lands	P.T.	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		49/32

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

Our market, after being rather weak and lower, is closing with a much better tone owing to the great improvement in the news received from Egypt, where it appears that during the recent troubles most of the land companies have sustained no damage, and that even in some cases where damage has been done it is of a trifling nature.

In Government stocks there has been some business round current prices, which are unchanged after being rather lower.

Bank shares were particularly weak at one time. Nationals dropped to about 19¾, but are closing to-night ¼ better than last week at 20¼ on a renewal of inquiry both from Egypt and the Continent. Agriculturals, which had receded to about 6⅛, are closing only 1-16 lower at 6⅜. Anglo-Egyptian Banks dipped under 15, but finished ⅛ up at 15¼.

In Railways, Delta Lights, after declining to 7½, are closing unchanged round 7¾.

Land shares were very weak at one time, but are closing with an improved tone. Aboukirs are 6d. lower at 26s. 6d., Beheras are ¼ down at 12¾, Delta Lands are 9d. easier at 13s. 3d., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have dropped a similar fraction to 14s. In New Egyptians the price, after being down to 24s., closes at 24s. 6d. Sidi Salems and Union Foncières are both 1-16 lower at 2½ and 3 7-16 respectively. Sudan Plantations are exceptionally firm, and are finishing 3-16 up at 6 9-16. United Egyptian Lands have been a firm spot, and have recovered 3d. to 2s. 3d.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters have been in demand all the week, but no business has been possible, owing to lack of sellers. Anglo-Egyptian Oils, after temporarily weakening, are closing ⅛ up at 5 5-32. Salts and Sodas have dropped ¼ to 2¾. Khedivial Mails, on the change of control and the big sale of shares, have risen ½ to 6.

In Greek securities, apart from a further fall of one point in Greek Rentes to 55, there is no change to report.

PRICE OF GREEK CURRANTS.

The Food Controller has issued an Order revoking, as from April 14, 1919, the Greek Currants (Maximum Prices) Order, 1918, which prescribed the maximum price at which importers might sell Greek currants. The maximum retail price of currants remains controlled at 10d. per lb. under the Dried Fruits (Retail Prices) Order, 1918.

A telegram received by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China from its Karachi branch states that the cash and records of the Amritsar branch are intact.

Chests containing Roumanian bank notes to the value of 30.000,000 francs (£1,500,000), taken by the Germans from Roumania, were stolen from the Julius Tower of the Spandau Citadel in the Spartacist disturbances at the beginning of March according to the *Zeitung am Mittag*.

The Board of Trade have received from H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta copy of a notification issued by the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, and cancelling the notification dated July 22, 1916, prohibiting the importation of unset diamonds into British India.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. April 24	May 1
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90½	90½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72½	72½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56	55
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5 % Funding, Ln., 1893	54	66xd	66xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	83	83
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	84½	81½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 7/16	6 3/8
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	£2	15⅛	15½
Bank of Athens	—	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅞	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	75xd	75
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9 1/16	9⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¼	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7 1/16	7 1/16
London County and Westminster	—	17½	17½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20	20½
National Bank of India	43	54xd	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅞	7⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	—
Pirsus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	27/-	26/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	12¾
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/-	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/9	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2½	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/-	24/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2 1/16	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	—	6⅜	6 5/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅜	3 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/-	2/5
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅛
Anglo-Egyptian B.	—	5 1/16	5 1/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	3	2⅞
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	5½	6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4⅛xd	4⅛xd

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£85,000*

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£856,000**
RESERVE - - - - - -	**£220,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.
Agencies at Busreh and Baghdad

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East

REMITTANCES TO SERBIA

Remittances to Belgrade, Uskub and Monastir can now be effected through

THE BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Telephone: 1110 London Wall.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.37,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,51,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 25,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital -	**£2,000,000**	**Called-up Capital** - -	**£580,000**
Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER . LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. **MANCHESTER.** **NEW YORK.**

EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.

MOROCCO:—
CASABLANCA, FEZ MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, SAFFI, TANGIER.

CANARY ISLANDS:—
LAS PALMAS.

WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£2,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,000,000**
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) ..	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,550,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman.* ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq. SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, Esq. J. N. STUART, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

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

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 418.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The preliminary terms of peace were presented to the German representatives on Wednesday, and by the time these lines appear in print they will be known throughout the world. At the time of writing, however, it has been possible only to glance through them. In the circumstances it would be unwise to attempt any detailed analysis, but certain points in the Treaty which stand out in bold relief may be briefly noted. As to the military and naval terms to be imposed on Germany it need only be remarked to-day that they will probably be regarded as adequate to secure the purpose aimed at. Germany's army, navy, and aerial forces are to be reduced to dimensions that will surely cause the militarists to rage, and we must expect violent protestations on this head from them and their supporters. Possibly the reduction of their navy may cause less heartburning among them than the very drastic treatment of their army and the entire elimination (after October 1 next) of their aerial forces. These things will be accompanied by a suitable limitation of armaments and a dismantling of fortifications, at least on the western frontier.

The adjustments on the eastern frontier, the question of Schleswig, and the solution of the Danzig problem all follow along lines that have been foreseen, and in any case need not be dealt with here. But the fate of the German colonies is certainly not without interest for the Near East, and more especially for the Moslem world. The ex-Kaiser's impudent patronage of Islam and his professions of interest in all Moslems were in marked contrast to Germany's treatment of the natives in her own colonies and her attempts to suppress the Moslem religion in those territories. The East, therefore, will experience no regret on learning that the German colonies are to be given up; and it is safe to add that very few Moslems will shed a single tear over "Hajji Wilhelm" and his fate. What that fate will be it is too early to say, but the Allies have publicly arraigned the ex-Emperor for "a supreme offence against international morality and the sanctity of treaties," and it is their intention to have him tried by a special tribunal of five judges, who are to be appointed by Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy, and Japan. Those of his subjects and his servants who have offended against the laws and customs of war, or been guilty of criminal acts against the subjects of Allied Powers, are also to be brought to book. The significance of the latter demand will not be lost in the countries of Germany's allies.

The infamous Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and that of Bucharest, from which the Germans in the day of their success hoped so much, will meet the fate they merit. They are to be considered as abrogated, and the Roumanian Government—and the other sufferers—are to receive back from the German Government all the plunder it secured under the treaties in question. Here, again, we may rest assured, Germany's allies, who only too readily followed her example in the matter of looting, will find little comfort in the announcement of the decisions of Paris. But if Bulgaria and Turkey decline to recognise the advantages of such a readjustment of ownership as this, Serbia and Roumania may be trusted to welcome it with natural enthusiasm; and assuredly there will be no sympathy to spare in Entente and associated countries for those who, having first backed the wrong horse, next endeavoured to insure themselves against loss by robbing the owner of the favourite and his friends. Turkey will also observe with considerable interest that Germany will now have to part with all the gold that she managed to acquire in her dealings with the Committee Government and the gerrymandered Council of the Ottoman Public Debt. This plunder, needless to say, is unlikely to find its way back to Turkey.

German intrigue has been active in all quarters of the globe, as, thanks to the war, all the world must now recognise; but nowhere, probably, has it been more active than in Morocco and—during recent years—in Egypt. With regard to Morocco Germany has followed, almost openly, a policy of brutal coarseness which seemed to aim—and probably actually did aim—deliberately at exacerbating French feeling. In Egypt her agents took more pains to do her dirty work secretly, but they were increasingly active; and there can be very little doubt that the present unrest on the banks of the Nile is to some extent directly and to a much greater extent indirectly, due to their activities. Incidentally it may be noted that they paid some attention to Tripoli and indeed to all the North African coastal region, where they thought their alleged sympathy with Islam might be turned to profit. But it was in Morocco and Egypt that they were most energetic, and, though their hopes in regard to both countries in the war remained unfulfilled, they had a certain measure of success. In future they will find it less easy to make mischief in these regions. By the treaty Germany recognises the British Protectorate over Egypt and renounces all the privileges that she enjoyed under the Capitulations and Agreements with Egypt. Similarly, she has to recognise the French Protectorate

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in Morocco, to abandon all rights and privileges that she enjoyed in virtue of the Act of Algeciras of 1906 and of her Agreements with France in 1909 and 1911; while she regards as abrogated all the treaties and agreements between herself and the Shereefian Empire. The arrangements made for freeing Morocco from all traces of German influence appear to be singularly thorough in character.

Next to the terms of the Treaty in interest comes the explanation of how it came to be presented by a united body of the Allies rather than by one lacking the support of the Italian delegates. Signor Orlando and Baron Sonnino returned to Paris on Wednesday morning, and it is understood that a solution of the Fiume difficulty has been found. A solution of one kind or another was undoubtedly almost overdue when such an ardent friend of the Allies as Prince von Bülow felt that the time had come for him to venture an opinion on the subject. According to the *Giornale d'Italia*, this amiable gentleman declared categorically that Fiume, Sebenico, and Spalato were Italian towns, and added an expression of regret for President Wilson's mistaken view of the subject. If Italian statesmanship took alarm at this "friendly" backing, the Prince did not speak in vain. Be that as it may, the solution which is said to have been reached is: (1) That Fiume shall be placed temporarily under the administration of the League of Nations, Italy being made the League's mandatory; (2) that a port shall be constructed south of Fiume for the Yugoslavs, who until it is completed shall have the unrestricted use of Fiume; (3) that Italy shall renounce all claims to the hinterland of Dalmatia, and cease to regard herself as mandatory for the administration of Zara and Sebenico. Whether this be the actual solution or not, it is clear that the problem has passed out of the dangerous stage into which it had drifted last week; and the world, anxious for peace and not disposed to be too critical over such matters, will gladly forget indiscretions that have been perpetrated in connection with the matter, and give credit where credit is due for the escape from the muddle.

Bolshevism appears to be, if not actually at the last gasp, certainly not in a very robust condition. In the north the Bolshevists have suffered a defeat which has enabled the Allies to advance twenty-five miles, and their hold on Petrograd is said to be none too secure; while at Mariupol, in the south, they have suffered a very heavy defeat at the hands of the Kuban Cossacks. But it is from the Roumanians once more that Bolshevism has received its heaviest blow during the past week. Greek troops and French troops share the credit, but Roumanian divisions make up the bulk of the army that has been advancing so rapidly upon Budapest. On Monday King Ferdinand's troops were within forty miles of the Hungarian capital, and Bela Kun and his cronies were preparing to depart in haste, though they talked valiantly of resisting to the last breath. The Bolshevist leaders, as a rule, set such a high value on their breath for oratorical purposes that they have none to spare for the business of fighting, which they prefer to leave to their followers; and Kun and his chief associates will probably have shown their adherence to the principle of captains departing—in a hurry—at the hour of danger. At the time of writing the report that Budapest has actually fallen lacks confirmation, but it is obvious that the fall could not be long delayed. In any case, it is satisfactory to learn from a high military authority that the military situation in Roumania is now regarded as absolutely safe; and that after the occupation of Budapest the Roumanian Army will be ready to advance against the Bolshevists in any direction. The whole Roumanian nation deserves the hearty congratulations of the Allies upon its fine performance in circumstances of extraordinary difficulty. And in this connection we invite particular attention to the tribute paid by our Bucharest Correspondent to the magnificent qualities displayed by the Transylvanians.

Another chapter is added to the long tale of Armenian sufferings by a description of the sad plight of refugees at Igdir forwarded to *The Times* by its correspondent in that region. He reports that, even after the armistice, Turkish troops in the southern part of Russian Armenia removed and destroyed crops and food supplies, and left the country in a state of famine. As a result, the refugees at Igdir and elsewhere have been reduced to starvation, the supply of food being insufficient to keep more than a fraction of the population alive. The total number of refugees in Alexandropol, Igdir, Erivan, Nakhitchevan and the surrounding districts is placed at over 300,000; and it would appear that even the 3 ounces of rice which formerly constituted the daily ration of those in the Alexandropol district has now ceased, no supplies being available. The starving people are eating grass and clover, and—the correspondent reports—in some cases have been reduced to cutting up corpses for food. He has himself, he declares, "seen in the cemetery the remains of bodies dug up at night and partially consumed by starving people." The occupation of the Kars region by British forces will afford much relief by enabling the refugees from that region to return to their homes, which they have hitherto been prevented from doing by the Tartars; and the writer finds some comfort in the reflection that this will enable the restored population to sow crops. We can only hope that—to vary an old saying—it will not be a case of "while the grass grows the steed starves." But under the most favourable circumstances it is to be feared that relief can only reach the sufferers slowly, owing to transport difficulties.

Egypt has no new Cabinet yet, but appears to be getting on without one sufficiently well to make it possible that there will be no hurry about changing the existing state of affairs in this respect. There are admittedly certain difficulties attaching to such a situation, as our Cairo Correspondent has pointed out on more than one occasion; but General Allenby and his assistants will doubtless prove capable of coping with them. In view of all that has happened, it may be no bad thing to give the country an opportunity to see what men of action can do, if only for the sake of teaching it how far it has suffered itself to be misled by men who, though they may have the gift of speech, have certainly not shown themselves possessed of any qualities of statesmanship. Meantime, it is to be noted that General Allenby has made several important appointments to posts that could not in the interests of the country be left vacant. Thus, the machine of State will continue to work in spite of the self-seekers and agitators. When it is running quite normally once more will be the time to inquire into the root causes of the present trouble and, if feasible, to remove them.

For the sake of making the record of events fairly complete, some other incidents in connection with the Egyptian unrest must be briefly mentioned. The tramway strikers and railway strikers have returned to their work, but the students still show a preference for talk over work, and a determination to ignore the orders of the Special High Commissioner. They have addressed a rather ridiculous memorandum to Rushdi Pasha, "Regent for the Khedive, Abbas Hilmi," and they are behaving in general like a lot of not particularly bright schoolboys. It may well be that those responsible for the particular piece of folly just quoted are sincere admirers of Abbas Hilmi, Bolo's friend and patron; but we decline to believe that any but the ringleaders are bigger knaves than fools, and prefer to attribute the continuance of the "strike" to that sheer lack of balance which is, unfortunately, observable in so many Egyptians of the "student" class. In any case, if they persist in their folly they will suffer for it. General Allenby announced that unless by May 7 students returned to the Government colleges and schools in sufficient numbers to justify their being kept open, they would be closed, and that no student now registered will be admitted for examination this year unless he had returned by the date mentioned and attended regularly for the remainder of the session. A more serious note in connection with the disturbances

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is struck by the issue of statistics of casualties in Cairo and district between March 10 and April 24. In that period there were killed, 15 Armenians, 74 Egyptians and 4 Greeks, and 37 Egyptians have since died; while the number of wounded is given as 344, the great majority being Egyptians.

The steady improvement in the situation in India can be seen in the wording of the official *communiqué*, and it is, perhaps, permissible to infer that the Rule of Law has now been restored, and that the inevitable period of retribution has begun. The frequent arrests of "religious" mendicants must be taken to indicate that men of this class, which probably comprises as many sinners as saints, have been the principal instigators of the revolt in the Punjab, but we are, naturally, still without information regarding the men who actually pulled the strings and mobilised this powerful body of itinerant agents, and we trust that the authorities will not rest till they have traced the evil to its ultimate source. Peasants, agitators, and organisers are, indeed, all guilty, but their guilt differs widely in degree, and it is the organisers at the centre upon whom the heaviest punishment should fall.

That the rebellion was founded essentially on an organised campaign of mendacity is made clear from the excellent results which have been obtained by placing the facts plainly before the people, and this circumstance must necessarily direct attention once again to the need for improving the existing system of publicity. In the Punjab a lie got a good start, and the authorities have had to hunt it down with mobile columns, and head it off by aeroplanes; such methods are, to say the least, cumbrous and expensive, and it is probable that their employment would have been unnecessary if the truth had got there first. That has always been a difficulty in India, and it becomes more and more serious as time goes on; changes are bound to increase in frequency, and effective machinery is wanted to tell the people what each change really means.

While the people remain illiterate, it is no use looking for help to the ordinary Press, for the obvious and sufficient reason that the potential circulation is too small to be worth striving for. That is the essential weakness of Indian journalism at the present day; the art has made great advances of late and now serves the cities tolerably well, but the masses of the people are not reached, and while "news" circulates only by word of mouth, everything depends upon the start. We have no doubt that the authorities have been too neglectful of this matter in the past. It is true that last year an organised publicity campaign was undertaken in connection with the war; it was in some cases marked by amateurism, but there are substantial successes to its credit, and we think the results of the experiment should now be carefully reviewed in order to see whether it is possible to lay down the lines of an organisation suited to ordinary times—not attempting to create opinion, but providing a solid basis of fact on which informed opinion may develop.

It is rather curious, by the way, that moderate politicians in India should be so anxious for a Mixed Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances. We hope that all the facts will eventually be brought out in the criminal courts, to which they properly belong, but supposing they were laid also before such a Commission, what good would result? The Rowlatt Commission is a case in point; the composition of that body was a judicious blend—its report disclosed to the public the ramifications of widespread and dangerous conspiracies, and politicians of all shades agreed to ignore its findings and dealt with the question as if no such report were in existence. What other result could be hoped for from an inquiry such as is now suggested? Indian public men must develop an appetite for hard facts before such an expenditure of time and money can be justified.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 14.

The Transylvanian Advance.

Since my last letter was posted there have occurred important events of a military character beyond the Carpathians. The Transylvanian Army has been mobilised, and the Roumanian troops have advanced westward beyond the region of the so-called demarcational line. I have been informed to-day that the advanced troops have actually reached the river Tissa, in the north. Though we are kept in ignorance of all details—for the public has to be content with an extremely meagre official *communiqué* in the way of information—it would appear that the troops have met with some resistance on the part of the Hungarian irregulars in the course of their otherwise rapid advance. There are a number of killed, including officers, and several hundred wounded, who have found accommodation in the Transylvanian hospitals, in spite of the disorganised condition in which these were left as a result of the war. The resolute measures adopted by the Roumanian Government and the "Directing Council" of Ardeal have given general satisfaction; for the degradations and atrocities committed by the pseudo-Bolshevist Hungarian Army had created a situation which was becoming untenable. The Transylvanians held their hand while their homes were being plundered and their relations transported, awaiting with exemplary discipline and forbearance the order of mobilisation. They have responded splendidly to the same, as was to be expected, and have generally behaved in such a way as to confirm the opinion that from them, and only from them, can issue that stimulus which is needed to call forth the sterling qualities latent in the Roumanian masses.

Reform of the Calendar.

We retired to rest on March 31, and, to the considerable satisfaction of many amongst us, woke up this morning to find that it was April 14. Nor have we been held for April Fools. It is a concrete fact that the Gregorian calendar has been introduced at last, and I think there will be few to raise the question whether the decree law in virtue of which the change has been effected is anti-constitutional or not. Up till now the New Style had been employed only in the postal administration, a modernisation which relations with foreign countries imperatively demanded. The increasing importance of Roumania, and especially the incorporation of Transylvania and Bukovina, where the Gregorian calendar is in use, have made its generalisation a necessity. Of course, the question of the advisability of introducing the change has been mooted before, but the project had never come to anything, for customs die hard, and here we were further hampered by the opposition of the Church. Indeed, even to-day this institution has remained faithful to the Julian calendar, pending the convocation of a General Synod of the Eastern Church. Until the latter has pronounced upon the matter we may presume that the festivals will be observed according to the Old Style, so that, unless the Church decides to come into line during the course of this year, we shall have to celebrate



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the New Year before Christmas; and the adoption of the reform at a later date would have the curious result of causing Christmas to fall twice in one year. In view of these eventualities, it is to be hoped that the Orthodox Greek Church will not hesitate to waive all narrow considerations.

Gipsy Subjects of King Ferdinand, and—

After the adhesion of the Saxons to the new regime in Transylvania, followed by that of the Swabians of Banat, we now have that of the Gipsies of Transylvania. They have announced their intention of convoking a national assembly on April 27 for the purpose of proclaiming the adhesion of the Gipsy nation to the kingdom of Great Roumania. What the number of Gipsies amounts to in Transylvania and the other Roumanian provinces between the Carpathians and the river Tissa it is very difficult to say. They are notoriously numerous, and in the past served not only to regale the ears of their betters but to swell effectually the Hungarian statistics.

—The Use of Statistics.

It is needless to insist upon the efforts made by the Hungarian Government, indeed by successive Governments (for here they were dealing with nothing less than a national policy), to popularise the use of the Magyar language. It formed the most important part of the variegated system, known by the term "Magyarisation," applied in the provinces in which Magyars were in minority. The results proved totally unsatisfactory from their point of view, for they learned, after the expenditure of much labour spread out over many years, that you cannot "assimilate" a people by merely making the use of your language compulsory. None the less, this question of tongue became the mainstay on which they relied. In the compilation of the census of 1910 it was expected that the highest figures in favour of the Magyar element would be obtained by taking the maternal tongue as its basis. One of the questions asked, "Which is the language you speak with preference?" elicited a reply in many cases favourable to the Magyars. The non-Roumanian elements would have had nothing to gain and all to lose by the adoption of any other attitude. Designedly I say "non-Roumanians," for they had, and could have, no national pretensions of their own tending to autonomy. Yet, no doubt, the rule would apply in some degree to Roumanians as well, though probably only to those living in parts where they were more or less isolated, and where a man was marked if he gave proof of nationalist tendencies. In any case, pressure and intimidation were widely resorted to for the purpose of swelling the figures in favour of the Magyar element, by which errors amounting to many hundreds of thousands have been wilfully introduced. In the published statistical results the words "language of preference" were replaced by "maternal tongue." It is said that as using by choice the Hungarian tongue were entered "Gipsies, Jews, infants under two years, and the dumb!"

ALEXANDRIA MERCHANT SEAMEN'S HOME.

We have received an appeal from the Alexandria Merchant Seamen's Home, and are asked to make public the need for this most worthy institution. Everyone knows that Alexandria is the premier port of Egypt, and that the prosperity of the country has come about largely through the maintenance of sea-borne traffic. The numbers of seamen visiting the port increase, but the efforts to provide comfort for these fine men are very inadequate. It is desired that, when they land, these men shall find a real home, for the establishment of which donations are sorely needed. We have little doubt that the appeal will meet with success. Donations may be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, J. K. Clarkson, c/o Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., 4, Rue du Telegraphe Anglais, Alexandria.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Press and Public.

There is much speculation as to coming appointments, especially regarding the next High Commissioner, in spite of the feeling of uncertainty which prevails as to the fate of Cyprus. The office of Chief Justice, as well as that of at least two District Commissioners, is vacant. As the time of decisions by the Peace Conference respecting countries of the Near East approaches, greater interest is being taken in every telegram that arrives and in every report of the "Cyprus Mission" in London. The circulation of news throughout the island has become far more rapid, while the number of educated villagers increases very considerably year by year. In all the large villages and in groups of the smaller and more remote ones the schoolmaster or some other leading man enlightens the community at the church or the coffee house; and if political information does not reach the smallest hamlet it is not the fault of the Press. For here, in a population of less than 300,000, there are at least thirteen Greek newspapers; and how they all manage to exist is a marvel, especially as they print but few advertisements. Ten of them are weeklies under the following titles: *Truth*, *Liberty*, the *Fatherland*, *Voice of Cyprus*, *Herald*, *New Nation*, *Cyprus Echo*, *Age*, *Union*, and *Cyprus Guardian*. There are also one ecclesiastical and two satirical papers, the former of which is widely read. The Nicosia weekly, the *Voice of Cyprus*, heads the list with a circulation of 1,350 copies. The oldest paper is *Truth*, which appeared soon after the British occupation, and was very outspoken and anti-Government. Many of them have distinguished themselves by the ultra-patriotic and critical tone with which they discuss island affairs and grievances, both real and imaginary. The Cypriot wields a ready pen, just as he is an exuberant speaker. During the war the censorship has been exercised. Greek papers have not been allowed to leave the island, and this muzzling was presumably due to well-considered reasons. Most of the copies that left the island went to Egypt, where the Greek community includes a very large Cypriot colony.

Island Literature.

A list of island publications is published annually in the Government *Gazette*. Those of last year show some increase in the quality of the literary output. There is always a collection of ballads by village poets, who go from village to village reciting their works and offering them for sale "at popular prices." There are several amorous and military ballads, others describing the sensational murders of the year, the suicides of lovers—*e.g.*, "the tragic suicide of the handsome girl Rodothea Constantinou," and so forth. But the list includes more serious works, such as "A Complete Guide for the Tobacco Grower," a "Practical Guide for Silkworm Rearing," "A Cypriot Calendar," "An Art of Manual Work for Children," "General Principles of Agriculture" (price 8d.), and "Experimental Physics for Elementary Schools" (4½d.). A Turkish author publishes an "Anglo-Turkish Guide." All this shows a great advance in literary effort in the island. There is one Government publication, viz., "The Statute Laws of Cyprus for 1917." The Greek community proposes several authors of larger works, such as Mr. J. Kyriakides, author of the well-known Anglo-Greek Dictionary, and Mr. I. K. Peristiany, author of a portly history of Cyprus and other works on archæology.

Personal Notes.

Mr. A. K. Bovill, Principal Forest Officer, is acting as Director of Agriculture during the absence of Mr. W. Bevan on leave.

Dr. E. Corsellis, District Medical Officer at Limassol, acts for the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Cleveland, while absent.

ENGLISH SPEECH IN EGYPT.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Catholic Truth Society at Westminster Cathedral, on May 2, Cardinal Bourne said one result of the war would be an important extension of British influence. The work of the Catholic Church in Egypt had largely been done by French and Italian priests, but it was clear that in a short time English would become the prevailing language. The part that England had taken had made a great impression in the East and throughout the Balkans, and the Church should make use of English, too, in those countries where they were looking to England.

The *Pioneer* states that Muhammad Tarzi, editor of the Kabul newspaper *Seraj-ul Akhbar*, father-in-law of the Ameer Aman Ullah, has been appointed Foreign Secretary of Afghanistan. In Abdur Rahman's time he was a refugee in Syria.

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THE NEW ROUMANIA.—II.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 14.

Bukovina's Act of Union.

The General Congress of Bukovina assembled in the Synodal Hall of Cernovitz on November 28, 1918, and elected as its president M. Tancu Flondor, who read the following resolution, which was received with enthusiastic applause:—

The General Congress of Bukovina assembled this 28th day of November, 1918, in the Synodal Hall of Cernovitz, taking into consideration the following facts:—That from the foundation of the Roumanian Principalities Bukovina, including the ancient districts of Suceava and Cernovitz, has formed a part of Moldavia; that within the boundaries of this country are contained the ancient royal seat of Suceava, the royal tombs of Radautz, Putna, and Sucevitza, as well as many other relics of past Moldavia; that the children of this country, elbow to elbow with their Moldavian brethren, and under the leadership of the same rulers, have defended in the course of centuries the existence of their country against pagan invasion and all violation from without; that in 1774 Bukovina was reft by perfidy from the body of Moldavia, and annexed by force to the crown of the Habsburgs; that in the course of 144 years the Bukovinean people have had to support a foreign Government which ignored their national rights, and by unspeakable iniquities and persecutions strove to quench their spirit and stir up feuds with those peoples with whom they wished to live on terms of brotherhood; that in the course of 144 years the Bukovineans have been sacrificed on the battlefields of Europe, beneath a foreign flag, for the protection, glory, and aggrandisement of their oppressors, for which they had to endure as recompense the loss of their hereditary rights, the prescription of their language in public affairs, in the schools, and even in the church; that at the same time the native population was systematically impeded from availing itself of the riches and means of livelihood provided by the soil of this country, and dispossessed in large part of its ancient heritage; that, however, in spite of all these misfortunes, the Bukovineans, never losing hope that the day of deliverance, awaited with so much yearning and suffering, would at last come, never doubting that their ancestral heritage, cleft in twain by unlawful boundaries, would again be reintegrated by the reunion of Bukovina with Moldavia, and never losing faith that the great dream of the nation would one day be realised by the union of all the Roumanian lands 'twixt Dniester and Teiss to form a national unitary State—takes cognisance that this solemn hour has struck!

This day, when, after superhuman effort and sacrifice on the part of Roumania and of her great and noble Allies, the principles of justice and humanity, for all nations alike, have been enthroned throughout the world; when, in consequence of crushing blows the Austro-Hungarian monarchy has been shaken to its foundations and overthrown; when all the nationalities held by it in chains have gained the right of self-determination; the first thought of liberated Bukovina is directed towards the Kingdom of Roumania, with which we ever associated our hopes of liberation Wherefore we, the General Congress of Bukovina, embodying the supreme power of the country, and being solely and exclusively invested with legislative power, in the name of national sovereignty, resolve: That Bukovina, within its ancient boundaries extending to Ceremush, Colacin, and the Dniester, shall be henceforward unconditionally united with the Kingdom of Roumania.

Some Statistics of Bukovina.

Bukovina has a surface area of 10,441 square kilometres, with a population of 800,000, of which approximately 300,000 are Roumanians, the rest Ruthenians, Jews, Germans, Poles, Hungarians, and so on. Forty per cent. of the surface of its soil is covered with forests; the remainder is composed of cultivated land, gardens, pastures, vineyards, and so forth; 1,430 km. are said to be unproductive. Cattle and pig breeding have received a wide development, but the principal industry is woodwork. There are also salt, iron, and copper mines.

Amendment of Act of Union of Bessarabia.

On April 9, 1918, the Parliament of Kishinev unanimously proclaimed the union of Bessarabia with Roumania, reserving, however, her autonomy. In the meeting of December 9 of the same year the Assembly voted an amendment in the following motion:—

As a result of the union with the mother country of Bukovina, Ardeal, Banat, and the Hungarian districts inhabited by Roumanians within the confines of the Tisa and Danube, the Parliament of Bessarabia declares that Bessarabia renounces the terms of union stipulated by the Act of April 9, convinced as she is that in the Roumania of *all* Roumanians the purest democratic régime will prevail. The Parliament of Bessarabia, on the eve of the Constituent Assembly which will be convoked on the basis of the universal vote, annuls the other clauses of the Act of Union of April 9, and declares the unconditional union of Bessarabia with Great Roumania.

The above declaration received unanimous support.

Union of Bessarabia.

The remains of the enemy troops, utterly defeated on the banks of the Sereth, had helped to carry off a flashing victory over the Italians, whereby Roumania's successes were neutralised. Bolshevism was at its zenith. The Russian troops had thrown down their arms and left their Roumanian comrades to their fate, taking with them what booty they could. The enemy was advancing rapidly into Ukrainia, and Moldavia, battered, starving, ravaged by epidemics, would have been crushed as in a vice but for the acceptance of an inglorious peace imposed by an enemy devoid of chivalry. . . . Those early days of last year's spring were melancholy ones. Uttermost depression prevailed. Idealism had come by a sudden and violent death. Opportunism was justified.

It was this moment that Bessarabia elected to proclaim her unshakeable belief in the reality of her long dream of national unity exalted to the status of a moral and ethnical ideal. She demanded her union with the mother country. The abstract idea became crystallised in the world of fact. The event is of double significance. Bessarabia has, by her opportune and spontaneous act, imposed a debt of gratitude on the Roumanians of the Kingdom, the extent of which they have scarcely yet been able to realise. It is History's task to awaken them to a full consciousness of this indebtedness. From a wider point of view, the event has a profound psychological and ethnical significance, furnishing as it does an unanswerable reply to those who, both within and without the kingdom, averred with facile ignorance that the sense of race was dead among the Bessarabians.

The magnificent moral effect of Bessarabia's action, supported, be it said here, by the Transylvanian prisoners and refugees in Kishinev, cannot be overestimated. It was balm to the people of the Kingdom, and an encouragement to the States who yet remained to follow the example of Bessarabia. But, more than this, it was, and remains to this day and for all time, a splendid justification of Roumania's entry into the war offered to the world at an ideally opportune moment. Her fundamental motive was throughout the ideal of national unity. Like a beacon on a dark countryside, this ancient ideal had cast now a stronger, now a feebler light, but, as we have seen, it had never been extinguished; nor did it cease to serve as a rallying-point for the widely dispersed elements which to-day constitute the unitary state of Great Roumania.

Recent Statistics on Bessarabia.

Bessarabia has a surface area of 44,000 square kilometres, and a population of three millions, with a density of sixty-eight inhabitants to the square kilometre. Roumanians, numbering two millions, form the great bulk of the population, the remainder is composed of Russians, Ukrainians, Germans, Jews, Bulgarians, and a few French-speaking Swiss (Vaudois). Agriculture and cattle breeding are the principal occupations of the people. The different nationalities are represented proportionately as follows:—66 per cent. Roumanians, 9 per cent. Jews, 7 per cent. Ukrainians, 18 per cent. other nationalities.

MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA.

Sir Roper Parkington, Montenegrin Consul-General, is instructed to contradict authoritatively all the various rumours to the effect that the King of Montenegro has renounced his right to the throne and agreed to annexation of Montenegro to Serbia. Montenegro will be restored upon the same basis as Belgium and Serbia.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your last number of THE NEAR EAST you published a letter from a Turkish correspondent in Cyprus, referring to the question of the union of Cyprus to Greece.

It is hardly necessary to answer a correspondent who says, among other things, that "he can see nothing more startling than that any person living at Manchester should advance himself as a champin of the Greek cause!" and whose main argument against the cession of Cyprus to Greece is that the Cypriote Greeks are of no Greek origin!

But as the correspondent speaks about the future of the Turkish population of the island (i.e., the quarter of the population), I take the opportunity to repeat once more in the name of the population I represent, to my Moslem fellow-countrymen, that they may be absolutely sure that under the Greek regime, which, I understand, will soon be established in the island, the Turks will enjoy there an absolute equality of justice. The very fact that Turkish residents in Macedonia, Crete, and everywhere on the Greek territory have been appointed commissioners, have been elected mayors and also members of the Greek Parliament, is a proof of the broad views of the Greek administration and the liberal spirit of the Greek nation. If I am well informed, the Greek Cabinet will soon include among its members a Moslem.

To allay the apprehensions of Turcophils, alarmed at the idea of some hundreds of thousands of Moslems living under the Greek rule, Professor Andréades cites an interesting document signed by that same illustrious General, Franchet d'Espéry, who as a simple colonel visited Thessaly in 1910. He studied the Moslem situation with care, and published a detailed account in *La Revue du Monde Musulman* of January, 1911. The eminent soldier first praises the Greek population which, during the difficult periods of 1886-1897, never departed from the friendly attitude towards the Moslems. He dwells on the "excessively liberal" policy of the Greek Government; its respect for the faith, which went to the length of firing a cannon twice a day at the hour of Ramazan; its support of Turkish schools; and the privileged position of Moslems who, although electors and eligible for election, were relieved from military service; and Franchet d'Espéry could not refrain from contrasting this treatment with that meted out to the Greeks in Turkey. "General d'Espéry," observes Professor Andreades, "is writing of Greek administration before 1910. M. Venizelos had not then come into power. You know him well enough to be sure he will not be less generous, less tolerant, towards the Moslems, than were his predecessors." (F. R. Scatchard, in the *Asiatic Review*, April, 1919.) To hold such a conception of our duties towards the Moslem is a point of honour for us. The Moslems of Cyprus may feel absolutely certain about it.—I am, etc.,

DR. NIC. KL. LANITAS,
(Member of the Cyprus Legisl. Council).

2, Lancaster Street, W.2., May 6, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to the letters which have appeared in your paper on this subject, it may be well perhaps to emphasise the fact that the "Greeks" of the present day can lay but small claim, either in respect of language or of descent, to belong to ancient Greece, or Hellas.

I recollect an address given some years ago by the late Prince Leopold at the Royal Society of Literature, in which he referred to a paper by Sir Patrick Colquhoun on the subject of "Modern Greece as Considered as a Nationality." Sir Patrick pointed out that "the *patois* popularly called 'modern Greek,' and supposed by many to be a real language, is after all only a dialect of the ordinary commercial language of the Eastern Mediterranean which has gradually superseded the Italian, which was for so many years the chief medium of intercommunication. Since the establishment of the Greek Kingdom this jargon has been cultivated so as to become what it scarcely ever was before—a written language; the process whereby this result has been obtained being wholly artificial, words and expressions having been borrowed from classical authors and substituted for the Turkish, Italian, and other foreign words heretofore in use. The fact simply is that the ancient Greek or Hellenic population, never really very numerous within the old Greek area, became more and more adulterated as time went on, until it was so completely expunged that it may be safely stated that there is far less possible trace of it than of the Celtic race in Saxon England. The language is evidently that of an intrusive people who originally spoke another tongue, which they translated into Greek words, retaining at the same time their own idioms, grammar, and construction."

On the ground, therefore, of hereditary or ethnographical considerations, it would seem that the "Greeks" have no claims whatever to Cyprus, nor to any other extra territory in either Europe or Asia. Moreover, having regard to the present unrest in India and Egypt, and the number of our Moslem fellow-subjects in those countries, it would surely be most unwise to consent at this moment to any specially favoured treatment of Greece at the expense of the Mohammedans of Turkey.—I am, etc.,

CYPRIOT.

"MACEDONIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly afford space in your valuable journal for the following?

The ex-King of Bulgaria was nicknamed "King Fox" in this country on account of Bulgarian diplomatic trickery, which was entirely placed to his credit, while the Bulgarian people and their political leaders were considered innocent and simple (but not by everybody).

"King Fox" has now retired from the diplomatic platform of Bulgaria, but the trickery continues—the last and most ingenious trick being "Autonomy for Macedonia." This is the Bulgarians' last trump in a lost game, and in playing it they are assisted by Bulgarophil Englishmen.

Have these gentlemen any conception of what would have been England's fate if this war had been lost? If they have, then let them remember that Bulgaria fought with our arch enemy for the ruin of England. Do they realise that if Bulgaria had remained strictly neutral the war would have been won at least a year sooner, and the lives of at least 100,000 sons of England would have been saved? Besides this, the horrible Serbian tragedy would have been avoided, likewise the ruin of Russia, and the sacrifices of our other Allies would have been considerably lessened.

It is really astounding that the treacherous Bulgarians, who betrayed Russia, the country to whom Bulgaria owed her liberation and creation, who were traitors to their allies the Serbians, traitors to the Greeks, and traitors to England and France, should now be championed by Englishmen!

Bulgaria merits severe punishment—a punishment as severe as that which would have been inflicted upon Italy by Germany and Austria-Hungary if they had won the war.—I am, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.

Polperro, Lyncroft Gardens, N.W., April 29, 1919.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Dr. Pavtchitch, in his article on the Pact of London in your last issue, speaks of "the terror caused by the Italian occupation of Dalmatia." May I ask him what he has to say about the terror caused by the Serbian Yugoslav occupation of her gallant sister country, Montenegro?

He complains of the Pact of London; will he try to vindicate the Pact of Corfu, in which, with no representative of Montenegro present, the Serbian Yugoslavs attempted to absorb Montenegro without the slightest reference to the wishes of her people? It is not for nothing that the adjective "infamous" has been applied to this Serbian Yugoslav Pact by the very people who now complain about the Pact of London!—I am, etc.,

ALEX. DEVINE.

Northwood Park, Winchester, May 4, 1919.



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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

I am glad to say that I am a hero worshipper, and though my gallery of heroes is not quite so well filled as those of some of the modern papers—which seem to discover "heroes" by the dozen every day, for the purpose of inflicting their portraits and the portraits of their wives and children on a long-suffering public—it is by no means empty. Easily first, however, stands glorious Nelson; and his name in print will catch my eye and claim my attention at once. Thus, the other day, in looking over the pages of *The Times*, when I saw a paragraph headed "Nelson at Merton," I promptly proceeded to read it. It dealt with an entry in the Merton Parish Register, which is now in course of transcription, relating to the attendance of Nelson at the baptism of a nephew; and the register records that the baptism had been postponed for two years owing to the godfather's absence from the country for that period "on the King's business." This business, *The Times* explains, was the blockading of the French Fleet at Toulon, and the Admiral returned to his home at Merton for a month before sailing again on the cruise that ended at Trafalgar.

***

Now this has little bearing on the Near East, I am aware, and my apology for writing about it must be regarded as lying in my hero-worship mentioned above. But what I set out to record was the fact that another entry in the register referred to "relates to the baptism of a Nubian or Egyptian girl who was brought to Merton as a present for Lady Hamilton." Was the young woman referred to really Egyptian or Nubian, I wonder? And what was the end of her? Merton is, and doubtless was in those days, a damp, chilly kind of a place; and I suspect that Lady Hamilton's poor attendant did not withstand the rigours of its climate for long. If any reader can by any chance tell me more of this human "present," I shall be grateful. There is, by the way, on the Richmond Road, Putney, a public-house known as "The Arab Boy." This place acquired its title when it was owned and managed by an old seafaring man, who had as servant an Arab "boy," to whom he was greatly attached. If the young Arab was at Putney at the same time as the Egyptian (or Nubian) maid was at Merton, it seems to me that we should have a situation offering possibilities of an "Eastern romance" in the S.W. district. For Merton and Putney are within walking distance; though in these days, it is true, the degenerate youth usually makes the journey by bus. At any rate, I make a present of the idea to any enterprising author who cares to take it up!

***

In this country the colour and life of the Orient seem always to have possessed a great attraction. Englishmen are better able to appreciate and imitate an Oriental spectacle than to understand the Eastern mind, and with playwrights and playgoers especially this is so. I am prompted to write these words after witnessing Mr. Arnold Bennett's play "Judith," which has recently been produced at the Kingsway Theatre. The writing in the play, which is taken from the Apocrypha, is poor; but the setting, which depicts Judea and the Assyrians, is admirable. As an attempt dramatically to penetrate the Eastern mind, or through the Eastern mind satirically to stage Western ideas, Mr. Bennett's production is a complete failure; but the beauty of the colouring and the vividness of the life in which his agents on the stage move are dazzlingly fine. Is it, I wonder, that our love for the East is merely the common attraction to incomprehensible things, or is it that the old Eastern civilisation is more beautiful than ours?

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Situation in Egypt May 1.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, in reply to Captain Ormsby-Gore, said the Egyptian Cabinet resigned because it had lost authority. It was understood that, with the exception of the Ministry of Education, where a large number of officials were still absent, practically all Government officials had returned to work. Steps were being taken to bring those responsible for attacks upon persons and upon the property of the Egyptian State Railways and other offenders to trial. Captain ORMSBY-GORE also asked whether a Government Commission to inquire into the government of Egypt had been set up under the chairmanship of Viscount Milner; and, if so, what were its composition and terms of reference. Mr. HARMSWORTH: The question of the steps that may require to be taken in regard to the subject referred to is still under consideration.

King Nicholas.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, replying to Captain Ormsby-Gore, said: An assembly which met at Podgoritza last November announced the deposition of King Nicholas and the Union of Montenegro with Serbia. The decisions of that assembly have not been recognised by his Majesty's Government.

Archæological Research in Persia.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to Sir M. Conway, said: The French Government first obtained permission from the Shah in 1884 to carry on excavations on the ancient site of Shush, or Susa, in Southern Persia, and the work done by eminent French archæologists there during the past thirty-five years has materially contributed to the progress of historical research. The concession granted to the French Government on August 11, 1900, conferred the widest possible rights to the French in perpetuity, but the Persian Government recently upheld the view that these rights referred to "Crown Domains" alone, and a revision of the terms of the concession are believed to have been in contemplation. No protest was entered by his Majesty's Government. The French Government have from time to time waived their claims to exclusive rights in virtue of their concession, and have permitted British archæologists to undertake certain excavations in Persia, and their friendly attitude in this respect has prevented the monopoly from becoming a grievance from our point of view.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official Report.

MILITARY AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: Waziristan Expedition.—Defence of Kut-el-Amara. DEMOBILISATION: Employment of Indian and Coloured Troops. (April 29.)

INDIA: Reserve of Officers.—Industrial Commission.—Montagu-Chelmsford Report.—Police Pay.—DEMOBILISATION: Troops in the East. TROOPS IN THE EAST (HEALTH CONDITIONS). KANTARA CAMP, EGYPT. INDIA: Currency Notes.—Famine Conditions, Bombay.—Soldiers (Employment). (April 30.)

KANTARA CAMP, EGYPT. INDIA: Indentured Women.—Riots.—Retired Officers (Pensions).—Currency Notes.—Persons Interned. (May 1.)

SOUTHERN ALBANIA.—NAVAL AND MILITARY PENSIONS AND GRANTS: R.E. Officers' Widows (Indian Service). EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (May 5).

A supplement to the *Gazette* of April 30 contains a list of names of officers, ladies, non-commissioned officers, and men brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and India.

In the House of Commons on May 1 Mr. Churchill stated, in reply to Lord Wolmer, that the approximate number of white troops in the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force who are being retained in Mesopotamia through the hot weather of this year is 29,000.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Education in Roumania.

The *Times* recently published some interesting statements in regard to Roumanian education, and the article shows that the present moment is itself an opportunity for British to take the place of German education in Roumania. It says:—

Though, however, it is chiefly on the physical and moral side that English education appeals to Roumania, there is also a marked increase of interest in English literature and thought. Before the war some of the masterpieces of English literature were known, but mostly by means of translations, for, except in Court circles and among those rich enough to have resident English governesses, a knowledge of the English language was not general. In the *lycées* it was very little studied, being an alternative to Italian or Greek in the senior years. Now it is proposed that English shall be compulsory in all *lycées*, and Roumania is asking for English graduates to fill the positions of English professors in her schools.

Various ways are pointed out in which England can help Roumania, chief among which are: (1) Englishmen to serve as professors of English in Roumanian universities; (2) trained and educated women as teachers in families; (3) a shop where English books are kept in stock; and (4) a larger English library for the general public. The need for governesses especially is great. The article concludes by stating that nearly all the English learned in Roumania will be through the agency of Englishmen or Englishwomen.

As English is now to be made a compulsory subject in all *lycées*, about fifty women graduate teachers will be needed for the girls' schools and one hundred men or women graduates for the boys' schools. The Board of Education has very kindly offered to choose these teachers by means of a committee, which shall contain a nominee of Roumania, and in the case of women teachers a representative of the Association of Headmistresses. As there are hardly any Roumanian teachers of English, the fact that English is to be learnt in all *lycées* means that practically every pupil will pass through the hands of an Englishman or Englishwoman. These teachers will be able to give the Roumanians the benefit of England's conclusions and dispel the idea that English education stands at a low intellectual level.

France and Palestine.

In the issue of *Palestine* for May 3 there are some frank words on the attitude and the future relation of France to the Jewish Palestine. The French Foreign Office, it says, attacked the idea and disbelieved the possibility of a British mandate and of a Jewish Palestine. But circumstances have made both these things certainties, and the French must revise their views of the Zionist movement, which hitherto they had thought to be mainly a commercial one.

There has been a tendency in France, and perhaps elsewhere, to misunderstand the Jewish relations with Great Britain. French statesmen have imagined that there is a pact between the Zionist leaders and the British Government, and that Zionism is subordinated to British political ends. Now, it is perfectly true that a Jewish Palestine fits in or harmonises with British interests as well as with British sentiments. It may be added that the most recent events in the East have for all far-seeing English public men emphasised this harmony, but the Zionist leaders have had in mind all the time one thing, and one thing only: the interests of the Jewish people. They have throughout been the servants exclusively of the Jewish people, and that now and always will be the guiding rule for the Zionist leaders.

It then points out how the old beneficence of France towards Jews has changed to a cold opposition. But it hopes ultimately for better relations between the two nations, and urges the mutual desirability of close relationship.

The Case of Armenia.

The current issue of *Ararat* comments vividly on the situation of the Armenian people. It says:—

The Council of Ten have decided to send out commissions to Asia Minor to study the problem on the spot. We do not question the wisdom of this decision, but we deplore its tardiness. Consummate statesmanship has been capable, in the past, of solving problems first and investigating them afterwards. "While the grass grows, the steed starves"; the proverb, as Hamlet said, is "something musty." Many small nations are cruelly stricken by the prevalent dearth of food: Belgians, Serbs, Roumanians, Czecho-Slovaks, Poles, and Syrians groan and travail together. But these people have, at least, the grim privilege of starving on their native soil. What of the expatriated Armenians, to the tale of hundreds of thousands? They had the temerity to take the side of the Entente—the *winning* side, be it remembered—and, behold! the Turkish "mohajjir" remains triumphant upon the hearth he has stained with the blood of its rightful owner and his wife and children. Cilicia, historically and ethnologically part of the Armenian heritage, happens to be the most fertile part; and it has a host of contending claimants, great and small. A people has been crucified: let their vesture be divided by the casting of lots—

"Like that vesture woven without seam
For which the dice rang on the Roman shield."

Let us now turn our attention to an aspect of the picture which, if not actually brighter, is at least less gloomy and obscure. A certain measure of work is being done, in the face of formidable difficulties, by the new Republic, whose seat is at Erivan. This infant Republic, not yet a year old, has had a stormy infancy; like Hercules, it had to grapple with more than one serpent while it was yet in the cradle. Let us hope that the analogy may be pursued further, and that as the Armenian Hercules waxes in thews and bulk, he may overcome the lions, hydras, and other miscellaneous monsters in his path.

Indian Troops' Procession.

The writer of "A Clubman's Notebook" in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of May 6 has made an excellent suggestion in connection with the procession in London of colonial troops. He says:—

I heard more than one friend who watched the splendid procession on Saturday ask why the authorities could not arrange a procession of Indian soldiers. Indians were in the firing line in France and Flanders while soldiers from other overseas parts of the Empire were still in training, and Indians have seen action in more theatres of war than people belonging to any other nation than the British. Some Indian soldiers are still left in France, and the Maharaja of Bikanir—a dashing cavalry officer—is in our midst. So an Indian khaki procession ought not to be difficult to arrange. Anything that we can do to show our warmth of feeling for the splendid help that they rendered to us during the most critical period of our history will be, I am sure, very much appreciated in India. Above all, it will prove to the Indian fighting classes that our interest in them continues unabated.

Articles to Note.

"Serbian Women: The War and After," by M. Curwen, in the *Englishwoman*. (May.)

"The Territorial Solution for the Jewish Question" (II.), by Israel Zangwill; "The Political Situation in India"; and "Echoes from the Ukraine," by Mrs. Blakey, in the *Fortnightly Review*.

"How British Prisoners Left Turkey," by Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Keeling, M.C., in *Blackwood's*. (May.)

"The Changing Scene in India," by Sir Elliot Colvin, K.C.S.I., in the *Nineteenth Century*. (May.)

"Drifters in the Adriatic," by Wood Muir. in the *King's Highway*. (May.)

"The Problem of Egypt," by the Right Hon. J. M. Robertson; and "Northern Epirus: An Importunate Question," by E. Hilton Young, M.P., D.S.O., in the *Contemporary Review*. (May.)

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6.—**The Children of the Illuminator.** By the Rev. Father NICOLAI VILIMIROVIC, D.D.

7.—**The New Armenia.** By the Special Correspondent of *The Times*.

8.—**The Armenian Church.** By the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON.

9.—**Impressions of Armenia.** By Lieut.-Col. WALTER GUINNESS, D.S.O., M.P. Illustrated.

10.—**The Plight of Armenian and Assyrian Christians.** Speeches by the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP OF LONDON, and others.

11.—**Greece and Armenia.** By Professor SIMOS MENARDOS.

12.—**Parliamentary Debates: Armenia.**

13.—**The Armenian Question in the American House of Representatives.** A Speech by Lieut.-Col. LITTLE, of Kansas.

14.—**Armenia and the Settlement.** By the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

INDIAN REFORM: POSTPRANDIAL VIEWS *

This reprint of the speeches delivered at the recent complimentary banquet to Lord Sinha contains no formal justification of its existence, but as the speeches were not worth reproduction on literary grounds, we may perhaps assume that it is a piece of political propaganda. As such it was well worth publishing, though we should have liked to be told something of the auspices under which it sees the light. The contents of the speeches can be stated very shortly. The Maharaja of Bikanir said a little about Lord Sinha and a good deal about the Indo-British Association; Mr. Montagu, as usual, defended himself vigorously against all and sundry; and Lord Sinha was, as might be expected, perfectly equal to the occasion. We fear that the symposium must have been somewhat dull, but perhaps the guests were cheered by Lord Carmichael, who wound up the proceedings with a humorous speech, the text of which is unfortunately not given.

TWO WOMEN. †

Readers of the Egyptian romances by Norma Lorimer will recall the descriptive ability exhibited in dealing with an Oriental setting. Excepting the brief semi-idyllic Japanese epilogue to the main theme of the book under review, the milieu in which Catherine Sterling and her friends live and move and have their being is London, and the period circa 1900-1905 A.D., at any rate before the day of the automobile and the taxi. Though the background is not so romantic as in "There Was a King in Egypt," yet it is suggested with a lifelike fidelity. Take, for example, the description of a day at Henley Regatta, which captures the very spirit and life of that pre-war carnival. The character drawing is remarkably good. Joan Gardner is a notable study of the shallow-headed, superficially clever, designing young woman. Catherine Sterling is of the opposite type, passionate, reserved, unselfish. No intelligent reader can fail to be interested in this strong and sincere novel.

* "The Insistent Claims of Indian Reform." Speeches at the banquet in London to Lord Sinha. (London: Philip Lee Warner.)

† "Catherine Sterling," by Norma Lorimer. (Stanley Paul and Co. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

In a pamphlet, published at 1s. net by P. S. King and Son, Baron A. Heyking deals with two subjects, "Bolshevism and Pusillanimity" and "The Baltic Problem." In the first he examines the dangers of Bolshevism, "the dry-rot of civilisation," and, in pointing out the impotence of Russia to save herself, he urges the intervention of the Allies. In the second, the matter is treated historically, and the claim for the autonomy of Esthonia, Livonia, and Courland is made out with plausible reason.

"Slavic Europe" (London: Humphrey Milford. 15s. net) is a selected bibliography in the Western European languages. The author, R. J. Kerner, has done his work most industriously and well. He does not claim that his work is exhaustive, but it is quite comprehensive, and, as far as we can judge, accurate. The book is satisfactorily arranged, well set out, and possesses an extremely good index. It is, in fact, a model of what such an effort should be.

"Three Anzacs in the War," by Lieut. E. A. Dunn (London: Skeffington. 6s. net), is a plain and not unusual recital of experiences in Australia and France during the war. The things recounted in this book are quite worthy, but make infinitely better conversation than reading.

"Jottings from the Front," by Kenneth E. Shaw (London: Allen and Unwin. 2s. 6d. net.), is a series of opinions (derived from experience in Gallipoli, Egypt, and France) on such questions as "Tommy's Religion," "The Padre," "Tommy's Pleasures." The book is rather preciously written, and with the common explanation and description of Army life, its vices and virtues; but the author endeavours to excuse himself for writing much that is trite and trivial on the ground that his book is for civilian edification.

"Judith: A Play in Three Acts," by Arnold Bennett, has been published by Chatto and Windus at 3s. 6d. net.

Mr. Heinemann has published "Bulgaria: Problems and Politics," by G. C. Logio. (10s. net.)

"Through Egypt in War Time," by Martin S. Briggs, has been published by Fisher Unwin at 21s. net.

Edmund Candler has published his "On the Edge of the World" through the house of Cassel. (10s. 6d. net.)

The American house of Macmillan have published at 4s. 2d. net "The Master of the Offices in the Later Roman and Byzantine Empires," by Arthur E. Boak.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Recollections and Reflections." By Coles Pasha, C.M.G. (London: St. Catherine Press. 8s. 6d. net.)

"The War Work of the Y.M.C.A. in Egypt." By James W. Barrett. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)



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Look at the Face in this Picture.

This woman was photographed as you see her; clad in a single garment—her husband's coat. Note the look of pain in the eyes and in the turn of the head.

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If you wish to visualise the state over the greater part of Syria during the War, read Josephus: "Siege of Jerusalem." No horrors then were unparalleled in 1914-1918.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	— ,	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919.	1919.		1337.	5679.
May	April.		Shaaban.	Iyar.
9	26	Friday	9	9
10	27	Saturday.....	10	10
11	28	Sunday	11	11
12	29	Monday	12	12
13	30	Tuesday	13	13
	May.			
14	1	Wednesday	14	14
15	2	Thursday	15	15

M. Také Jonescu has arrived in London from Paris.

Prince George Valentine Bibesco left London on May 2 for Paris.

Admiral Viscount Jellicoe left Bombay for Colombo on April 30.

M. Spalaikovitch, Serbian Minister to Russia, has arrived in London from Archangel.

The Roumanian Minister left London on May 2 for Paris to attend the Peace Conference.

M. Danielopol, the Roumanian Minister to Washington, arrived in London on May 5, from America.

Princess Marie, daughter of the Queen of Roumania, is to arrive in London this week.

Lieut. the Hon. Everard Feilding, R.N.V.R., has returned to 5, John Street, Mayfair, from Syria.

Mr. A. Nias, Director-General of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has left London for Constantinople.

Mr. B. A. Melandrinos, the Greek Consul-General in Liverpool, is recovering from his recent illness.

M. Titulescu, formerly Roumanian Minister of Finance, arrived in London on May 1 from the Continent.

Admiral Beatty is shortly going on a cruise along the Italian coast, and is subsequently proceeding to Greece.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London on May 6 for Paris.

M. J. Gennadius, G.C.V.O., has been appointed by the French Government Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

Sir Ronald Ross has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Sweden (University of Upsala) for his research in malaria.

Captain Matilda Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on May 6 from Paris.

The Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers have awarded a Telford Gold Medal and an Indian Premium to Mr. R. B. Joyner, C.I.E. (Bombay).

A marriage has been arranged between Major W. H. Lang, 16th Cavalry, I.A., and Miss Gwyneth Bewley, daughter of the late B. M. Bewley Bey, of Cairo, Egypt.

Sir Prabashankar Pattani has returned from his visit to India, where he was associated with the Reforms Committees, and has resumed his duties as member of the India Council.

An engagement is announced between Captain P. W. Thorogood, Civil Service Rifles and Indian Army Reserve, and Dorothy, only daughter of Mrs. Pepper, Ivermore, East Twickenham.

General Sir James Hills-Johnes, V.C., G.C.B., D.L., J.P., of Dolaucothy, Llanwrda, Carmarthen, who served in the Mutiny, and who died on January 3, left £14,935, of which £14,561 is net personalty.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of April 16 states that Lieut.-Com. V. L. Trumper, who has been in hospital in Cairo undergoing an operation, is now convalescent, and expects to return to Port Said shortly.

Mr. J. G. Morris, late Deputy Assistant Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, left Khartoum at the end of March for England, on his way to take up his new post of H.B.M.'s Consul at Teneriffe.

The *Tablet* says that Father Felix Couturier, O.P., of Woodchester Priory, who has been appointed Apostolic Visitor for Egypt, has had a most distinguished career as a chaplain with the E.E.F. in Palestine during the war.

The marriage of Miss Cicely Phyllis Summers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Summers, of Froyle Place, Alton, Hants, to Captain John Thomson Glover, of the 35th Sikhs, was solemnised at the parish church of Froyle on May 1.

General Raja Sir Hari Singh, Commander-in-Chief of the Kashmir Army, accompanied by Captain C. W. A. Arthur (Royal Artillery), Major the Nawab Kusru Jong of Hyderabad, and Major Hoshiar Singh have arrived in London from India.

The marriage was celebrated on April 28 at St. Nicholas, Thames Ditton, between Alexander Harry Henley, eldest son of Alexander Henley, 8, Woburn Place, Russell Square, and Dorothy, second daughter of the late Rev. Sydney S. Scott, Government Chaplain, Bengal, India.

The marriage took place on April 21 at Maymyo, Upper Burma, between Philip Christopher Fogarty, Indian Civil Service, son of the late Philip James and of Mrs. Fogarty, Glenoir, Galway, and Hilda Spenser, elder daughter of the Rev. Herbert and Mrs. Swithinbank, Wonston Rectory, Hants.

At the Oratory, Brompton, on April 30, Captain E. C. Lentaigne, D.S.O., 4th Gurkha Rifles, eldest son of the late Sir John Lentaigne, was married to Cecilia Mary, youngest daughter of the late Colonel C. T. Bunbury, Rifle Brigade, and Lady Harriot Bunbury, of Cotswold House, Winchester.

The marriage will shortly take place between Mr. Ernest Reginald Park, 1st (K.G.O.) Sappers and Miners, of Colombo, Ceylon, and Marguerite Adelaide, only daughter of C. Roberson Park, of 44, Woodstock Avenue, N.W.4, and granddaughter of the late Charles Park, of Minster, Isle of Thanet.

The marriage was celebrated on April 29 at St. Saviour's Church, Dartmouth, between Captain W. A. S. Grey, I.A., Burma Commission (retired), son of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. W. F. H. Gray, and Kathleen Mary, youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Paulson, The Wilderness, Dartmouth.

The marriage took place at Salonika on April 28 of Brevet Major (acting Lieutenant-Colonel) Claude W. H. Taylor, D.S.O., Assistant Provost-Marshal, Salonika Army, and Royal West Kent Regiment, and Margaret Jameson, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs. H. W. Jameson, of Sunninghill.

An engagement is announced between Major E. F. Marriott, 12th Cavalry, of Mahaousa Madulkele, Ceylon, younger son of the late Major C. F. Marriott, 6th Dragoon Guards, and Mrs. Marriott, of 159, Fulham Road, S.W., and Gladys, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Adamson, of Durban, South Africa.

The thirteenth annual general meeting of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, Asfuriyeh, near Beyrout, will be held at 3 p.m., May 16, at Sion College, Victoria Embankment, E.C.4. The director, Dr. H. Watson Smith, who has just returned from Syria, will relate with lantern slides his experiences at the hospital.

The engagement is announced between Lt.-Col. Sir Norman Leslie, Bt., C.B.E., Central India Horse and Royal Air Force, Air Attaché to the British Embassy, Paris, only son of the late Sir Charles Henry Leslie, Bt., Indian Army, and Betty Elise, second daughter of Mr. J. T. B. Sewell, C.B.E., LL.D., and Mrs. Sewell, of 47, Boulevard Lannes, Paris.

The King has granted permission to wear the Serbian Order of Saint Sava (of the classes stated) to the following:—Class I.: The Duke of Portland, the Marquess of Crewe. Class III.: The Earl of Northbrook, Professor C. W. C. Oman. Class IV.: Mr. C. R. W. Adeane, the Rev. John Clifford, Mr. A. Maquarie, Mr. W. Ward. Class V.: Miss Lily F. Waring, Mr. F. F. Euren, Mr. W. Heal, Mr. W. G. Hooper.

The marriage was celebrated on April 2 at the old Cathedral Church of St. John's, Calcutta, by the Venerable W. K. Firminger, B.D., M.A., Archdeacon of Calcutta, between Vernon Foxwell, elder son of the late A. T. Gray, of Singapore and Manchester, and Mrs. Gray, of St. Annes-on-the-Sea, and Bertha Marie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Meikle, of Calcutta.

The attention of our readers is drawn to a lecture which will be delivered by General Torcom (Chief of the Armenian Military Mission in London), at the offices of the British Armenian Chamber of Commerce, 1, 2, and 3, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, next Friday, May 16, at 3 p.m., on "The New Armenia." It may remembered that the General played a conspicuous part in the war, especially in connection with the military operations in the region of Erzeroum. General Torcom, it is understood, proposes to deal with his subject in three sections, viz., Old Armenia and the great war, Armenia during the war, and Armenia after the war. Readers interested are invited to apply to the hon. secretary of the chamber for tickets for admission.

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On May 3 His Majesty inspected a party of Indian officers, non-commissioned officers, and men belonging to the Remount Department, under the command of Capt. H. O. Clogstoun, Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France, and also a party belonging to the Indian Army Military Tournament team from the Egyptian Expeditonary Force, under the command of Major H. V. Lewis, who have been competing in the army athletic meeting.

The marriage was celebrated on April 30 at St. Barnabas Church, Kensington, by the Rev. R. W. Odell, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Brighton, assisted by the Rev. H. H. Lowe, vicar of the parish, between Captain Brian Henry O'Donnell, 26th (K.G.O.) Light Cavalry, Indian Army, elder son of Lieut.-Colonel G. B. O'Donnell, late Indian Army, and Mrs. O'Donnell, of Brighton, and Dorothy Racster, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Racster Everitt, of 77, Addison Road, Kensington, W., late of Blundellsands.

Our readers may be interested to have some particulars of the author of the article "The Pact of London," which appeared in our last week's issue. Dr. Pavitchic, who is fifty-two years of age, has had a very full career, which has been devoted to the emancipation and elevation of the Serbo-Croatian people. Early in life he became famous as a lyric poet. In the Dalmatian Sabor and in the Austrian Parliament, of both of which he was a member, he has represented violent anti-Austrian views. For three years after the outbreak of the world war he was under the accusation of high treason. He was largely instrumental in persuading the Austrian Navy to mutiny. To him as much as to anyone is due the union of all Yugoslavs in one State under the dynasty of Karageorgevitch. Dr. Pavitchic is now in London in connection with the Peace Conference.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. V. Popopovitch has been appointed Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London.

Mr. L. C. Adams, I.C.S., has been placed on special duty under the Government of India in connection with the reforms scheme.

When Mr. E. A. Molony, Commissioner of Agra, proceeds on leave, Mr. W. H. Webb will act as Commissioner and Mr. S. H. Thompson will act as Collector of Agra.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that Mr. E. H. Goschen, Controller of the Secretariat at the Finance Ministry, is retiring from the Egyptian Government service this year.

General Allenby has provisionally appointed Brigadier-General Sir George Bohun Macauley to be Controller of Communications pending the formation of a Ministry of Communications.

The Foreign Office announces that all vacancies in the General Consular Service have now been filled. No further applications can be considered for a period of six months. A few vacancies exist in the Levant and Far-Eastern Consular Services. Candidates must be between twenty-two and twenty-five years of age and unmarried.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on May 1, at Dalreg, Hatch End, of Edward Forster Drake-Brockman, F.R.C.S., Lt.-Col. I.M.S. (retired).

The death occurred on April 13, at Cawnpore, India, of Ethel Hawthorne, widow of G. C. Winnington-Ingram, I.C.S., late Deputy Commissioner of Fyzabad.

Major H. H. Wigram, late Scots Guards, died in London on May 1. He served in the Sudan Expedition of 1885, when he received the medal with clasp and the bronze star

The death occurred on April 24, at Calcutta, of Frank Sandford Kerr, fourth son of the late John Kerr, LL.D., H.M. Inspector of Schools for Scotland, and of Mrs. Kerr, 15, Royal Terrace, Edinburgh.

The death of Sir John Pentland Mahaffy, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, removes the figure of one who will be greatly missed. By our readers he will be remembered chiefly for his Greek scholarship and for his interests in Egypt.

Colonel James Douglas Lysaght, formerly of the Army Pay Department and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, died suddenly on April 29 at Southsea, in his seventy-first year. He saw service with the Sudan Expedition in 1885, for which he received medals with clasps.

Colonel Henry Stephenson Clarke, who died at Wimbledon on May 1, fought in the Indian Mutiny campaign, and was present at Cawnpore and the final capture of Lucknow. Six years later he was engaged in the operations in the Umbeyla Pass, and shortly afterwards saw service with the Bhootan Expedition.

Major-General Henry Thomas Arbuthnot, C.B., died at Ramsay House, Shooters Hill, on May 3, in his eighty-fifth year. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1853, and served throughout the Crimean Campaign. He afterwards fought in the Indian Mutiny campaign, and was present at the siege and capture of Lucknow.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The *Busreh Times* announces that combined Civil Post and Telegraph Offices have been opened at Badrah and Mendali, and Civil Post Offices at Anah and Zahko.

General Grazziani, who has replaced General Berthelot as head of the French Military Mission in Roumania, has arrived at Bucharest, and taken over his command.

A British post-office has been opened at Smyrna, and correspondence (which may be registered) of all kinds (except parcels) can be accepted for delivery *poste restante*.

It is stated in the *Palestine News* of April 10 that that journal has ceased to be an Army newspaper, and will henceforth be administered by the Oriental Advertising Company.

Following the recognition of the Siberian Government as the Government of Russia, the Serbian Government has decided to accept M. Standman as Siberian Minister in Belgrade.

Complaint is made in the Greek Press that the commander of the Allied troops in Bulgaria is giving ear to Bulgarian suggestions detrimental to the prestige of the Greek mission.

Reuter's Bombay correspondent reports that there were no demonstrations in Bombay on the occasion of the deportation of Mr. Horniman, editor of the *Bombay Chronicle*, who has been ordered to leave India.

On May 13, at 4 p.m., the Royal Asiatic Society, 22, Albemarle Street, is holding an anniversary meeting, over which the Rt. Hon. the Lord Reay, K.T., P.C., G.C.S.I., LL.D., is to preside. The object of the meeting is the election of officers, members of the Council, vice-president, and auditors.

From the *Daily Malta Chronicle* we learn that the officers of the French Naval Delegation were entertained to a Farewell Dinner at the Casino Maltese on April 13. The banquet was presided over by Professor G. Debono, M.D., and speeches were made by Dr. Ugo P. Misfud, M. Benoist D'Azy, and M. Louis Ledoalx, the French Consul in Malta.

On April 28, in the Great Hall of King's College, Strand, Mr. A. E. Henderson gave a lecture on Saint Sophia. In introducing the lecturer, Dr. Gennadius, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Greece, said that there were three reasons for the existence of wrong conceptions regarding Byzantine history. First, the bitter tradition of Rome, which conquered Greece but could not subdue Greek spirit. Secondly, the strife between the Church of Rome and the Orthodox Greek Church. And thirdly, the unfortunate incidents which occurred in the Crusades.

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FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1919.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.

The terms of peace as made known to the world on Wednesday represent what may be called the Western aspect of a formidable problem. They appear to provide drastically enough for the destruction of German militarism; and less drastically for the reparation of damage done by the enemy and the payment of an indemnity. Whether the destruction of militarism will be permanent in Germany, whether, in any event, it will not rear its head elsewhere, and whether the payment of the tribute whose total sum is not yet calculated will be fully carried out in the long series of years allocated to that purpose, are matters about which only the foolish will dogmatise; the wise will watch the progress of events and the shaping of the new world before they prophesy. As regards the Eastern aspect of the terms, with which we are here more immediately concerned, it appears at first sight to be satisfactory. Germany is compelled to repudiate the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, and the whole series of alliances and semi-protectorates which she built up from Turkey to Finland; similarly, she has to renounce all her oversea possessions, and formally to annul all those pretensions to Morocco which since 1905 have been the basis, not so much of a definite African policy as of a pin-prick policy against France. In this latter respect, however, the extra-European terms diverge sharply from the Eastern terms. In the former case it is decided what is to replace German dominion; in the latter it is not. Since the German colonies are to be administered by the victors over Germany, under the somewhat transparent mantle of the League of Nations, the possibility of any revival of the German colonial empire appears definitely to have vanished; from Africa she is excluded by England and France, from South America by the Monroe Doctrine, and the whole German policy of coaling-stations and naval bases by which she set such store in the years before 1914 therefore cease to have any meaning for the future.

Some aspects are far more nebulous. The Polish corridor is hardly likely to prove an avenue of peace, and the Allied statesmanship, which has hesitated long over this imperfect solution, can hardly congratulate itself or the Poles on the compromise. The Austrian terms are still unknown, but the problem is here more radical, since Austria has ceased to exist, and the real question is not altogether the matter of territorial boundaries, but the stability of the new States which will be erected in the place of Austria. On that matter, again, it is too early to forecast the future; but it must be frankly admitted that recent events have somewhat disillusioned those who anticipated that oppressed nationalities had none of the Chauvinism or Imperialism of their stronger neighbours, or that they cherished feelings of respect and cordiality for the other peoples who suffered similar disabilities. Nor is it likely that the enmities of which so much has been seen since last November will cease as soon as the definite boundaries and terms are announced. The Peace Conference, to judge from recent reports of its activities, seems, indeed, to have recognised this fact. The reported settlement—if one may use the word without abuse—of the Fiume difficulty, is a species of postponement and playing for time which does not always succeed where passions, as in this case, are strong. Nor does the problem of Fiume stand alone; it is indeed typical of the whole of the Balkans, where for the moment confusion reigns supreme, and society itself quite recently seemed threatened with dissolution by the Bolshevist invasion from Russia. It is an unfortunate fact that the leading Allied statesmen have no actual knowledge either of Russia or of Bolshevism, and that their experience of the Near East is equally to seek. In these circumstances there is no great reason to wonder that their statecraft is hesitating and contradictory, and that, assailed by a multitude of voices bidden to the council, months should elapse without the emergence of a definite policy.

The terms published so far are naturally silent as to the destiny of Turkey; yet in some ways the settlement of the problems which are connected with the Ottoman Empire are the most difficult, as success in dealing with them will be the most decisive test of the wisdom or the reverse of the statesmen in Paris. But of the fate of Constantinople no hint has yet been given, although there have been some disquieting hints of late that the Conference has again been contemplating that fatally easy and also finally unsatisfactory method of international control—a plan which secures the maximum of friction with the minimum of efficiency. The case of Armenia is, perhaps, typical of the rest of the Ottoman Empire; for here it is stated that the Conference, unable to make up its mind, has appointed a committee to examine the question on the spot, but, having appointed the committee, is still in two minds about dispatching it. This indecision and delay cannot be allowed to continue beyond a certain point without grave risk to the future prosperity of the regions concerned; the uncertainty of the present conditions is itself a danger, and it is not merely stultifies commercial enterprise and sound reconstruction, so long needed in Asia Minor, but it also may encourage the growth of dangerous political ambitions, which will be dangerous precisely because they are unpractical and impossible of permanent realisation or stability. This consideration applies to the whole of the Black Sea littoral, where government has practically abdicated, to Armenia, which has suffered so cruelly in the war, and which, in consequence, has the natural tendency towards the full independence which, however, her wiser men recognise she could not support; and it would perhaps also apply to the difficult and delicate position which has arisen in Syria, which in certain circumstances might become a permanent source of disquiet. There is a danger, of course, that these matters may be allowed to drift indefinitely; the danger, perhaps, not so much that Germany would seek her opportunity to recover her lost prestige in these regions—for Germany will have to construct her whole internal polity before she can attempt any successful expansion, and that must be a matter of years—but that the whole Ottoman countries will be allowed to drift nearer to anarchy. Great Britain and France, as the Powers chiefly responsible for Asia Minor, cannot permit that dangerous consummation, which would proclaim the bankruptcy of our statesmanship. We have become, as it were, the residuary legatees of the German estate in the East, and the legatees will be responsible at the bar of history for the use to which they put their heritage. On one matter at least there must be a clear understanding as quickly as may be; it is that Britain is answerable for the future maintenance and expansion of the Baghdad Railway. Our position as an Eastern Power demands this, to say nothing of its reaction on our Indian policy. It is evident indeed that the task before us will be a formidable one, and will entail a considerable increase of our already great Imperial responsibilities. Asia Minor is at present in somewhat the same condition as Egypt was in 1882. Whatever else may be said about our rule in Egypt—and the recent wave of unrest is no condemnation of the solid work of thirty years—it has brought material prosperity out of bankruptcy. That, and no less, will be our task in those parts of Asia Minor for which we accept responsibility; and we look confidently forward to the work, in the belief that our capacity for sound government and honest, constructive administration and bringing order out of chaos is as great as ever it was. But it is useless to burke the fact that the longer the inevitable decision is delayed the more difficult will the task become.

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EGYPTIAN MEMORIES.

THE NIGHT JOURNEY OF MOHAMMED.

The night of the Prophet's miraculous journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, and thence to the seven heavens, is an anniversary very solemnly observed in all the large centres of Islam, generally on the 27th night of the seventh month, Rejeb, which, of course, begins at sunset on what is the previous day in our reckoning. The most interesting occasion in my own experience was at Cairo, the scene being an open court of the Abdin Palace, into which we passed through what was then the new entrance to the Khedive's harem. In this spacious oblong, overlooked on all sides by the windows of that portion of the palace, elaborate preparations had been made. At each end was pitched a handsome tent, lined with crimson cloth, the ground being covered with carpets. In one of these tents a number of silk-covered armchairs and sofas, reserved for the Khedivial party and guests, formed large semi-circles, lighter chairs being provided for other spectators. Handsome carpets were spread over the central space of the open court, and all round the walls, upon wooden frames, countless wax candles in glass shades were burning. The other tent was filled with persons privileged to attend. At its front corners two high poles were fixed, the upper portions of which were encircled with several rings of glittering lamps.

About 10 p.m. we entered, with two sons of the Khedive, one of them the present Sultan, then a boy of about eight. The Khedive himself was absent at Alexandria. Near us sat the grave-looking Azim Effendi, Sheikh of the Mevlevi ("whirling") dervishes, and a group of pashas and beys. As we entered a *Zikr* of Kadrieh dervishes was proceeding, their long black hair falling over their shoulders. It did not differ much from the performance to be seen every week at their Tekkieh in "Old Cairo" and elsewhere. These Kadris come from all parts of Islam, and many of them seemed to suggest in their character a blend between the fiercer fanatics of Asia and the more peace-loving sons of the Nile Valley.

At the close of this *Zikr* a company of Mevlevi dervishes moved quietly into their place. Their Sheikh rose at the same time with much dignity, and a Bey of the Court circle walked with him to his *seggádeh*, or seat of honour. His *khalífeh*, or deputy, recited a prayer. The dervishes then revolved through the eccentric orbits of their celestial dance, as they do every Friday at their Tekkieh in the Helmieh. It was accompanied by the soft, weird music of their flutes, which is said to transport their souls to the region of the heavenly spheres. When their circlings ceased, the *khalífeh* offered another prayer on behalf of departed saints of the Order, of their Superior, of the Sultan of Turkey, the Khedive, and of his family, and the dervishes then returned to their seats.

Next followed a *Zikr* of Moghrebi, or North African, dervishes, clad in various garbs, some—if not all—being of the Isawíeh Order. Their exhibition was most peculiar. It began with a movement common to several orders in Egypt. Those who can remember the standing jumps which accompanied Mackney's song of "The Perfect Cure" can realise exactly its character. Their Sheikh took a most energetic part in what followed, skipping about like an excited bird, clapping his hands, and inciting his followers to their utmost vigour. They constantly repeated the name of Allah, and as the *Zikr* proceeded tambourines and kettledrums were beaten, and the sound must have been audible far beyond the precincts of the palace. After a performance of rather tedious length, the Sheikh ran to the side of the Court, lit several torches, and handed them to selected dervishes, who proceeded to thrust them into their mouths. This was the introduction to a number of other fire tricks, of a not very high order. Some of the performers ran up and down on either side of the *Zikîrs*, with long torches, the flames of which, from where we sat, seemed completely to encircle their heads and necks. Meanwhile the Sheikh ignited a large faggot, one end of which was frayed out. This created a great blaze. Another dervish ran out of the group, and seizing the faggot, held it close to his breast, as he ran backwards and forwards, but making judicious use of such wind as was blowing. After some time he retired, apparently none the worse. The last exhibition was of a kind quite new to us. A dervish, enveloped in a spacious white robe of some transparent material, seized a blazing faggot, introduced it beneath the garment, and whirled himself round and round, while his robe filled out till it looked like a fire-balloon—or, as one of the young princes observed, like a huge *fanoûs* (lantern). This was by far the cleverest performance on the part of the Moghrebis.

A *Zikr* of saadieh dervishes which followed was comparatively uninteresting. It was essentially Egyptian, but there was no serpent-eating on this occasion, as is often practised by this snake-charming order. It included constant swaying of the body from right to left and back, with guttural panting and invocations of Allah. One or two of the *Zikrs* revolved, in imitation of the Mevlevis, for what seemed a very exhausting time. This strange and varied introduction brought us to the really religious part of the celebration.

Facing our tent at a short distance was a small daïs, and on to this stepped the Sheikh Ali Naïl, one of the foremost and ablest of the Cairo Ulema. He was professor of Arabic and sacred lore to the Khedive's family, and a man of genial and agreeable manners. It was now after 1 o'clock a.m. Opening a volume, he read an account of the Apostle's night journey, with comments. This ascension is interpreted in different ways by Moslems, the majority accepting it in a literal sense, while many regard it as a vision. In the Koran there is only one allusion (Surah xvii.) to the fact that the Prophet was carried, on the winged animal Burák, from the temple at Mecca to that at Jerusalem. During the apocalypse the rule of five daily prayers was ordained; the divine command originally prescribing fifty, and being modified on Mohammed's repeated intercession.

What struck one most, at the time, was the apparent incongruity of prominence being given, on so solemn an occasion and during the greater part of the time, to an exhibition of dervish *Zikrs*, some of them eccentric and even ludicrous. So popular have these *Zikrs* become that one can hardly picture any great religious service in Egypt without them. I spoke next day to Sheikh Ali Naïl, whom I knew very intimately, on the subject. He was very guarded in his reply. Many dervishes, he said, are good men; but there are many things which dervishes do that are not countenanced by the Ulema.

R. M.

The Madrid correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that the Minister of War announces, as the result of the recent operations in Morocco, the complete submission of the warlike Anjera tribe and the occupation of their lands by Spanish troops. A military advance has also begun west of Melilla (Mediterranean coast), where no movement has been made for years, towards Tafersit, in the heart of the Riff. The first operation has been successfully carried out.

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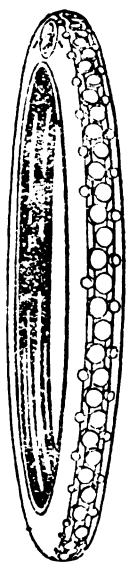
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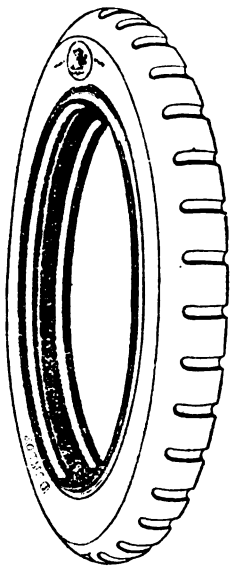
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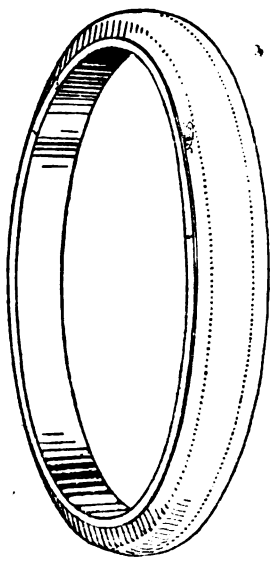


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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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Provision is made in the Peace terms for the resumption by the Danube Commission of its pre-war powers, but henceforward only Great Britain, France, Italy and Roumania are to be represented on it. This change is eminently desirable, and nowhere will it be received with greater satisfaction than in Roumania. It is further provided that an International Commission is to be appointed to administer the whole Upper Danube from the point where the competence of the Commission ceases until a definitive statute is arrived at.

***

I see that the committee which has been investigating the industrial possibilities of Ceylon recommends the opening of brick and tile factories in the clay districts where wood fuel can be cheaply obtained. As regards the manufacture of cement, the committee states that limestone suitable for cement manufacture is to be found in abundance at Jaffna, but unfortunately there is the problem of cheap fuel. Stress is laid by the committee on the scope for the production of hydro-electric power in the island, and the Government is urged to complete the investigation on this subject without loss of time.

***

The case of sugar, to which I referred last week, is apparently one of the few instances in which the experiment in preferential duties outlined in the Budget is likely to be of immediate value. The supply of tea imported into this country, apart from that which reaches us from India and Ceylon, is to all intents and purposes a negligible quantity, and as the probable effect of reducing the consumption of China and Java teas would scarcely justify preference for the Indian and Ceylon product, one is forced to the conclusion that in this case the net result will be the reduction of the price of tea by a roundabout method. As regards dried fruits—the item which concerns the Near East in particular—I am informed that it is not thought that the preference will have very much influence on the trade. That is the view of the trade, but there is, of course, the very possible contingency that preferential treatment may encourage developments within the Empire.

***

The effect on India of this feature of the Budget will be small. If there was a shortage of markets for tea the preference would be a consideration, but on the contrary there is the practical certainty that as soon as conditions are normal India will have a new market for this product in Russia, while the war has helped to make the beverage popular in regions where it was previously little used. As regards sugar, India, as the largest importer in the world, is only indirectly affected. In the circumstances "Indiamen" will doubtless agree with the view expressed to me this week by a very prominent member of their fraternity as to the most interesting feature of the Budget. "The middle classes were unable to live before," he said, "but now millionaires will be unable to die!" Which, I think, puts the matter in a nutshell.

Particulars are now available regarding the small Greek loan of £3,000,000. It appears that the banks have applied for a third of it, and that support to the extent of another third was forthcoming from the Greek communities in America. At the present time there is so much money in Greece as the result of war conditions that I imagine that a loan of several times the amount could have been floated without any very great difficulty.

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The future importance of Baluchistan owing to the extension of the Indian railway system to Robat on the Persian frontier, was emphasised by Mr. H. R. C. Dobbs, C.S.I., C.I.E., Revenue and Judicial Commissioner there, in a recent address to the Sardars of Baluchistan. Instead of being a desert country at the end of the world and leading to nowhere, Baluchistan, he said, had become the principal gateway between India and Central and Western Asia. He pointed out that everything needed by Persia must now be imported through India or from the Persian Gulf, and he urged the Sardars to encourage their young men to take part in the great and profitable traffic. They must take action quickly, he added, and secure their share of the new trade before others from outside Baluchistan gained complete control.

***

I see that the question of shipping facilities is being much discussed in Malta, and that attention is again being devoted to the possibility of forming a shipping company there for the establishment of daily services with the Continent. A solution of the problem would, I think, be most easily found in the circumstances if assistance were sought from a shipping firm with services in the Near East. It might not be impossible, for instance, for the Khedivial Mail to provide the facilities required.

***

In all probability the Americans will prove our most formidable commercial rivals in the Near East markets in the immediate future in such commodities as agricultural machinery, and their competition is the more serious because in many respects they are advantageously situated. It is well known that during the war the armies on the Salonika front cultivated large tracts of land with excellent results. The French Army, for instance, ploughed and sowed over 6,000 acres last year, the work being done by American agricultural tractor machinery. Of these machines the French Army there possessed in January, according to a recent American consular report, seventy machines that had been used, and fifty new machines. The tractors have been run and kept in order by experts, and the writer of the report refers with justice to their "magnificent introduction" to the country. It would certainly be difficult to imagine a better opportunity of bringing the merits of the machines before potential purchasers, and there is little doubt that the result will be that America will obtain a considerable proportion of Greek orders for this class of machinery.

***

But it was not that feature which chiefly interested me in the report so much as a suggestion regarding future developments. As there was the possibility that the war might continue for one or more years longer, the French were prepared for cultivation on a larger scale, and have had in view 74,130 acres immediately available for cultivation and another 49,420 acres which could be used given a small amount of drainage, all this only in the vicinity of Salonika. According to the writer the only hope of continuing what he rightly describes as an admirable work is the formation of a mixed company—a Franco-Greek-American company is suggested—which would have a charter from the Greek Government. The advantage of this, the writer says, would be that "a very rich country will produce enormous crops, the Greeks will learn modern agricultural methods, American machinery will be given a splendid opportunity in the Near East, and the Greek Government will derive a considerable revenue instead of practically nothing." This suggestion is, I think, interesting as showing that the Americans are very much alive to present prospects in the Near East.

***

British manufacturers of typewriters may be strongly recommended to pay attention to the requirements of Burma for this commodity. Burma's imports of typewriters are valued at from £3,000 to £4,000 a year, so that the trade is not an extensive one, though quite considerable enough to make it worth the while of British firms to cater for the market. The statistics of imports show that almost half the typewriters came from this country, but as a matter of fact it was a case of transhipment, and it is reported on good authority that 80 per cent. of the typewriters in use in Burma are American. This is not as it should be, and I hope British firms will see to it that in future years the balance of trade in this commodity is redressed.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE CONSTANTINOPLE MARKET.

Support Required for British Trade.

(From a Correspondent.)

Constantinople.

It is not easy to know exactly what most interests readers of The Near East with regard to Constantinople, and that at present somewhat nebulous thing known as Turkey. However, I rather think that, just as to us the most thrilling topics of conversation (apart from the difficulty of getting servants who will not steal your plate and linen—particularly linen at present values) are the prices of various kinds of food, raiment and articles of first necessity, what people in England want to know—the business people that is—is how England is going to profit by her re-entry into the Constantinople market, and how to set about opening up trade relations.

This leads me at once to a very burning local topic, and I think I cannot do any better than say right out exactly what all thinking business men here are saying amongst themselves. The fact is that British trade is not receiving encouragement from the British authorities, whereas Americans are carrying all before them. A friend of mine, who is a member of both the British and the American Chambers of Commerce, tells me that it is amazing to notice the difference in procedure between the two bodies. He receives about twice a week a printed notice from the American Chamber telling him exactly whom to apply to to get goods shipped to America, giving him current American prices for Turkish produce of all kinds, telling him he can send commercial correspondence to America through the Chamber and with the greatest speed, and so on and so forth. But from the British Chamber what help or advice does he get? He attended the first meeting when most of the time was spent in discussing a not very profitable question as to whether or not the Allied Export and Import Permit Bureau should continue to work until the recommendation then being discussed for the unrestricted resumption of trade relations with Great Britain by all (irrespective of nationality) should be approved by the British Government. The next meeting did not accomplish much either, and there has been nothing whatever in the shape of giving out information, etc., to members.

Cable Delays.

The French have their own special bureau with 3,000 catalogues, and facilities for remitting money to France independently of the banks, and it is only British trade that is left to stagnate where it is not absolutely obstructed. No British trader can get a telegram through to London in less than fifteen days. The line is hard-worked, we know, by official messages and enquiries for the health and welfare of friends and relations, but a sane sense of proportion will show anybody that some business telegrams are of more value to the British nation now and in the future than a pious hope that "James" or "George" is well and happy in France. If a limit were set to each firm as to the number of words it could send a month, and if cypher were allowed (the key to be given to the Intelligence Dept.), and telegraphic addresses not rejected, as is now the case, time could be saved. In any event it is a crying injustice to British trade and a perfectly ridiculous situation that American and French trade—much as we wish them well as being that of Allies and good friends—should rejoice in facilities that Englishmen are unable to obtain.

The British community of Constantinople would applaud like one man if someone were to put in Parliament the simple question "Whether any, and if so what, facilities and encouragement are now being given by the British authorities in Constantinople to British traders, and also whether His Majesty's Government had given due consideration to the most crying need for immediate action in order to enable British trade in the regions now again opening out to resume its rightful place?"

Goods of All Kinds in Demand.

To return to the more general, but still exceedingly important, question as to how the British manufacturer and merchant can best push his produce on the Constantinople market at the present time, I must admit that, not being in England, I can give no hints as to how best to ship out. All the formalities that that operation requires must, however, be well-known to those interested; so I will only endeavour to give a few hints as to circumstances and requirements here. In the first place we want almost everything pretty badly, but chiefly things to eat, things to wear, and things to cook and "housekeep" with. Prices are appalling—even after allowing for the rate of exchange—as the annexed extract from a local paper shows very clearly. (The prices are per oke—about 2¾ lb.)

	Prices before the War.	Prices at the end of Feb. 1919.	Approx. Increase %
Bread	Pt. 1½	Pt. 50	4,000
Meat	Pt. 8	Pt. 160	2,000
Eggs (each)	Pt. ¼	Pt. 6	1,700
Suit of clothes..	£T3	£T40	1,333
Shoes	£T1	£T12	1,200
Petroleum	Pt. 1	Pt. 300	29,900
Sugar	Pt. 2½	Pt. 200	8,000

Things are a little better now in some directions (viz. American petroleum is now on sale at Pt. 70 the oke, bread is much reduced in price, and sugar is about Pt. 100), but matters are still very, very bad. The great thing to do now is to get the goods here, get the best rate of exchange possible for remittances (or better still, to my mind, keep the money here at, say, the Ottoman Bank in current account until the Peace Congress or someone settles the paper-money question) and get a satisfactory agent. The latter point ought perhaps to come first, for it is astonishing how before the war, when the British Chamber of Commerce had someone here who could give information on local firms, people in England appointed absolutely unsuitable persons as their agents with most unhappy results. I do not mean to say that the majority of British firms acted in this senseless way, but so many did that it seems necessary to caution all and sundry now against being led astray by a plausible letter and vague references. Firms must not appoint an agent they do not already know without first of all getting a report either from the Chamber of Commerce or from some reliable person here who will take the trouble really to make searching enquiries. It is not everybody who will undertake the trouble.

My advice then is that attention should be paid particularly to this last point, and that organised agitation should be made in England for Government support and facilities for telegraphic communication with Constantinople. Now is the time for British trade to strike its roots deep here, for with competitors like Brother Jonathan and his marvellously pushing organisation on the spot lost time can never be regained. It is really heart-breaking to see all the glorious opportunities passing out of our hands when a little effort, a little common sense, and a little recognition that it was British commerce that won the war, and that it must be backed up now in the opening trade war, are all that are needed.

Vidi.

RECONSTRUCTION IN SERBIA

From a Correspondent.

According to the *Trgovinski Glasnik* (Commercial Gazette) of Belgrade, of April 11, all the post office and telegraph officials in Serbia have been released from the Army and sent back to their pre-war duties. It is now expected that the postal and telegraphic service in that country will be in normal condition as soon as the telegraphic, telephonic and railway lines are repaired, which depends on the necessary material of which Serbia is still waiting the regular imports. In Belgrade itself the telephone lines are partially repaired, and the telephonic service in that town is resumed again.

Among the advertisements of the above paper appears the following: "Junior clerk wanted, with knowledge of French and *if possible English*, etc." The italicised portion speaks for itself.

ROUMANIAN OIL CONCESSIONS.

The Foreign Office states that the Roumanian Government has promulgated a decree, No. 1,104, dated March 8, 1919, by which all petroleum concessions, as well as other mining and quarry concessions, which were in force in November, 1916, and expire during the period of the war, or which shall expire prior to the conclusion of a general peace, or any drilling or mining obligations contracted during the war or during the period of occupation, are prolonged with their full rights for a period of six months from the date of the conclusion of peace. In view of the above decree all concessionnaires affected are required to declare by May 20, 1919, the nature of the concessions or drilling obligations which come under the purview of the above decree.

The *Sudan Times* states that the Railways and Steamers Department announces that the dining car service to Halfa is cancelled until further notice, and that there will be two dining car services weekly to Port Sudan instead, and adds that it presumes that the sleeping car service to Halfa continues as it is at present, *i.e.*, once a week.

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OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

Sir Adam Block's Report.

There has just been published a special report by Sir Adam Block, K.C.M.G., on the Ottoman Public Debt for the years 1914-15, 1915-16, and 1916-17. The writer, whose experience and knowledge of the Turkish situation are unsurpassed, besides dealing with the years mentioned, also devotes attention to the general financial situation in Turkey at the present time, in which connection reference is made to the problem of the country's inflated and depreciated paper currency. But he refrains from an opinion as to the measures to be adopted to enable Turkey to finance the administration of the country and to pay its debt. "The problem," he points out, "is not merely a financial one. It is merged in the political question, and will have to be decided in accordance with the international and political combinations resulting from the Peace Treaty. The Allied Governments are in possession of the facts, and the decision rests with them."

Sir Adam returned to Constantinople soon after the Armistice and again assumed the Presidency of the Council of the Debt Administration, which throughout the war continued to administer the revenues assigned to the bondholders, though the Council being composed only of German, Austrian, and Turkish members, many of the measures taken were favourable to the Central Powers rather than to the bondholders in general. The Council is now composed of the French delegate, the representative of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the Italian and Turkish delegates, and Sir Adam Block.

As regards the operations of the first three years of the war the report states that the gross receipts of the assigned revenues were in the year 1914-15, £T3,637,913; for 1915-16, £T2,868,156; and for 1916-17, £T3,632,692. The expenditure was, for 1914-15, £T739,825; for 1915-16, £T849,473; and for 1916-17, £T877,246. The net receipts were for 1914-15, £T2,888,088; for 1915-16, £T2,018,683; and for 1916-17, £T2,755,446. £T2,157,375 were required yearly for the service of the Unified Debt and Lottery Bonds. Allowing for this figure, there remained in 1914-15 a surplus of £T730,713. In the following year there was a deficit of £T138,692, and in 1916-17 there was a surplus of £T598,071.

As regards the deficit of 1915-16, the Turkish Government, by a law dated November 24, 1915, debarred enemy bondholders from encashing their coupons. Sufficient funds were in hand to pay German, Austrian, and Turkish coupons, and there was no need to realise the securities in the reserve fund to provide for other coupons, the fund being merely debited with the amount of the deficit. The Council, in conformity with Article 8 of the Decree Annexe, deducted £T44,383 from the 25 per cent. share of the debt in the surplus of the year 1916-17; £T27,909 was taken from the interest of the reserve fund, and £T29,000 and £T37,400 were taken respectively from the arrears of the Cyprus and Tumbeki revenues.

It is stated that the Council may be obliged to have recourse again to the reserve fund to provide for the payment of the coupons to the subjects of Entente Powers which have remained unpaid since the outbreak of war.

The position with regard to coupons held by Entente subjects is thus explained. In the first place they cannot be paid until Peace is signed; and, secondly, there is a most serious difficulty to be faced in the exchange conditions. The table given shows the amount still due on the Unified Debt and the amount paid in the last four years.

The report goes on to point out that the funds provided for the unpaid coupons exist, but that they are at present either in paper piastres in Constantinople or in paper marks in Germany. The rate of exchange cannot be foretold pending the result of commercial relations. The best way to deal with this question is under the consideration of the Council, and the loss of exchange will have to be included in the general expenditure of the administration. If then, as is unfortunately evident, the amounts already in hand do not suffice for the service of the coupons unpaid, the surplus of the Debt revenues (75 per cent. to Government and 25 per cent. to the Debt Council for the extraordinary sinking fund) will have to suffer. That is to say, the surplus of the last two years will only be fixed after deduction of all expenditure, and the loss of exchange will be included in that expenditure unless other radical measures are taken in the meantime to reform the currency and to stabilise the exchange. The Turkish Government have been informed that no surplus revenues will be paid to them until the coupons have been fully paid.

FOUR PER CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT.

PAYMENTS.

—	Amount to be paid.	Paid at Constantinople.	Paid at Berlin.	Paid at Vienna.	Paid at Amsterdam.	Total paid.	--	Total in suspense.	—
	£T.	£T.	£E.	£T.	£T.	£T.	%	£T.	%
March, 1915	735,996	34,041	24,809	177	826	59,853	8·13	676,143	91·87
September, 1915	735,996	23,267	19,964	232	10,666	54,129	7·36	681,867	92·64
March, 1916	735,996	25,730	18,380	149	8,460	52,719	7·16	683,277	92·84
September, 1916	735,996	25,240	13,305	146	7,007	45,698	6·21	690,298	93·79
March, 1917	735,996	17,857	16,387	146	6,717	41,107	5·59	694,889	94·41
September, 1917	735,996	21,068	14,778	140	6,438	42,424	5·77	693,572	94·23
March, 1918	735,996	22,391	14,122	134	5,777	42,424	5·77	693,572	94·23
September, 1918	729,427	21,700	14,000	460	6,000	42,160	5·78	687,267	94·22
	5,881,309	191,294	135,724	1,584	51,891	380,514	6·47	5,500,885	93·53

The Ceded Revenues.

It was obvious that the effect of Turkey's participation in the war would be very pronounced as regards revenue, and the only doubt was as to the extent to which they would suffer. The effects of the war, the report points out, were already apparent in the last half-year of 1914-15. The loss of territory was one of the chief factors, but in parts of the country immune from invasion several other causes may be cited as contributing to the decline in receipts, namely the mobilisation of man-power, the interruption of agricultural and commercial operations, military requisitions on an unprecedented scale, and the ruin and extermination of the Christian population in many parts of the country. Finally there was the unrest arising from these causes. In Sir Adam Block's opinion it is a matter for surprise in the circumstances that the loss in revenue was not greater. The rise in prices is one reason, however, for the comparatively favourable results of two out of the three years in question, for where, as in the case of the silk revenue and the fisheries, the value of the commodity is taxed there has naturally been an increase in revenue. Then the Stamp Tax benefited by the increased commercial transactions due to the plethora of money caused by an excessive issue of paper currency, and the War Tax on Salt and Spirits also had its effect.

Surtax of Customs Duties.

According to the Decree of Mulharrem, the Debt was entitled to any duty over and above 8 per cent. *ad valorem*. Up to May, 1915, when the duty was raised to 30 per cent., this was carried out, but then the Government requisitioned 15 per cent. of the tax in kind, and allowed the Debt Administration 7 per cent. of the 15 per cent. duty levied in cash, viz., the difference between the original 8 per cent. and 15 per cent. On September 1, 1916, when the system of *ad valorem* duty was replaced by a specific tariff, the Council proposed that the Government should take a gross sum based on the average of three years of the 8 per cent. duty and pay the difference to the Debt Administration. The Government decided, however, to pay the 50 per cent. of the total duty to the Debt Administration. The Council only accepted under reserve. In 1917 the Government went back on this decision, and only consented to pay the residue after deducting a sum equal to 8 per cent. of the daily receipts calculated on the value of the goods. This was again accepted under reserve, and as an alternative it was suggested that the basis of the calculation of the 8 per cent. should be the value of each article. The Government have not replied, and the matter is in suspense. The Council holds that without the approval of bondholders no arrangement which deprived the latter of their rights under the Decree can be thus arbitrarily imposed on the Council by the Government. The receipts for 1914-15 amounted to £T614,714, for 1915-16 £T212,165, and for 1916-17 £T281,283.

(To be concluded.)

GREEK ARBITRATION COURTS FOR TRADE DISPUTES.

Local courts of arbitration, selected from suitable members of the commercial community, are being formed in Greece for the purpose of acting as arbitrators in any disputes with foreign merchants which may be brought before them, says H.M. Minister at Athens in a recent report. The President of the Greek Chamber of Commerce of Athens states that this has been done in all the Greek commercial centres, with the object of choosing from amongst the commercial community a body of experienced men from which arbitrators are selected in case disputants wish to avail themselves of this means of settlement.

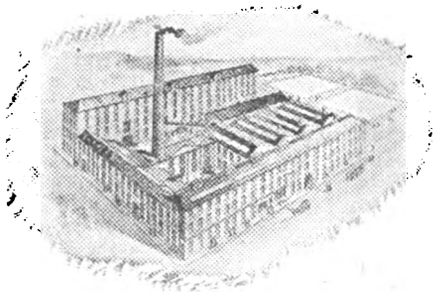
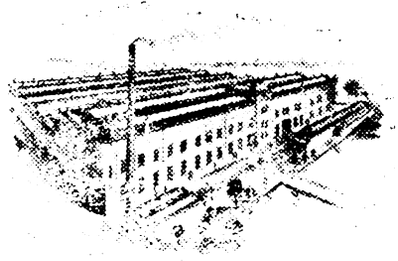
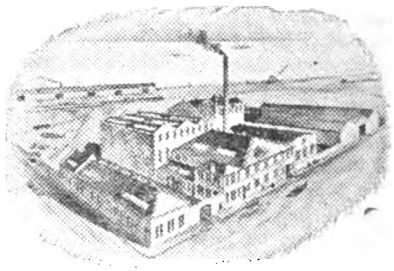
The local application of the scheme is described by H.M. Consul at Patras, where the Greek Government instructed the Nomarch of Achaia and Elis to call a meeting of all merchants and tradesmen paying a minimum industry tax of 200 drachmæ per annum, to elect 27 members to form a Court of Arbitration. This meeting was held on March 23 in the Commercial Club, under the presidency of a Judge of the Court of First Instance, and the 27 members who are to form the Court were elected by secret ballot. It is understood that the Arbitration Court's decisions will have legal validity. The Greek Government stipulated that out of the 27 members elected, not more than five should be of foreign nationality. Two British subjects were elected—one being the British Consul.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Opportunities in the Near East.

The statement in a leading contemporary that British manufacturers are paying full attention to the trade possibilities of the Near East, and are endeavouring to take advantage of present opportunities to establish sound commercial connections in the Balkans and the Levant, is very satisfactory. But it must be remembered that these opportunities are not lasting, and, as has often been mentioned in these columns, Continental and American competitors are already showing great activity in the Near East markets, where before the war the commercial supremacy of Germany and Austria was beyond question. But although German and Austrian prestige is low to-day, it is not to be taken for granted that the Germans will long remain inactive; so, as our contemporary declares, "now is the golden hour for our manufacturers." This is also confirmed by Major Kennard, the Commissioner to Greece of the Federation of British Industries. Speaking at a meeting of engineers, manufacturers and others at Leeds, Major Kennard said that he had the good fortune to arrive in Greece at the moment when Greek commercial circles were thoroughly interested in the reports which had been received from the Greek commercial representatives in this country. The Greeks, he added, are to-day strongly Anglophile, and there is in the hands of private individuals a sum of 40 to 60 millions sterling in excess of anything which they have ever owned in past years. Greece is anxious to trade with us in preference to other countries, and asks that the supplies shall be at fair prices. He further pointed out that other foreign makes of goods already in the country have been declined in view of the prospective arrival of the British articles, and that it is unthinkable that such a willing customer should be neglected. He advised British manufacturers to get into immediate touch with the Greek trading community, and also to bear in mind that excellent though the trade openings are in Greece, they represent only a small proportion of the demands which will be forthcoming from the Balkans and the Levant when business is resumed under normal conditions. Sir John McLaren, who presided at the meeting, described Greece as a country with great potentialities, and said we might just as well avail ourselves of the trade offered by that market as leave it to the Germans, the Americans, and others. He was sure that there is a great opportunity for the iron and machinery trade, but more particularly for the agricultural engineering section.

Italian Competition.

We have referred on previous occasions to the economic and industrial arrangements that have been made in Italy for the development of her engineering industries, and also to the possibility that she will be able, under these arrangements, to produce manufactured goods at much cheaper rates than those ruling in this country. In this connection the possibility that Italy may prove a formidable competitor in the markets throughout the Near East must not, of course, be overlooked, for Italy's geographical position affords her a great advantage. But with a well-organised trade propaganda, and, in the case of the engineering trade, with more consideration on the part of British manufacturers for the particular requirements in those markets, there need be no fear of serious competition. For, as is well known, the highest opinion is held in the East of British goods, and especially of engines, machinery, implements, tools, etc. This is our greatest advantage against foreign competitors, and in view of this fact some unscrupulous firms have even gone so far as to imitate British trade marks in order to deceive buyers into ordering their inferior wares. We refer to this as a proof that cheapness is not always a point that attracts buyers, especially in the matter of choosing machinery, implements, tools, etc., for which good material and perfection in design, workmanship, durability, and simplicity in operation are most essential in the East, where skilful mechanics and means to effect repairs are not always available. As Oriental buyers have confidence that such qualities are characteristics of British-made articles, everything is in favour of British manufacturers. Given systematic organisation and adequate methods of dealing in those markets, they should re-establish the monopoly of the trade which they had but a few decades ago throughout the Near and Middle East, and which was unaccountably allowed to pass into the hands of the Germans. It is true that the attention of Italian manufacturers has been strongly attracted recently to the fact that it is to the Orient that the country will have to look for her trade expansion in an industrial sense, and that the regions which formed the Turkish Empire offer a specially profitable field for exploitation. And they may succeed if British manufacturers do not act promptly and adequately.

Constantinople Trade.

The machinery trade in Constantinople has not been such as one might have expected in such an important market. Thus, the value of agricultural machinery that entered that port in a normal year before the war was not more than £18,000, but, owing to the land improvements that were taking place at the time in the surrounding districts, it was believed that there would soon be an increased demand for all kinds of agricultural implements. The imports came mainly from England, Germany, and Austria, with America a good fourth; although America claims that part of the agricultural machinery shipped from the three former countries was of American manufacture, and that if all shipments were made direct, America would probably be first in the list. When the present political situation has been cleared there will be, undoubtedly, a great demand for tractors, ploughs, sowing, reaping and threshing machines for the rural districts; and gas and oil engines, electric motors, woodworking, machinery, tannery, milling, and bootmaking machinery, and a variety of small hand machines for local industries in Constantinople and neighbouring towns.

Electrical appliances and apparatus will also be in great demand, for electric light will not be, as hitherto, under restrictions. Private electric light plants, many of which are already installed in private houses, will be required for distant institutions, the numerous villas that are spread all along the coast of the Bosphorus, and the little fashionable islands in the Sea of Marmora. Telephones, which at present are more or less restricted, will be in general use, and the demand for the necessary appliances will undoubtedly be considerable. Electric lifts and cranes will also be required. Taking in detail the electrical appliances, electric bells were imported from Germany, also the greater part of wires, indicator boards, lamps, electric light fittings, etc. Of the whole of these items, Germany supplied 70 per cent., 20 per cent. falling to France and 10 per cent. to Belgium; while in the supply of telephone wire and cable the French were fairly active, some seven French firms participating.

Agricultural Machines for the Balkans.

It is announced that orders to the value of several thousand pounds are to be placed in this country for threshing machinery, tractors, and heavy types of agricultural implements needed in restoring agriculture in the devastated areas of the Balkans and in Poland. In certain cases the question of credit alone awaits adjustment, and when this is completed British firms will have, it is said, full order books.

Motor Mail Van for Persia.

More attention to the trade possibilities of Persia has often been advocated in these columns. The country, in spite of the political troubles that she has suffered in recent years, has lately shown a remarkable propensity for industrial progress. Inquiries for internal combustion engines, spinning and weaving machinery, and modern agricultural implements have been sent to American firms, while the Persian Government, according to recent reports, has given proof of its progressive spirit by the decision to motorise practically the whole of its mail service. For this purpose an order has been placed with the Fiat Company of Turin for 50 motor mail vans.

Cunard Continental Service.

The Cunard liner "Saxonia" arrived at Plymouth last week from New York, proceeding afterwards to France. This is the first call at Plymouth since the new Southampton-Cherbourg-New York service was announced.

The Egyptian Budget provides for a new post of Assistant Under-Secretary for Finance.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Exports of Sheep from Algeria and Tunis.

According to a report of the Marseilles Chamber of Commerce, quoted in the *Board of Trade Journal*, the North African Colonies of France, Algeria and Tunis, exported to France in 1909, 1,120,729 sheep; in 1910, 1,256,908; in 1911, 968,304; in 1912, 812,865; and in 1913, 1,286,935. This gives an average of 1,089,158 sheep per year. During the war the exports were:—In 1914, 711,126 sheep; in 1915, 1,176,412; in 1916, 861,695; in 1917, 659,136; and in 1918, 300,000. This gives an average of 741,673 sheep per year. Thus during the war there has been a deficit of 347,375 sheep imported per year. Estimating an average of 20 kilos net of meat per sheep, the deficit amounts to 6,947,500 kilos of meat which have not been imported, and have been left in Algeria, probably through the lack of means of transport.

It is stated that Morocco, moreover, can supply an appreciable quantity of livestock, cattle, sheep, and pigs. In view of this situation the Chamber has petitioned the French Government to suppress the requisition of North African cattle, in order to enable the colonies to prepare for the next season. Sheep abound in Algeria, and these measures, it is estimated, will tend to bring down the high cost of living.

Sudan Produce.

Kordofan Province.—148 ardebs of dukhn were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of PT240 per ardeb of 420 rottles (189 kilos). 102 ardebs of dura were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of PT240 per ardeb of 420 rottles.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar.—Assessment of dura and dukhn is nearly finished, and it appears that these crops are slightly better than had been expected.

Bahr El Ghasal Province.—January.—The grain crop in the west has yielded a surplus of 900 ardebs (600 at Raga and 300 at Deim Zubeir) over and above the requirements needed for the Western District during 1919. This surplus grain is being exported to the Central, where, owing to an indifferent harvest, the amounts collected are below requirements.

Kassala Province.—The total dura crop for the whole province is estimated at 134,570 ardebs, as compared with 177,540 last year.

Berber Province.—At Gendettu the wheat is very fair, though patchy and somewhat gnawed by crickets.

Halfa Province.—The wheat is good, and should all be harvested before thirty days. Some wheat has had to be cut before ripe to feed the cattle, as the same are very weak from lack of forage, due to the partial failure of the gerf crop and the big sagia lift with the present low state of the Nile.

NEW COMPANIES.

Lawrence and Mayo.

A private company has been formed with the above title with a capital of £20,000 in £1 shares, to take over the business of manufacturers of and dealers in optical, nautical, scientific, and medical instruments and appliances, carried on by S. S. Lawrence and L. B. Lawrence, as Lawrence and Mayo in the United Kingdom, India, and the Far East. Address, 19, New Oxford Street, W.C.1.

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A private company has been formed with the above title with a capital of £8,000 in £1 shares to acquire a business carried on in Egypt, the Sudan, and Palestine as Lawrence and Mayo. Address, 19, New Oxford Street, W.C.1.

In her journey home last week the Queen of Roumania successfully inaugurated the Orient Express.

The Committee of the Bourse at Alexandria has decided to close the shares market on Saturdays during the summer season.

The Austin Motor Co., Ltd., of Birmingham, are arranging to exhibit one of the Austin farm-tractors at the British Exhibition to be held in Athens in September.

Messrs. Thos. and John Brocklebank, Ltd., announce that Mr. A. B. Hughes has been appointed a director of the company as from April 30. Mr. Hughes will retain his position as general manager.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.

The report of the directors on the working of the bank for 1918-19, submitted to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting, held at the offices of the bank in Cairo on April 29, states:—

The directors report that the net profits of the bank for the financial year 1918-19, in accordance with Articles 40 and 41 of the Statutes, amount to £E874,184.404. From this amount there has to be deducted: The repayment of liabilities incurred in 1914, £E18,280.324; the service of the debentures, £E235,251.106; the provision for the reserve fund, £E30,162.875; the provision for the special reserve fund, £E13,238.949—£E296,933.254, leaving £E577,251.150, and there has to be further deducted: Dividend on preferred shares, £E48,750; commission to the National Bank of Egypt, £E18,087.528—£E66,837.528, leaving £E510,413.622, which is available for distribution as dividend on ordinary and deferred shares. The ordinary shares have to receive, in the first instance, dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900. The balance of £E389,513.622 is available to the extent of one-half, or £E194,756.811 for the ordinary shares and to the extent of one-half, or £E194,756.811 for the deferred shares. The amounts, therefore, available for dividend on the ordinary shares are as follows: Balance from the year ended December 31, 1918, £E235,792.200; interest for the year accrued on the above balance, £E11,789.610—£E247,581.810; for dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900; further amount available, £E194,756.811; total, £E563,238.621. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 8s. per annum for the financial year 1918-19, amounting to £E193,440, and to carry forward the balance of £369,798.621.

The amounts available for dividend on the deferred shares are: Balance from the year ended December 31, 1918, £E189,064.190; interest for the year accrued on the above balance, £E9,453.210—£E198,517.400; further amount available, £E194,756.811—total, £E393,274.211. The directors propose to pay a dividend of £40 per share, amounting to £E78,000, and to carry forward the balance of £E315,274.211.

In deciding on the dividends we propose we have been guided by the same principles as those which led us during the last two years to recommend an increase in the amounts to be carried forward. The large net profits of the bank during the past year are in part due to the collections of arrears and receipts on sales of land, etc., which cannot be regarded as a normal source of income, and we are of opinion that we should ensure, as far as possible, a uniformity in the dividends to be expected in future years. It will be remembered that there existed in last year's accounts a charge of £E18,280 in favour of the general reserve fund on any collections that might be made of the arrears of the capital due in 1914-15. A sum exceeding this amount has been collected during the past year from these arrears, so that the general reserve fund, which was drawn upon at the end of the year 1914-15, has now been wholly reconstituted, in accordance with the Statutes. This sum of £E18,280 has been invested, with other sums, in the general reserve fund in British Government securities. This fund now amounts to £628,587, as compared to £E472,700, when it was drawn upon on January 31, 1915. We have not considered it necessary to increase the fund formed in past years for depreciation on investments, which at the beginning of the year stood at £E191,000. This provision would allow us to value all our Government securities on the general investment account at or below the market price on January 31, 1919, and ordinary shares of the Mortgage Company of Egypt at £1 10s. a share.

Arrears.

On January 31, 1919, the total arrears outstanding were £E151,326, against £E403,786 on January 31, 1918. Of the sum of £E151,326 in arrear, £E52,687 represent interest. No credit has been taken in the profit and loss account for any part of this sum, since, in accordance with the Statutes, only interest actually encashed can be included in the profits. The whole of the remainder—viz., £E98,639, representing capital overdue—has, as required by the Statutes, been deducted from the profit and loss account before arriving at the balance available for distribution. Consequently, any encashments made on account of the sum of £E151,326 will go entirely to the profit of the year in which they are effected. Up to March 15 the encashments since February 1, 1919, on account of the arrears of £E151,326 amount to £E20,000.

The sums collected during the past year from the annual instalment due and from the arrears of past years are, we consider, satisfactory. £E580,467 were collected out of the annual instalment of £E628,869 and £E300,862 from the arrears, making a total collection as regards these two items of £E881,329. Our encashments, therefore, exceed the annual instalment by £252,460, and the total of outstanding arrears is decreased by this amount. The prosperity which the war had brought to Egypt during previous years has continued, and, indeed, been largely added to during 1918. The high prices realised for all natures of cereal and fodder crops, and for the cotton crop under the arrangements made by the British and Egyptian Governments—to which we referred in our last report—enabled landowners not only to meet their annual liabilities with ease, but to repay a considerable amount of any arrears that may have been outstanding from previous years. The arrears of the bank, which in the first year of the war stood at £E1,394,546, have been now reduced to £E151,326, as compared with £E403,786 on January 31, 1918.

The total of loans exceeding £E1,000 each was £E151,300 on January 31, 1919. Our arrears on these loans were £E2,549, which had been reduced on March 15 to £E2,075.

Land Acquired.

The result of our land sales during the past year affords fresh evidence of the general agricultural prosperity of the country. The area of land which the bank found it necessary to acquire during 1918-19 was 435 feddans, as compared to 1,114 feddans in 1917-18, and we have sold 1,588 feddans, as compared to 3,646 with previous year; our land holding has thus decreased by some 1,153 feddans.

We hope to be able to sell gradually the 1,072 feddans remaining on our hands at satisfactory prices, but there is a considerable proportion of these lands which we can hardly hope to realise at the prices which they have cost us. The number of expropriations made by the bank during the year are as follows: Number of cases in hand on February 1, 1919, 2,220; number of new cases begun during 1918-19, 1,211—total 3,431. Cases settled, 2,164; balance, 1,267. Cases brought to expropriation, 218; balance pending on January 1, 1919, 1,049. In thirty-four of these cases of expropriation 186 feddans were bought in by the bank, and in 184 remaining cases 1,001 feddans were bought in by third parties.

As we mentioned in our report for 1917, the Mortgage Company was able to resume payment of interest on its ordinary shares capital. The dividend declared for the year ending on March 31, 1918, was at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. Owing to the prosperous conditions of the country, the collections for 1918 have also been very satisfactory; instalments in arrear have been reduced by a substantial amount, but at the same time, as the necessity for borrowing has diminished, the output in new loans was smaller than the sums collected on the capital of outstanding loans. The company was, in consequence, in a position to repay the total amount advanced by the Agricultural Bank.

The loans outstanding on the London Stock Exchange at January 31, 1919, are reduced to £5,000.

We greatly regret to announce to our shareholders the resignation of Sir John Rogers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., from the board of directors, owing to his having left Egypt. Sir John Rogers has been a director of the bank since its foundation, and we would take this opportunity of expressing our recognition of the active interest he has always taken in its working and of the valuable aid he has afforded to his colleagues on the board. We have good reason to hope that the majority of those members of our staff who have been absent on military service will be able to rejoin the bank during the present year, and we are happy to state that no serious casualties have occurred amongst them during the year 1918. The directors beg to thank the staff in the head office and in the agencies for their satisfactory work during the year.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Tunisian Phosphates.

The accounts to December 31, 1918, show a net industrial profit of 1,328,601 fr., against 1,019,132 fr. in 1917. The yield from investments, etc., was 1,346,000 fr., against 1,123,423 fr. The net profits amount to 2,462,739 fr., as compared with 1,190,960 fr. in 1917, permitting a dividend of 15 fr., equal to the previous declaration. The new scrip will receive 7.50 fr.

Compagnie des Wagons-lits.

Particulars of this company have been filed at Somerset House, pursuant to section 274 of the Companies (Consolidation) Act. The company was founded in Belgium in 1876, and the capital consists of 15,000,000 francs Preference and 53,750,000 francs Ordinary shares. The last balance sheet is dated 1913. The British address is at 20, Cockspur Street, S.W.1.

South Indian Railway.

The directors of the South Indian Railway Company have decided to pay on July 1 an interim dividend of 1¼ per cent. (or at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum), less income-tax, from the surplus profits, in addition to the interest guaranteed for the half-year ending June 30 next—namely, 1¾ per cent., less income-tax, making a total distribution for the half-year of 3 per cent.

Egyptian Delta Land and Investment.

The report of this company for the year ended December 31, 1918, states that the sales during the year were 690 metres at Meadhi, about 5¼ feddans at Minet el Qamh, and about 3 feddans at Abou Hamad, all at good prices. The best sale of the year was that of the French Mills Karmous property at Alexandria, which left the company a net profit of £E21,297 on the book value as indicated in the last balance sheet. The directors deemed it prudent to carry forward the major part of this profit, and only to make use of a sum of £E2.650 odd, which, added to the working profits of £E5.251, enabled the recommendation of a dividend of 6d. per share.

P.P.K. Rubber.

The report of the P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates for 1918 states that the balance at credit of profit and loss account, after writing 10 per cent. depreciation from machinery and buildings and including excess profits duty refunded, 1917, is £13.927. It is proposed to carry to reserve £3.000, to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., £8,500, to carry forward £2,427.

Travancore Tea.

The report of the Travancore Tea Estates Company for the year ended September 30, 1918, states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss account, including balance brought forward, and after providing for directors' fees and debenture charges, is £22,921. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 15 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, to place to redemption of debentures sinking fund £3,000, and to carry forward £6,509.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

AN English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

TURKEY.—Business gentleman proceeding early May to Turkey on three months' business trip would entertain business propositions of firms in United Kingdom wishing to do business with that country, especially in the way of import of produce, carpets, tobacco, etc., etc.—Write to Box H9., NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

TURKEY.—A firm of exporters in the City who have completed all their arrangements for resuming trade with Turkey, wish to hear of firms interested in exports to that country and imports to England. One of the partners is at present in Turkey and will gladly consider all business and agencies which will be offered. Please reply to Box H10, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

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

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY.
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET,
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
38, Rue St. Ferreol.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caifa.

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies give notice that the books of the Ceylon Government 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock will be closed for the preparation of Dividends on the night of May 15, after which date the stocks will be transferable ex dividend.

Ceylon 4½ per cent. Loan.—The Crown Agents for the Colonies give notice that the half-year's interest, due May 15, on the above loans will be paid on and after that date. The coupons must be left for examination (between the hours of 10 and 3 o'clock, Saturdays before 1) three clear days prior to payment being made.

The Bank of England announce that, in order to prepare the dividends due on the undermentioned dates, the balances of the several accounts in the following Funds will be struck on the night of Monday, June 2, viz. :—Dividends due July 1, Eastern Bengal Railway £4 per cent. Irredeemable Debenture stock; Great Indian Peninsula Railway £4 per cent. Irredeemable Debenture stock; Scinde, Punjab and Delhi Railway Annuities, "A" and "B," 1958; South Indian Railway £4 10s. per cent. Perpetual Debenture stock. Dividends due July 5: India £3 10s. per cent. stock, 1931; India £3 per cent. stock, 1948; India £2 10s. per cent. stock, 1926. On and after Tuesday, June 3, the above-named Funds will be transferable ex-dividend.

The directors of the Caledonian (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares in respect of the year ending June 30 next of 5 per cent., less tax at 6s. in £, payable on 30th instant.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 3:—

Weather unsettled. Local rains north-western India, Lower Bengal, Hyderabad and Mysore.

Wheat forecast for all India 23,425,000 acres and 7,447,000 tons. (Last year first forecast of yield was 10,074,000.)

Bombay Cotton market irregular but fluctuations narrower. Fully Good Broach 519 Rupees. Local Piece Goods market dull. Manchester goods improved demand. Calcutta Jute market steady. Jat fours 12 rupees. Rejections 6 Rupees 8 Annas. Sowings nearing completion. Prospects encouraging in Jute goods market. Large business done sacking. Hessians considerably increased price.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the forty-first ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Monday, the 2nd June, 1919, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

Holders of share warrants to bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their share warrants in London before the 19th May, 1919, or in Alexandria before the 29th May, 1919, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclay's Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Dated, Alexandria, the 15th April, 1919.

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

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market as a whole tends to gain strength, and it has not been possible for buyers to operate on the same terms as a week ago. In some quarters the stiffer attitude of producers has checked progress, but there is very little belief in lower rates in the future. According to private advices, the prospects for the new Egyptian crop have been adversely affected by the disturbances, but there is still every probability of a substantial yield, given favourable climatic conditions later on. A little more buying is now taking place by Lancashire spinners. Egyptian yarns have attracted rather increased attention, but transactions of importance have not been frequent. In certain counts and qualities quotations have hardened. The larger inquiry in cloth for Egypt has been well maintained. Here and there manufacturers have been able to secure fairly substantial contracts in sized goods and miscellaneous fabrics of various kinds. The Indian markets have provided a larger demand, but leading buyers are rather slow in coming up in price. Grey shirtings, light fabrics and printing cloths have been sold for Calcutta, Bombay, and Karachi. A fair turnover has again transpired for China, Java, and Singapore. Manufacturers as a body are more difficult to deal with than some time back. American yarns for home use have not been very active, but a steady trade has been done at rather hardening rates. More trade continues to be reported in bundles for India, but cops for Holland seem to be a little quieter.

Cotton Mill Hours in Lancashire.

Negotiations continue to take place in Manchester between cotton employers and trade union officials on the mill hours question. The application of the operatives is for a reduction from 55½ hours as at present to 44 hours per week, with an advance in wages to compensate the workpeople for the loss in earnings as a result of the shorter week. In the first instance, the masters offered a week of 49½ hours, without any rise in wages. This proposal was not satisfactory to the leaders of the operatives. At the beginning of this week the employers offered a 48-hour week with an advance of 15 per cent. on standard list wages rates. The trade union officials said they were not in a position to agree to the proposal, but they promised to place the terms before a delegate meeting of workpeople to be held this Saturday. It is not likely that the offer will be accepted. It is pointed out by the trade union officials that it will be necessary for the employers to increase wages by about 32 per cent. on standard lists to meet the loss of earnings as a result of the reduction in working hours from 55½ to 48 per week. It is possible that a ballot of the workpeople will take place as to whether they should issue notices to cease work in order to press their demands. In trade circles, however, there is still hope of an amicable arrangement being come to by the two sides without any real crisis arising.

A branch of the Banco Hispano-Africano has been established at Ceuta.

Mr. Jean Theologis, manager of the Bank of Athens at Cairo, is to take up the management of a new branch of the Bank of Athens at Marseilles.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

There has been a much better tone in our market this week, with a certain amount, however, of irregularity in prices. The improvement is due in great measure to the renewal of demand from Egypt.

In Government stocks, Unifieds are ¼ better at 89 xd., and some business has been done in Egypt 3½ per cent. Prefs. round the current level of 75.

In Bank Shares, Agriculturals are ⅛ up at 6½, after changing hands at 6 9-16. National Banks have been done as high as 20⅜, and close ⅜ higher at 20⅝. Anglo-Egyptians have also advanced ¼ to 15½.

Amongst Railways, Delta Lights have eased ¼ to 7½.

In Land shares a certain amount of business has been doing, with very little movement in prices, however, except in Sudan Plantations, which are closing 11-16 up at 7¼, after some dealing as high as 7½. United Egyptian Lands are somewhat easier at 1s. 10½d., so likewise are Egyptian and Foreign Trusts at 13s. 9d. and Gharbieh Lands at 2 7-16.

In Miscellaneous shares, Khedivial Mail Prefs. are ⅛ up at 4¼, and Anglo-Egyptian B are 5-32 higher at 5 5-16, after business as high as 5 7-16.

In Greek securities there have been a few transactions round the current levels. The Rente Loan is again half a point down at 54½, and Funding is 2 points down at 64. On the other hand, the 1914 issue is one point up at 84.

Mr. R. S. Macgregor, assistant general manager of Messrs. Lipton's, returned to Ceylon recently from Egypt.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON APRIL 17.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20¼
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	109½
" " Div.	Frs.	161
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 9/32
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	11⅛
" priv.	L.E.	4 11/16
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	200
Bons de Panama	Frs.	167
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	94
" Priv.	Frs.	106
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	100
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 3/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	2 3/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6
Bonded Stores	L.E.	11⅛
Unifiée	L.E.	91½
Privilégiée		79
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	6 1/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6½
" " Fond.	£	475
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4 9/16
" Ord		106/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	13¼
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5 1/32
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	115xd
" Jouissance	Frs.	177½xd
Egyptian Markets		25/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	400
" Div.	Frs.	360
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	248
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	4 1/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		50/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	739
" Fondateur	Frs.	990
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	436
" 1903 "	Frs.	313
" 1911 "	Frs.	283½
United Lands	P.T.	11⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		3/4

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 1	May 7
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90½	89xd
Do. Pref. 5% 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72½	72½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55	54½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66xd	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	64
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	83	84
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81½	89
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6¾	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15½	15½
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	75	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9⅜	9⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅞	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6¼	7⅛	7⅛
London County and Westminster	—	17¼	17
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	20¼	20⅛
National Bank of India	43	53	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7¾	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	26/6	26/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	12¾	12¾
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/3	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/-	13/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2½	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/6	24/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	2½	2½
Sudan Plantations	—	6⅞	7¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅞	3⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/3	1/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Anglo-Egyptian B.	—	5⅝	5⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅜	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6	6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½xd	4½

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; bnt it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to te ms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - £485,580
RESERVE - - - - - - - £85,000

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - £220,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.
Agencies at **Busreh** and Baghdad

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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THE BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.
Telephone: 1110 London Wall.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.52,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 419.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As was to be expected, the Germans, official and unofficial, have been and still are protesting loudly against the Terms of Peace presented to them in Paris. Count Brockdorff-Rantzau in a note addressed to M. Clemenceau declared that the Treaty contained unendurable demands, many of which, in the opinion of the German experts, could not be carried out; and that it departed from the basis of peace agreed upon. The German delegates have also put forward proposals of their own regarding the League of Nations, labour legislation, and prisoners of war. The Allies replied promptly that they could not admit any discussion of the terms in their main outlines. The scene of protest then shifted to Germany, where politicians and people alike have been vociferously declaring that never were such iniquitous conditions put forward, and never, never will Germany accept them; a variant of the theme being that Germany will accept them, but will dishonour her signature at the earliest possible moment. The Germans would do well to recall the Treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest, and their threat that their terms were moderate in comparison with those which would be dictated later to France, Great Britain, and the other enemies of the All Highest. Count Brockdorff-Rantzau has addressed three more Notes of protest to M. Clemenceau, and further official protests in one form or another may be expected in the near future.

In the meantime interest is passing, temporarily at any rate, to the conditions to be offered to Germany's allies. The Austrian delegates have reached Paris, and it is understood that the terms to be offered to them are ready, although certain boundary questions will only be decided after plebiscites have been taken. There are some indications that the Austrians may once more play the part of second to their German allies. The announcement that Slatin Pasha will be attached to the Austrian delegation as one of the technical experts, in connection with prisoners of war, will have been received with mixed feelings in this country, where he had many friends before the war. His presence should help to make any negotiations that may be necessary run more smoothly.

Italy's interest in the settlement of accounts with Austria is, of course, a vital one, and it would be almost impossible to conceive of her delegates absenting themselves from any discussions on the subject. As a matter of fact, Signor Orlando has taken an active part in these deliberations. It appears, however, that this does not indicate that the Fiume-Adriatic difficulty has been bridged over, and if any real progress has been made with the bridge-building, the fact has been very successfully concealed from the world. Another point of friction between Italy and Yugoslavia may arise in connection with the disposal of the Austrian mercantile marine. It is reported that they had anticipated dividing the vessels captured in Austrian ports between them. Italy, however, endeavoured to make her agreement to this division contingent upon Yugoslavia's recognition of her claims to Fiume. The net result is that they will now only share equally with the other Allies in the division of the captured vessels. This disappointment, following on the trouble between them over the captured Austrian warships, may unhappily further embitter relations between the two countries.

British troops in the Dobruja have been replaced by Italian, and Italian troops have also been sent to Rodosto and to Burgas, for the purpose of maintaining order. This movement, it is explained, is "primarily due to the fact that British troops from the Dobruja have been sent to Asia Minor." The announcement caused some little excitement in certain circles which are not inclined to credit Italy with a superfluity of altruism, and which, while quite unaffected by anything that may happen at, or to Burgas, feel very differently regarding Rodosto. The British landing in Asia Minor, on the other hand, appears to have given widespread satisfaction.

The utterly unexpected has happened so often during the past five years that it can hardly be unexpected to find it happening again. And in regard to the Roumanian advance on Budapest it actually has happened. The Roumanian Bureau at Berne announced, in a message dated May 9, that the victorious advance of the Roumanian Army on the Hungarian capital had been checked, as the result of the intervention of the British and American missions. Bela Kun and his cronies have thus been spared the necessity of choosing between fighting to the last breath or making a hurried exit, and it is to be hoped that they feel properly grateful to whoever really is responsible for saving their face—or their skins. The rest of the world will hardly share their gratitude, and is much more likely to insist upon having an explanation of what on the face of it looks like a very gross blunder. That the Bolshevist position must have been enormously strengthened by this check to the Roumanians is quite obvious. That even the

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Magyars will, and do, regret the turn of events would seem to be clear from reports that at Debreczin they organised demonstrations in honour of the collapse of the Bolshevist power when the army of law and order arrived. The effect upon the Roumanian Army itself, and on the Roumanian people, can hardly fail to be extremely depressing.

General Allenby has left Egypt for Syria, and the fact in itself is sufficient to show that the situation has greatly improved. The students maintain a stubborn attitude, and have indulged in further demonstrations, even risking an encounter with troops. They were, however, quickly dispersed, and have apparently acquired enough sense to realise that such manifestations are certain to gain them more hard knocks than fame. On the other hand, they have not yet learned that "passive resistance" quite frequently injures the passive resister far more than it injures the person, or persons, against whom it is directed. Thus on May 7, the date fixed for their return to their studies, the higher colleges remained empty, though the attendance at the secondary schools showed a marked improvement. The former establishments were therefore closed, in accordance with the Special High Commissioner's proclamation, and the net result will be that the students will lose a great deal of the education that they so obviously require. The most regrettable feature of these students' strikes is that they are indulged in by those to whom the country ought to be able to look for its future administrators and public servants. As our readers are well aware, education in Egypt was far from satisfactory before the outbreak of these disturbances. Recent events would seem to indicate that the fault lies almost entirely with the pupils rather than with the system.

Some light upon the methods employed to fan the flame of rebellion and to stir the students and others up to action against the British is afforded by the discovery by the Cairo police of printing presses where seditious literature was being produced. These were found, *The Times* Cairo correspondent reports, on premises belonging to a Dr. Ismail Sidky—not to be confused with Ismail Sidky Pasha, former Minister of Wakfs—who has been arrested. The existence of such instruments of propaganda and their apparently very successful employment by the agitators naturally suggests that counter-propaganda work in the interests of law, order, and sanity might have a very good chance of success among these Egyptian students, who are not naturally vicious, but are extraordinarily susceptible to appeals addressed to their emotional side.

Another satisfactory bit of news from Egypt is that all restrictions on travel have been removed, and that a normal train service has been resumed in Lower Egypt —measures which show that the authorities regard the situation as rapidly approaching a satisfactory stage. How far the calmer spirit that this implies is due to the failure of Zaghlul Pasha and his companions to secure support for their views in Paris, how far it must be attributed to the publication of the terms of peace presented to Germany, and the realisation of the full significance of those terms, remains to be seen. Probably both factors have contributed towards bringing about the very desirable change. If only the Egyptians would now settle down and turn a deaf ear to their would-be leaders and the agitators—who, by lending their countenance to such excesses as those of Deirut, have put themselves out of court once for all—they would find themselves travelling on the only road that is at all likely to lead them to a real independence.

The announcement is made that Major-General Sir L. O. F. Stack has been confirmed in his appointment as Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan. This was one of the war appointments which have turned out complete successes, as is shown by the fact that the Sudan has remained tranquil throughout the troubles that have so disturbed its northern neighbour. Whether the fact that the appointment is confirmed at the present moment is to be regarded as having any particular significance we will not attempt to guess. But it is well known that there is a strong feeling in some circles that the relations between Egypt and the Sudan require readjustment; and it is possible that the question is, or will be shortly, under discussion.

So far as India is concerned, the centre of interest has shifted, and people who a few days ago were discussing the situation in the Punjab have had to turn their attention first to the Khyber and then to Whitehall. In regard to Afghanistan the general attitude is one of cautious reserve; the possibilities are so many, and the known facts so few, that even the youngest of the quidnuncs is for the moment disinclined to commit himself to a definite theory, and though he may scan the map of Asia from Constantinople to Kashgar, he will not put his finger on the precise spot where the origin of the trouble is to be sought. The brief reports of General Barrett's first activities are looked on as satisfactory, and the issue is awaited without too much anxiety.

As regards the contribution of Whitehall, we do not propose to insult the members of Lord Southborough's Commissions by expressing an opinion offhand upon the two reports which have just been made public. They bring us at last face to face with the hard facts which dominate the prospects of constitutional reform; they deal with a mass of controversial questions and of complicated details, and they call for careful examination before even a provisional judgment can be formed. We may, however, remark that the Franchise proposals, whatever their merits or defects, represent a very substantial advance; five million voters will not make India a democracy, but at present there are only 33,000, and we cannot at the moment recall any Western precedent for increasing the constituency one-hundred-and-fifty fold. The methods by which this change is to be effected, and the powers to be assigned to the new legislative bodies are subjects to which we shall return.

Perhaps the most striking of the numerous recent pronouncements on the political situation in India is a letter written by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, an authority who is entitled to be heard. Sir Bampfylde is no reactionary, though he is sometimes described as such by the back-numbers of the Indian Press, and his letter shows him in substantial accord with the view which has been urged in these columns, that reform must go forward notwithstanding the recent unfortunate events. He regards unrest as "the consequence of an extension of the idea of human dignity, an idea which Englishmen have sedulously propagated"; in other words, the ward is rapidly growing up, and the guardian must now do all that is possible to facilitate the transition from tutelage to adolescence. That, in our opinion, is the central fact of the present situation, and its dominance should not be obscured by occasional aberrations, however lamentable their immediate results may be.

Mrs. Besant's ardent partisans in India will, we fear, be disappointed by the judgment pronounced by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in her appeals regarding the forfeiture of her security. The case was argued as one of great constitutional importance, but the only question really at issue was whether the Executive had acted in accordance with the law, and this has been definitely answered in the affirmative. In England that would be the end of the matter, but Indians are sometimes bad losers, and we must expect that the eminent jurists responsible for this decision will share the fate of Mr. Justice Darling, whose conduct of the Tilak case has been abused from one end of the country to the other. Lord Haldane and his brethren on the Bench will not mind, but for the sake of India's reputation in this country we hope that on this occasion the criticisms may be marked by some sense of the fitness of things.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 21.

The Political Situation.

To-day is "Shem El Nessim," the national holiday, when every one who can do so leaves the cities and the towns and goes out into the country. Cairenes usually make excursions to the Barrage, Bedrashein or Helwan, but this year no such outings have been possible owing to the fact that the railways are at present restricted to Government and military requirements on account of the extension of the strike to the whole of the native personnel of the railways. As a matter of fact, whilst the general situation has improved in the provinces, where the military occupation is having a very salutary effect, and hostile and untoward incidents are now of very rare occurrence, the state of affairs in Cairo has become somewhat worse since my last letter, and the only feature which is more satisfactory is the state of the streets, but of that more anon.

As mentioned in my previous letter, the response to the Cabinet's appeal to the nation in general and to the Government officials in particular to resume their normal occupations and leave to the Cabinet the task of obtaining the greatest measure of satisfaction of the national aspirations was a declaration from the Strike Committee of the Government officials to the effect that they maintained their previous demands. On Tuesday, the 15th, the President of the Council issued a final warning to the officials that if they did not return to their posts the following day the responsibility for the consequences of the continuation of the strike would fall upon their shoulders. This warning was, likewise, without effect, the Committee throwing the responsibility back upon the Cabinet.

It may be as well to give an explanation of the reason why Wednesday was fixed in the above-mentioned warning. According to the Finance Regulations which contain the conditions of service under which an official is employed and the terms under which he can qualify for a pension, it is laid down that no man may absent himself from his work or from his residence without first having obtained official permission; that if he does absent himself without such permission he loses his pay for the period of such absence; and that if his abstention from work extends to fifteen days he is considered as having resigned, and his name is erased from the list of the permanent staff qualifying for pension. Some of the officials commenced the strike on the 2nd, the remainder followed suit on the next day. Wednesday, therefore, was the last day on which the former could return, and whilst losing their pay for the period of their absence, could still avoid forfeiting their pension rights. It was the hope of the Cabinet that this official warning would induce a large proportion to return to their offices. Only about 15 per cent. on the average of all the Government officials did so, however; in some administrations the percentage rose to 25 per cent., in others it dropped to zero. Clearly the officials, or, rather, the Committee of 54 which directs and is responsible for their attitude, intended to flout the Government, and equally clearly the time had come for an abandonment of the lenient attitude which had characterised the Government's treatment of the matter, and for the adoption of sterner measures.

A Last Chance.

However, the vagaries of the various calendars in use in Egypt have enabled the authorities to give the officials one more chance. As it happens, this year the Easters of the Western and Eastern Churches coincide. Easter Monday, according to our calendar, is Shem El Nessim or the national holiday of Egypt; and all these holidays fall within the Passover week of the Jews. This coincidence of religious festivals has meant that for one or other of the religions the last few days have been *dies non*. In the circumstances, therefore, it was decided to wait until the conclusion of this succession of holidays—viz., to-morrow—to see whether saner counsels might not possibly in the meantime prevail. In the event of such a change unfortunately not manifesting itself and the officials still abstaining from their offices, the long-deferred drastic action of the authorities will be taken.

Some Effects of the Strikes.

The abstention of the general mass of officials and their attitude towards those of their colleagues who endeavoured to resume their normal work, have considerably aggravated the economic situation. The state of the streets, which had not been swept for fifteen days, had become disgraceful and in the highest degree insanitary; but the Strike Committee did not concern itself in the slightest with this most serious feature; and as it was impossible to get the usual staff to do the work, recourse has had to be had to convicts, who now sweep the streets under the supervision of a British guard. Each watering cart is driven by an Indian, by whose side sits an English soldier with rifle and fixed bayonet.

The condition of things as regards the Post Office has become worse. For a time the Cairo Post Office managed to deliver some part of the mail at domiciles, but during this last week not only has it had to cease this service, but it has had to close its doors for long periods owing to the hostile attitude of the mob and officials towards those who were dealing inside with the public. It is now possible to obtain letters, but only with great difficulty and after waiting a long time in a queue. Then, as regards the railways, the committee disapproved of the few employees who still stuck to their posts; and as a result of intimidation practically all the Egyptian personnel has been forced to come out on strike. Consequently the Railways Administration has had considerably to curtail its services and restrict transport to military and Government requirements; the trains being run by British soldiers.

Leaving out of consideration the attitude of the committee in the matter of the railways and the post office, and admitting for the moment that if they wanted to make their strike effective it was only natural that they should wish to call out every man in those two administrations, nothing can excuse their attitude with regard to the streets of Cairo. They knew full well how much the health of their fellow-citizens depends on the cleanliness of the streets; the defection of the scavengers could by no means affect the power of their strike, and their blind persistence in an attitude which, if not counteracted, could not fail in the long run to jeopardise the lives of several hundred thousand people in Cairo alone is in itself but one more argument against the granting of any measure of independence to Egypt, since the very people who have been responsible for this decision would have an active part in the government of the country under a régime of Independence.

A Palpable Manœuvre.

A subtle move on the part of the committee to circumvent the proclamation against intimidation has been fortunately detected and counteracted. With the avowed desire to assist in maintaining peace and preventing disturbances, the committee, with a great flourish of trumpets, created a body called "El Bolice El Watani" (National Police), whose "official" duties were to patrol the streets, counselling the people to

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calm and intervening on the side of peace in any altercations which might take place. There is little doubt, however, that this was but a disguise for a host of intimidators who, under the guise of preservers of the peace, would be able to continue the campaign of intimidation already initiated with such success among the public and tradespeople, and which a recent order from the G.O.C. was intended to repress. The authorities lost no time in intervening, and a military order was issued prohibiting the formation and the operation of this body.

We now await to-morrow, with more curiosity than real anxiety, to see whether the officials turn up once more at their offices. If they do not, then it is understood that as the Council of Ministers has been powerless to influence or enforce its authority over its subordinates, the Special High Commissioner will intervene with all the authority of his position. From every point of view it is indeed imperative that a term should be set to the present state of affairs in Cairo, and that the clique of intimidators and inciters to resistance to the Government should be given a stern lesson. For until the situation in the capital returns to normal, and the influence for ill that exists and exerts itself in every direction at present is eradicated, we cannot expect either the provinces to maintain as a permanent feature the outward peaceful condition which the presence of military forces compels everywhere to-day, or the country as a whole to resume its economic life which has been so far completely paralysed. It is as much in the interest of the Egyptians themselves as of the British Government, which is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the Valley of the Nile, that this return to normal shall be as speedy and complete as possible.

LETTER FROM PORT SAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, April 30.

Port Said and the Unrest.

The unrest malady which has devastated other parts of Egypt has happily not been serious in Port Said, mainly owing to the prophylactic measures which the local authorities promptly applied at the outset. The disease is diagnosed as Germano-Bolshevism, complicated by a superimposed attack of fourteen-point Wilsonism. The sufferers from this distressing malady, of which the chief symptom is a strong desire to smash, loot, and kill, attempted to leave the native quarter of the town. The authorities were, however, prepared with preventive measures, which were so effective that there has been no further outbreak of the disease, though probably there will always be a latent danger till the carriers of the disease are safely hanged. Those who know Port Said will remember that a large, wide street separates the native from the European quarter, so the latter can be comparatively easily protected, though that may leave some Armenians in the native quarter exposed to the fury of the mob, who, judging by what has happened in other parts of Egypt, have learned their lesson well from the Germans and Turks.

Naval Changes.

H.M.S. Hannibal is now stationed here as guardship—a thing Port Said has not had for many years—and the presence of so large a number of naval officers will no doubt tend to improve the social amenities of the place.

Captain Betts, R.N., who has been acting during the war as Senior British Naval Officer, is leaving for home, amid many regrets, for his personal courtesy and official tact have almost eliminated the inevitable friction of a very difficult position.

A War Story.

Now that the war is more or less over, one can mention some of the efforts of Dame Rumour in the native bazaar here. One was that the ex-Khedive had landed on the coast in a small boat, and had asked the first coastguardsman he met to send a telegram for him to Cairo, handed him a five-pound note (a good one), and then returned to his boat. Some unromantic people said it was a yarn invented by a coastguard officer to stimulate the vigilance of his men. Be that as it may, the really weak point of the story is the fact that the Khedive did not ask for the 496 piastres change.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The National Festival.

The "National Festival" has been celebrated with considerable enthusiasm throughout the island; the churches were largely attended, Greek flags were much in evidence, and a general holiday was kept by the Greeks. Athletic sports were held in some of the towns, and, as usual, patriotic speeches were delivered. Telegrams were despatched by the Bishop of Papho, who acts for the Archbishop during his absence in London, and by the Mayor of Nicosia (Mr A. Liassides) to the King of Greece, M. Venizelos, the British Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Cyprus.

The Legislative Council.

In the Legislative Council a motion was introduced by Mr. Egenios Zeno, the only Greek member who has remained in the island, that in view of the fact that the eight absent members could not return in time to take part in the proceedings of the Council this year, permission should be granted to them to absent themselves from all sittings during the present session. The proposal was strongly opposed by Irfan Bey and the two other Turkish members, who contended that the absence of two or three members might well be excused, but that it was quite foreign to the spirit and intention of the order under which the Council was constituted that practically the whole of the Greek representatives should absent themselves. Especially was the proposal undesirable, since the object of their absence was to work in England for a change in the political status of the Government and the island, and in view of the statement made last year by Greek members, one of whom openly expressed the hope that that would be the last sitting of the Council under its then existing constitution. "Supposing," said Said Effendi, "that 100 members of the House of Commons were to ask for leave of absence in order to proceed to the United States of America to work against the British Constitution, would such permission be granted by the House?" On the motion being put to the Council, it was supported by the votes of the official members, and was therefore carried. The Council is now dealing with the draft laws, the passage of which will no doubt be greatly facilitated by the diminution of its numbers.

Personal Notes.

The officer administering the Government has been visiting Limassol, Papho, and other ports in the west of the island, accompanied by the Auditor, the Principal Forest Officer, and Canon Newham, Inspector of Schools. The Greek papers comment on a visit to the island by Captain Pelly, R.N., to inspect the island harbours and roadsteads. He has visited Limassol, and examined the Salt Lake in the Akvotiri peninsula, and proceeded to Papho, with Captain Hardy, Naval Officer at Famagusta, and another officer who accompanies him.

Summer Prospects.

The hotels in the hills are preparing for the summer season. A prosperous season is anticipated at Mount Troodos, Platres, and other favourite haunts. Miss Young, of Nicosia, will probably open her camp again for visitors.



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AFGHAN INROAD INTO INDIA.

The following statement, issued too late to be noticed in our last week's issue, comes from the India Office:—

Official statements have been issued from time to time on the subject of recent events in Afghanistan. The state of that country has given cause for anxiety for some time past, because it was hardly to be expected that the unrest consequent upon the murder of the late Ameer and the dispute over the succession would fail to react upon the North-West Frontier of India.

From reports received from the Government of India during the last few days it appears that apprehensions on this score have been realised. Armed bodies of Afghans, including apparently regular troops purporting to act under the orders of the Afghan Government, have crossed the frontier at several points in the neighbourhood of the Khyber [the pass leading from Peshawar to Afghanistan], and have occupied Bagh Springs, Tor Tsappar, and Spinatsuka [in the hills to the north of the pass, and about twenty-five miles from Peshawar] on the Indian side. Further movements of Afghan troops towards the frontier are also reported.

The Government of India are taking active steps to expel the intruders and to deal firmly with any developments that may arise. The troops detailed for this purpose have been placed under the command of General Barrett. It is anticipated that they will have no difficulty in carrying out their task. The attitude of the tribes on the British side of the border is reported to be satisfactory.

The Viceroy has addressed a strong letter of remonstrance to the Ameer, calling upon him to take immediate steps to restrain his subjects.

A later communiqué from the India Office states:—

Since the official statement was published on the 8th in regard to recent developments on the Afghan border, further telegrams have been received from the Government of India on the subject. On May 9 the Government of India reported that the Afghans were receiving large reinforcements and had advanced their positions to the heights of Ashrafai Khel, overlooking Landi Kotal. On May 10 the Government of India telegraphed as follows:—"On the morning of May 9 our advanced forces at Landi Kotal expelled Afghans from positions in vicinity of that locality. Aeroplanes co-operated and bombed Loi Dakka with good results. Enemy are still in position to the west about Khar Gali. Our casualties were slight. The section of the frontier adjoining the Khyber has never been demarcated. But Landi Kotal is indisputably on the British side, and in advancing to its vicinity the Afghans have committed a deliberate act of invasion, for which they had received no provocation whatever. Some unrest is reported in the city of Peshawar, where martial law was proclaimed on May 8. A number of arrests have been made, with good results.

POSITION IN INDIA.

The following telegram has been received by the Secretary of State for India from India, dated May 9:—

In the Punjab no further disturbances have been reported. Further "snowball" postcards, addressed to either Moslems or Hindus, or both, have been found. The circulation of rumours and agitation continues. An attempt by two students to stir up disaffection among the Jats of the Hissar district [in the Delhi district of the Punjab] is reported. Elsewhere quiet continues. No change in the Mahommedan situation. Indian agitators are stated, in a report received from Afghan sources, to have pledged themselves to attack on aircraft and mechanical transport and to incendiarism.

A PROHIBITION SCHEME.

The Maharaja of Bhavnagar, which is well known as the model State of Kathiawar, is taking measures for the abolition of the traffic in liquor in his territories. A few weeks ago he ordered the preparation of a scheme to be brought into force on Saturday, his forty-fourth birthday. The scheme provides for the State to become wholly "dry" within a given period. The Maharaja has approached the other States of Kathiawar with a view to obtaining their co-operation, since their close proximity constitutes a serious, though not insuperable, obstacle to effective separate action. Some other Indian States have taken partial action in the direction of restriction. The Begum of Bhopal, a devout Moslem, maintains a regulation making the sale of liquor to her Mahommedan subjects an offence under the Penal Code.

BRITISH RED CROSS.

We have received from the Joint Finance Committee the fourth annual report of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It is a wonderful record of a wonderful work. An idea of the immense efforts which this charity makes is gained from the fact that during the last year it spent £20,000 a day. Our readers will be interested chiefly by the story of the doings of the society in Egypt, Malta, Salonika, Italy, Corfu, Serbia, Montenegro, Roumania, and Mesopotamia. The financial side appears to have been managed very efficiently, as shown by these accounts; but the figures convey but an outlined idea of the worthiest of human efforts.

REFORM IN INDIA.

Lecture by Sir V. Chirol.

On May 10, at the L.C.C. Day Training College, Sir Valentine Chirol gave a lecture upon Indian reforms. If India, he said, was to come into line with all the nations of the British Commonwealth, there must be not merely reconstruction in that country, but actual construction. India's fine share in the war was not underrated in this country, and the serious troubles there during the last few weeks only showed that India was suffering, like the rest of the world, from the unrest arising from the great ordeal of a world war. These troubles must not lead us to forget how the peoples and princes of India responded to Britain's call. The Indian Army filled the gap in our Western fighting line during the critical winter of 1914-15, and India furnished the chief contingents for the expeditions to Palestine, Mesopotamia, and Syria. This country had not been slow to acknowledge its debt of gratitude to India.

The report of Mr. Montagu's mission, which formed the basis of a Government of India Bill to be submitted shortly to Parliament, had recommended a large measure of decentralisation. On the success of the new institutions would depend the gradual enlargement of the powers and responsibilities of the Indian Ministers and legislatures until they ultimately covered the whole area of provincial government and could be safely extended to the Government of India, which would then in due course cease to be responsible, as now, to the British Parliament, and attain to the position enjoyed by the self-governing Dominions.

How was it that the promise of such far-reaching reforms had not availed to stem the tide of unrest which began to assume once more very menacing proportions, even before the war came to an end, and had resulted in dangerous outbreaks of violence? The real explanation, he believed, must be sought, first, in the peculiar conditions which differentiated the structure of Indian society profoundly from the conditions of our own civilisation; and, secondly, in the history of the evolution of British rule in India.

The caste system was a formidable obstacle to progress on the democratic lines followed by Western countries, since it ran diametrically counter to all notions of the brotherhood of man or of equality before the law. British rule and the importation into India of Western education and the English language had created the new class, appropriately called in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, the "politically minded class," and this country had undertaken to educate politically a fifth of the human race—no light task. On the one hand there was the conservative opposition of our own people, who had, on the whole, made very fine use of the power entrusted to them as representing a benevolent despotism, and honestly dreaded that power would not be exercised with the same impartiality and integrity by natives of the country subject to those influences of religion, race, and caste from which it is difficult for natives to emancipate themselves. On the other hand, we had to carry out the process of education in the face of a great deal of covert and sometimes open opposition from reactionary forces in the country, especially of Hinduism and of those who saw in Western civilisation a menace to the old order of things.

Whatever the difficulties might be, our position in India in many respects had never been stronger than at the present time. We had never been in a stronger position to rally the elements of Indian society whose interests were bound up with the maintenance of peace. The war had created an identity of interest and a community of sentiment never existing before.

Sir Valentine concluded his lecture by stating that one of the tasks which would have to be undertaken simultaneously with the granting of political power must be the creating of opportunities of education for all the classes from which electors would be drawn.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MACEDONIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of May 9 Mr. D. Yanitsch describes "Autonomy for Macedonia" as an "ingenious trick." But if the Macedonians desire autonomy, why should they not have it—within the Yugoslav Federation? And why is it a trick?

It may be right to punish Bulgaria by excluding her from Macedonia, but it seems hardly fair to punish the Macedonians, especially if they are not Bulgars. If self-determination is desirable in Dalmatia, is it not also desirable in Macedonia, where over 300,000 Slavs are now subject to Greek rule?—I am, etc.,

A STUDENT OF BALKAN AFFAIRS.

May 11, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Of all the extraordinary objections made by different correspondents to your valuable paper as to Cyprus being restored to the mother country—Greece—none was more spiteful and unique in its peculiar way than the one made by the "Cypriot" in the last issue of THE NEAR EAST.

I think that when questions of universal importance are being discussed in the public Press, touching upon the future government of the majority of the people of this or that island or country, it is monstrous that now and then somebody should appear, in the guise of anonymity, to play with the feelings of such people. The world is now told by the "Cypriot" that the present-day Greek is anything but the descendant of ancient Hellas, and in order to support his argument he refers his readers to a paper read by Sir Patrick Colquhoun to a certain society.

Perhaps it is just as well that the letter of the "Cypriot" followed in the same issue of THE NEAR EAST the true and statesmanlike communication of Dr. Lanitis, who, from his position as member of the Cyprus Legislative Council, knows more about his people, both Greeks and Moslems, than the historians produced by occasional contributors to the Press. The people of Cyprus have expressed time and again their gratitude to Great Britain for the exemplary administration of the island for the last forty years; but it is now their desire to join the Motherland, and their prayers to attain this consummation are not likely to be frustrated, especially now that the map of the world is being reshaped.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE A. BURLUMI.

74, Gt. Tower Street, May 12, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As a Greek Cypriot I consider it my duty to express my indignation at the letter of M. Nejmi Bodamiabiade which appeared in your issue of the 2nd inst.

The writer of that letter claims to have a thorough knowledge of history, yet he contradicts himself by saying that the Greek Cypriots are not Greeks by descent. Why, then, does he decline to mention what they are? At any rate, whatever M. Nejmi Bodamiabiade and his fellow co-religionists of the same mind as him may think or say about the future of Cyprus, history can neither be altered nor ignored.

The outstanding historical facts about Cyprus are that the few Moslems of to-day on the island are the descendants of the remnants of barbaric hordes who flooded the Near East, Cyprus included, and that the Greek Cypriots of to-day are the descendants of the ancient Greeks. The present situation proves it; they outnumber by far the Moslems, and their religion, language, character, and national conscience are of pure Hellenic type. Hence the right of the Greek Cypriots to be united with their mother country, the Kingdom of Greece.

Moreover, M. Nejmi Bodamiabiade says that if the Greek Cypriots have the feelings of the Greek nationality they should send their sons to "Oxford and Cambridge" to learn the meaning of "Liberty and Patriotism," as well as the justice of Aristides and the language of Socrates. I would point out to the writer that the Greek Cypriots, like their brothers throughout the world, are born with the instinct of these virtues, and therefore they are in a position to teach the same to other people.

The Greek Cypriots, in their thousands, have fought voluntarily during the Balkan wars under their national flag—the flag of their mother country, Greece—in order to contribute to the liberation of their brothers. What else is that than a genuine manifestation of their origin, national conscience, and ties of blood with their brothers at large?

Nevertheless, M. Nejmi Bodamiabiade and his fellow co-religionists can remain assured of their safety when the island will be united to Greece, because the Greek Cypriots are too civilised to cause any harm to their Moslem countrymen. Like the Moslems of the other Greek islands and provinces enjoying the same political rights as the Christians, the Moslems of Cyprus cannot be treated otherwise, and therefore the fears of M. Nejmi Bodamiabiade and others are without any foundation whatever.

We Greek Cypriots, relying upon British honour and justice, are looking forward with absolute confidence to the completion of the sacred duty undertaken by Great Britain since the liberation of our beloved island.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE TRIANDAFILLIDES.

In the letter of Dr. Lanitas, printed in our last week's issue, the proportion of the Turkish population of Cyprus was wrongly stated to be one-quarter of the whole. It should have been one-fifth.

Reuter's Calcutta correspondent says in a delayed message of April 17 that Sir Jagadir Bose, Professor of the Presidency College there, announces that he has discovered that plants perceive and respond to the long ether waves in wireless signalling.

ASFURIYEH.

THE

LEBANON HOSPITAL

For MENTAL DISEASES

Nr. BEYROUT, SYRIA.

The Director has brought back a report of the work of the Hospital during the past 4½ years of war conditions. Asfuriyeh has the unique distinction of being the only Christian Philanthropic Institution able to continue its work uninterruptedly through the war, though under extreme difficulty. Expenses have been and are very heavy. Much necessary repair work must be put in hand at once, with increased cost of labour and material. Also urgent needs, involving a large capital expenditure, for Water Supply, Drainage, Baths, and increased facilities to make the Hospital efficient and compact in every department.

The Committee earnestly appeal for £15,000, towards which a sum of £1,300 has already been raised.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

I have recently been reminded of a Gallipoli story—one of the few good stories produced during the war. An Australian infantry brigade was famous on the peninsula both for the number of prisoners whom it captured and for the goat which was its regimental mascot. Now, this goat (unlike the mascots of Welsh regiments) was little troubled by cleanliness, and consequently its approach could be scented from afar. The bodies of the Turkish prisoners were none too savoury; and a grand discussion arose on the question: Who possesses the more pungent odour, the goat or the Turk? The colonial passion for betting rose high; the love of discussion degenerated into blasphemous abuse; and the argument raged so fierce that it was decided to take the matter to the brigadier for him to decide. He, both a sportsman and a stickler for military etiquette, ordered the thing to be done according to regulations. So a hardened sergeant, whose "expensive" nose could have endured the vilest odours in Christendom, marched in the goat before the general. "Halt! Left T——." Enough: the general quite gallantly but promptly fainted! Next was marched in a Turkish prisoner. A sinking pause. Then the goat fainted. . . .

***

For a long time we have had little news of Turkey. It is interesting therefore for me to give a few details which I have collected from recent letters from Constantinople. Summer-time in Turkey commenced at sunset on April 10. It is curious to learn the recent changes which the defeat of Turkey has caused. For instance, the country casino of Balta Liman, on the Bosphorus, which opened for the summer season on April 13, is now named King George Park. Also Casino Osman Bey, at Chichli, is now named Paris Garden; and at both of these casinos British military bands are playing! What a change is there, my Sultan! And on April 11 the extremely joyful step was taken of abolishing German in Turkish schools, henceforth to be replaced by English and French. How deep and permanent these changes are I cannot tell, for the Turk is a pastmaster in the art of pleasing, and in the (enforced) practice of repentance.

***

Recently I saw an extract from an Egyptian paper, *Al-Bassir*, with a heading "Poverty-stricken Lawyers Unwanted." The glowing oxymoron of the first three words came as a great shock. Poverty-stricken lawyers! One might as well talk of "Wealth-endowed journalists"! When I was in the Army I remember seeing at a divisional concert a skit entitled "The Grasping Hand; or the Quartermaster-Sergeant"; and I thought at the time that the title could, with a little alteration, and with permanent truth, be applied to civil life. Be this as it may, it really does appear that, *incredibile dictu*, in Cairo there are lawyers who accept their clients' defences for so few piastres that they are a dishonour to their profession. "These lawyers," says *Al-bassir*, "belong to the old school, and have not profited by their long experience. Therefore they do not understand the spirit of the law. No wonder they have remained poor. . . . They do not accept bribes from the adversaries of their clients, or dissipate the money given them to pay the legal fees." Well, well; it is good to know that there are honest men in Cairo to-day; but 'tis a sad pass when a country has to depend on the honesty of its lawyers. I wonder if we shall ever have to depend on the truthfulness of politicians. If so, may the day be too far off for mine eyes to behold!

***

In lecturing before the Central Asian Society the other day, Lieut.-Col. G. S. F. Napier told a most amusing story of the Grand Duke Nicholas and Rasputin. It appears that when the Grand Duke had command of the army of the Caucasus the nefarious monk thought fit suddenly to honour General Headquarters with his presence, and, noting the absence of welcome, said to the Grand Duke: "Do you know who I am? I am Rasputin!" From his handsome height of six feet five inches the Grand Duke loftily replied: "Are you? Well, I am going to have you flogged this time, and if you come again I will have you hanged!" Rasputin was flogged, but unfortunately did not again visit the Duke, and so missed the excellent fate which was promised to him. Now, all my readers know that the Grand Duke was worshipped by the Russian Army, and probably he alone of all men could have done this thing to Rasputin. What a pleasing thing it would have been if Sir Douglas Haig had been given equal powers over persons similarly pestiferous! Should we not have joyed to read in the—whichever paper you read (with a few exceptions!) that this "military correspondent" and this humane politician had received the cat-o'-nine tails! But we do not conduct affairs that way in this country. They order these things better in Russia, which pursues many drastic paths, and not all of them wrong.

***

My colleague who is responsible for the "Personal and General" columns in this journal, is, notwithstanding the tremendous gravity of his task, a flippant fellow. Though by day he moves in a world of solemn austerity, recording duly and with Hansard-like impartiality the doings of the great, yet with the night his unburdened soul flies on lighter wings. The world of marriages and obituaries is not a gladsome one; and with the passion for joy my colleague wants these things altered. So nearly every night, he tells me, he prays for two things—the enforced celibacy of Indian Army officers, and the immortality of all those who took part in Indian or Egyptian campaigns. By making these things practical realities he thinks to rid this planet of much that is irksome to read and still more troublesome to write. Now he is, as you surely will have guessed, a bachelor, and therefore given to fond fancies. But do not blame his ignorance. For he will learn some day that both Love and Death, even in a hot climate, are inevitable, and that the Recording Angel has, duly and with Hansard-like impartiality, things very similar to marriages and obituaries, to set down.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Affairs in the Caucasus. May 8.

Mr. CHURCHILL (Secretary for War), replying to Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy, said: The British troops in the Caucasus have not been in action against the Georgians at any time. The situation is that Georgians attacked General Denikin's detachments on the Bzib River, south of Gagri, and drove them back beyond the Mekhadir River (north of Gagri), on which river they halted. This advance was made in spite of protests of the British Commander-in-Chief. The Georgians implicated were accompanied by local bandits and Bolsheviks. A threat of force, by the despatch of British troops to Gagri, has stopped any further action.

Lieut.-Commander KENWORTHY asked whether the Georgian Republic had plenipotentiaries attending the Peace Conference.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I do not know about that at all. All I know is that we are not allowing the Georgians to attack General Denikin's troops, neither are we allowing General Denikin to attack the Georgians.

British Troops in Eastern Europe.

Mr. CHURCHILL, in reply to Colonel WEDGWOOD, said: There are no British troops in Finland, Esthonia, Lettland, or the Ukraine. As regards Karelia, I do not think it advisable to give the figures as to the number of our troops at Murmansk. There is a small mission of twenty-five officers and other ranks in Roumania and Bessarabia, and a larger mission with General Denikin in South Russia. The total number of British, including Indian troops, in the Caucasus is 24,200, and in Siberia and with Admiral Koltchak there are about two battalions and the personnel of a strong mission.

Indian Steamer Accommodation. May 13.

Mr. MONTAGU, in reply to a question by Colonel YATE complaining of the travelling conditions in the mail steamer lately arrived from India, sick ladies and children being put in the third-class quarters down below, and first-class cabins being given to certain deputations of Indians coming to England to agitate on the subject of the proposed Indian reform scheme, said the reference presumably was to the steamship Ormonde. Among the 347 first-class passengers there were only six Indians. There were 607 second and third class passengers. He was informed that the third-class accommodation on the vessel was exceptionally good, and special efforts were made by the company to secure the comfort of the passengers. The company undertook that they should have the same mess and the use of the same deck as the second-class passengers, and their cabins were fitted with electric fans. He regretted that two children should have died on the voyage from pneumonia.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official Report.

DEMOBILISATION: India: Troops in India (Return Passages). (May 6.)

INDIA: Public Services.—Travelling Facilities. DEMOBILISATION: Long Service Men (Egypt and Palestine). PALESTINE FORCE: Married Officers and Men. OFFICERS' WIVES, EGYPT. LEPROSY, INDIA. INDIA COTTON COMMITTEE (Report). (May 7.)

DEMOBILISATION: Troops in India. KUT GARRISON (RECOGNITION). PRISONERS OF WAR, TURKEY (EXPENSES). INDIA: Montagu-Chelmsford Report. (May 8.)

INDIA: Currency Issue.—Constitutional Reforms.—Passage to England (Certificates). Mail Steamers (Accommodation).—Afghan Frontier. NEAR EAST (GERMAN AGENTS). BRITISH SOLDIERS (MACEDONIA) (May 12).

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Hydrophobia

In an article entitled "Kaisuli of the Hills," a correspondent to the *Times* has a gratifying story to tell of the adoption of Pasteur's methods for dealing with hydrophobia in India. He says:—

The problem of hydrophobia was probably more urgent in India than in any part of the world, when the Indian Government, through its wonderful medical service, seized opportunely on the splendid discoveries of Pasteur, and created one of his institutes on this beautiful eyrie in the hills. One shudders to think of the fate of those who were bitten by mad dogs in the old days. For hydrophobia has two great terrors attaching to it. One is the agonising nature of the disease itself; the other is its lingering and uncertain onset. The victim might go for months, living the while in such an epilepsy of apprehension that he often resorted to suicide to end the intolerable suspense, and as month after month crept on he would increase his hope that perhaps, after all, the ghastly malady might pass him by. Then one day would begin the menacing itching of the wound, the redness and soreness, the cramps in the throat; and in a day or two his shrieks and yells would be horrifying the station till they were ended by merciful death.

Constantinople and the League.

Although it has now been decided definitely that Geneva shall be the home of the League of Nations, the following, written by the Special Correspondent in Geneva of the *Daily Telegraph*, is still of interest:—

A memorandum, written by a gentleman of considerable experience in international affairs, and resident for many years in the city, has been submitted to President Wilson, setting out the claims of Constantinople, and suggesting a Constitution for the Republic which it proposes should be set up on the Bosphorus. It is understood that the President has been favourably impressed by the arguments set forth, as the proposals contained in the memorandum would not only settle the question of the seat of the Executive of the League of Nations, but would solve the difficulty of the future of Constantinople, a matter of some moment in view of the rival claims put forward for its possession. The memorandum, of which I have been shown a copy, proposes to set up a Republic of Constantinople, whose existence and independence would be guaranteed by the League of Nations. Its boundaries would be the Enos-Midia line, as fixed by the Treaty of London of 1913, the Black Sea from Midia in Thrace to Kilia in Asia Minor, a few miles east of the Black Sea end of the Bosphorus, and a line from Kilia, through Ismidt-Broussa, and the valley of Menderes to the Dalian, on the Mediterranean coast of Asia Minor, opposite the island of Tenedos. The proposed Republic would therefore include the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, the peninsula of Gallipoli, and a strip of territory on the Asiatic shores of the Straits, and the Sea of Marmora.

The Government of the new Republic would consist of a President, elected in the first instance from three candidates nominated by the League of Nations, and a Cabinet composed of Ministers selected by the President, but responsible to an elected Chamber of Deputies. The Ministers must be members of the Chamber. The deputies would be elected on a limited suffrage which, in the present state of the population of the district, would give ten Turks, eight Greeks, seven Armenians, and five Jews, together with four representatives each for America, England, France, Italy, and Germany, and one each for Bulgaria, Roumania, and Serbia, and the other small European nations. No army would be maintained, but order would be secured by a police force of 10,000 men, all of whom, in the first instance, would be Americans. A certain number of these would retire each year, and be replaced by men recruited locally, so that at the end of fifteen years only 500 Americans, all officers and non-commissioned officers, would remain. These would eventually disappear, and the whole force would be recruited locally.

Afghanistan.

In a leading article called "A Menace to the Khyber Pass," *The Times* of May 8 thus comments upon the recent events in Afghanistan:—

It has been obvious throughout that the murder of the Ameer Habibullah had a much deeper significance than was at first suggested. The British Government could not say so publicly, and were naturally bound to accept and announce without free comment the explanations furnished them from Jalalabad and Kabul. But the whole episode of the assassination and of the subsequent struggle for the Throne contained strange and unusual features, and we are evidently far from knowing the whole truth yet. The proclamation issued by the new Ameer, Amanullah Khan, had an ominous ring. He claimed that Afghanistan should be "internally and externally independent and free"; this does not leave much room for the control of Afghanistan's foreign relations by the Government of India.

There were other straws also to show which way the wind was blowing. The article continues:—

We do not yet know how far the Ameer Amanullah is openly cognisant of the present violation of territory. Twice before in the last quarter of a century Afghan regulars have joined in an attack on the Khyber while the reigning Ameer maintained nominally cordial relations with Simla. But the situation is now very different from that prevailing at the time of the Tirah war and the more recent Zakka Khel campaign. Parts of the Punjab have been in open rebellion on a limited scale, and there is much political tension among Mahommedans throughout India. It may be that Amanullah, whose own position must be very insecure, is seeking the traditional way of keeping the Afghan tribes together. Most people forget that less than a century ago the Afghan kingdom extended to Peshawar and the Indus, that Lahore and Delhi were repeatedly raided, and that Afghan influence dominated Kashmir and Sind. More probably, however, the true origin of the Afghan outbreak lies outside the borders of Afghanistan altogether. Obscure influences are at work throughout the whole Mahommedan world, and all the secret wires run in the direction of Turkey. One of the mistakes of the Paris Conference is that in disposing of the Near East it has forgotten Islam. The present trouble at the western end of the Khyber may quickly vanish or it may mean the beginning of grave and dangerous events. Our own view is that if it is swiftly countered it need not trouble us very much.

Turkey: Reforms and Counter Reforms.

In the issue of April 6 of the *Eastern Spectator* of which the proprietor is Dr. M. Theotokas, and of which the editorial offices are at Galata, is an informative article on the secularisation of the Turkish State proposed by the Young Turks. The article opens thus:—

The efforts made by the Young Turks these last ten years towards the Europeanisation of this country are certainly not the least interesting part of their entire policy. Having adopted renovation for their watchword, they proceeded to abolish one by one the old Moslem institutions and to transform their country into what was their idea of a modern State. They did not confine themselves to the establishment of what was a sad travesty of parliamentary government; they proclaimed their desire to make certain reforms which affected the very foundation of the whole structure of the Turkish State.

But the exceptional opportunities created by the war are now at an end.

With the fall of the Young Turks, their entire policy of secularisation is abandoned. Not only have their plans been rejected by the Governments which succeeded them in office, but all of the so-called reforms they had carried through will be abolished. The policy of Moustapha Sabri Effendi, who is holding the post of Sheikh-ul-Islam in the Liberal Entente Government, is to undo the work of the Young Turks, and to revert to the old theocratic régime. It appears from the written statement he has made to the *Vakil* that he is a convinced opponent of secularisation. "I can never consent," he said, "to the separation of religion from the State, nor can I renounce the share of the Sheikh-ul-Islamate in the policy of the Government."

A corollary of the maintenance of theocracy at home is the pursuance of a policy of pan-Islamism abroad. On this point the Sheikh-ul-Islam appears to be equally convinced, though not as explicit as on the question of secularisation. "The experiments," he says, "which have been made until now in connection with the relations of Turkey with the Moslem world have furnished sufficient indications with regard to this matter." He goes on to amplify his meaning by giving an outline of the measures the Government intends to take in order to preserve the bonds uniting the Caliphate with the occupied regions. To this end the Government will endeavour to "bridge over the chasms that have opened, and to make reparation for the feelings that have been violated by punishing the guilty and resorting to certain other measures."

The Sheikh-ul-Islam's declarations mean, if anything, that the present Government will not pursue the policy of the Young Turks in the question of the relative position of temporal and spiritual power in the State. The attempt of the Young Turks to modernise the structure of the Turkish state, an attempt under which lay hidden many nefarious schemes against the liberties and the privileges of the non-Moslem elements, has now been definitely abandoned, together with the rest of their policy. For once reforms have not been welcomed, owing to the insincerity of the would-be reformers. Turkey is willing to follow Europe a long way, but there are certain matters in which a blind reproduction of European institutions is not advisable. In these matters, the Sheikh-ul-Islam thinks, she had best remain her old self.

A FEDERATED NEAR EAST.

Mr. P. W. Wilson, writing from New York in the *Daily News* of May 9, has a few interesting words on the American attitude towards Armenia and Syria. He says:—"There is strong opposition to accepting a mandate for Armenia, and influential American groups would prefer the whole Ottoman Empire placed under a British régime on the Egyptian model, with a view to ultimate autonomy of a Federated Near East. With regard to Syria, this involves the traditional claim of France, which on principle is rejected by American opinion as irrelevant to the human happiness of the populations concerned."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

NEW HELLAS.*

We have here what is probably a condensed, semi-official presentation of the case for Greater Greece, which, for lucidity, compactness of material, earnestness, and apparent plausibility, constitutes a very eloquent essay. There is a preface by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, which is, to our thinking, quite unnecessary to the author's argument; and there is a large but not elaborate map.

It is not cynicism but compassion that compels one to admit caution when considering the claims of Near Eastern protagonists, but this claim for Greater Hellas is a very reasoned document. Its outstanding features are: (1) the solution proposed for the Asia Minor problem, and (2) a very serious indictment of Italy—so serious and apparently documented that it may account for the *mauvais quart d'heure* recently experienced by the Italian Delegation at the Paris Conference—an indictment that demands an answer. Dealing briefly with this latter point, we may summarise our author's case thus:—The Twelve Islands (Dodecanese) of which Rhodes is the pivot are retained by Italy, in spite of solemn promises; their inhabitants, nearly all Greek, have been deliberately starved, deprived of medical assistance, heavily taxed, driven to emigrate, and thus in many of the islands have been reduced by more than 50 per cent. The author reminds General Ameglio that he has herein faithfully copied the tyrannical edicts of the Austrians in Lombardy before Italy's own unity had been achieved. Under the principle of self-determination "Polybius" crushingly repudiates any possible Italian claim to the Dodecanese. On the question of Northern Epirus, if he is not quite so convincing, because here there are Italo-Albanian claims and intrigues, he is at least equally censorious, and launches the accusation that Italy has been in this matter traitor to France and England, her own Allies, and to Venizelist Greece, by secret arrangement with King Constantine—another black indictment needing refutation. It is, of course, only too well known that no love is lost between Greek and Italian; but we seem to detect the influence of Venizelos in the pen of "Polybius," and, through the words of the writer of this book, to hear the voice of a man whose honour, courage, and humanitarianism stand on an uncommon eminence. This tribute we ungrudgingly pay our author.

His solution of the Turkish problem opens with an adroit and sarcastic exposition of a difference between President Wilson's references to Turkey's future and Mr. Lloyd George's famous "Turkish homelands" reference; and he concludes that the one knew and the other did not that the homelands of the Turk are "somewhere the other side of the Caspian"—let us charitably say, anyway, nowhere near "Teschen." The solution, for which Turkish and Greek statistics are given, is the expulsion of the Turk from Europe, the erection of a mandatory Power for Constantinople and the great waterway, and the confining of any form of Ottoman rule to the provinces (vilayets) of Konia, Angora, Sivas, and Kastamuni, plus the *sanjaks* of Kiutahia and Afion-Karahissar detached from the vilayet of Brusa. East of this area to be Armenian, west of it to be Greek, and an exchange of populations to be solicited and encouraged. Finally, the Greco-Bulgarian rivalry seems to be fairly and succinctly stated, and "Polybius's" five accusations against Sofia, royal or popular, are worth attention. We promise our readers that they lack nothing in severity and scorn.

ARMENIAN PAMPHLETS.

We have received a number of pamphlets explaining the case and urging the claims of Armenia. They are as follows:—"Armenia," which is a collation of extracts from the Parliamentary Debates of November, 1918; "The Plight of Armenian and Assyrian Christians," a report of a public meeting held at Central Hall, Westminster, on December 4, 1918; "Impressions of Armenia," by Lt.-Col. the Hon. Walter Guinness, D.S.O., M.P.; "The 'Clean-Fighting' Turk," reprinted from the *Foreign Quarterly Review*, London, 1828, and from *The Times* of February 20, 1917; "The Tragedy of Armenia," by Henry Morgenthau, the late American Ambassador at Constantinople; "Constantinople: the Solar Plexus of the War"; "Armenia's Charter," a series of speeches by notable men; "The Future of Armenia," by Viscount Bryce, O.M., reprinted from the *Contemporary Review*, December, 1918; "The New Armenia," reprinted from *The Times*, December 31, 1918; "Greece and Armenia," by Simos Menardos; "The Armenian Church," by the Rev. Harold Buxton; "The Children of the Illuminator," by the Rev. Fr. Nicholai Velimcrovic, D.D.; "Armenia and the Settlement," by the Rev. Harold Buxton, reprinted from *The East and the West*, January, 1919: "The Christian Peoples of the East," a sermon by the Rt. Rev. Herbert Bury, D.D.; "The Armenian Trek," by C. L. Mcluer Stevens; "The Future of the Near East," by Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Bt., M.P.; "The Armenian Question," by the Hon. Lt.-Col. E. C. Little, reprinted from the *Congressional Review*, March, 1918; and "The Armenians," by Emily J. Robinson.

*"Greece Before the Conference." By Polybius. With preface by T. P. O'Connor, M.P. (Methuen and Co. 5s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Guide Book to Northern and Southern Syria." (Published by the *Palestine News*, Cairo. 20 P.T.)

"A Guide Book to Central Syria, Lebanon, and Phœnicia." (Published by the *Palestine News*," Cairo. 20 P.T.)

"Rumanian Grammar." By M. Beza. (London: Bank of Roumania, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

A. and C. Black have published, at 2s. 6d. net, "Balkan Fancies and Other Poems," by Captain A. J. Mann.

Messrs. Longmans are shortly to publish "The Bengali Book of English Verse," selected and arranged by Theodore D. Dunn. A foreword to this anthology has been contributed by Sir Rabindranath Tagore.

Mr. John Lane has in preparation "Tales Retailed of Celebrities," by Sir Charles Warren D'Oyly. The volume is to be an illustrated and anecdotal history of Anglo-Indian life during the latter part of the last century.

At Geneva M. I. Grunberg has recently published "Les Juifs à la Conférence de la Paix." He summarises the well-known hopes of the Zionists and the familiar reasons which justify and prompt these hopes. It is remarked that there is no country which has officially denied approval of the Zionists' plans. The reality of Jewish nationality is then briefly proved; but the statement of Jewish solidarity is rather too bare to carry conviction. The author is well satisfied with the proposed tutelage of Great Britain, and concludes his pamphlet by demonstrating the reconciliation of a Zionist and a Swiss point of view.

THE CAUCASUS FRONT AND WESTERN PERSIA.

On May 7, before the Central Asian Society, at 22, Albemarle Street, W., Lieut.-Colonel G. S. F. Napier lectured on the Caucasus Front and Western Persia, describing his own experiences there while on the Staff of the Grand Duke Nicholas during the war. Although only a small region, he said, the Caucasus contained many races, and there were over forty distinct languages. As to religion, some of the people were Christian, others, mostly Tartars, were Mohammedan. Tiflis was picturesquely situated in a cup in the mountains, the river Kura running through the town. One could see there more outlandish costumes in half an hour than anywhere else that he knew of. But, for all that, there was great excitement the first time a kilt was introduced into the town. While he was in charge of the Caucasus Military Mission a young officer in the Black Watch came as his assistant, and they went together into a small curio shop in a side street. Looking up, Colonel Napier discovered that the window was a sea of faces, while the street beyond was packed with people anxious not to miss the strange apparition. Colonel Napier said that he paid his first visit to the Caucasus front in August, 1916. The train from Tiflis to Batoum was timed to start at 9.45 p.m.; it actually got off about 2 a.m. the next morning. When dealing with Russians, he explained, you must never expect anyone to be punctual. In time you got used to it, but a wait of four hours and a-quarter at night, in a hot and crowded station, with nowhere to sit down, was somewhat annoying. Batoum, which he reached the next morning, he found to be a fine, modern town, backed by hills on which ferns, bamboos and other tropical vegetation ran riot. There was a large tea estate in the neighbourhood. It was managed by a Chinaman, and produced enough tea to supply the whole of the Caucasus armies. Speaking of his various experiences in the country, Colonel Napier said that the last time he crossed the Caspian from Baku to Enzeli, he shared a cabin with Captain Gamali, the Cossack who rode through Pusht-i-Kuli with his squadron in May, 1916, and thereby established connection with our Mesopotamian force. Captain Gamali's toilet was of the simplest. When he entered the cabin at night, he pulled off his long boots and tossed them into a corner. Then he threw his sheepskin cap into a rack and lay down. Next morning he pulled on his boots, put on his cap and went on deck. From Enzeli one travelled by a small steamer, a tow boat and light railway to cover the short distance to Resht, the capital of the province of Gilan. Of this region Colonel Napier said that it would be very rich if properly developed. The sea was full of fish, and the land produced excellent fruit—especially apples and oranges—and good cigarette-tobacco. But most of the province was a tangled jungle infested by robbers known as Jangalis, under a chief of the name of Kuchik Khan. In Persia, the land of ups and downs, the vocation of robber had been described as the stepping-stone to the post of Governor, and Kuchik Khan practically ruled the whole of the province of Gilan, and ruled it rather well, according to Persian standards. He played the part of a modern Robin Hood, oppressing the rich, and securing the adhesion of the poor by remitting their taxation.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919.	1919.		1337.	5679.
May	May.		Shaaban.	Iyar.
16	3	Friday	16	16
17	4	Saturday.....	17	17
18	5	Sunday	18	18
19	6	Monday	19	19
20	7	Tuesday.....	20	20
21	8	Wednesday	21	21
22	9	Thursday	22	22

Prince and Princess Antoine Bibesco are staying at Walmer Castle, Kent, for a few days.

M. Boeresco, the Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on May 12 for the country on leave.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in London from Paris.

The Maharajah of Bikanir and Lord Sinha arrived in London on May 11 from Paris, where they have been attending the Peace Conference.

It is understood that M. Kostich, the Serbian chess champion, has agreed to take part in the tournament which is to be held at Hastings next August.

Princess Christian has given her patronage to a performance at "the Old Vic" on the evening of Thursday, May 22, in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund.

We learn from the *Pioneer* that when Sir Stuart Fraser, the British Resident at Hyderabad, retires at the end of the year he will be succeeded by Mr. C. L. S. Russell.

Princess Marie, daughter of the Queen of Roumania, on May 12 visited Madame Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister. Her Royal Highness left London on May 13 for Ascot.

Captain William Leefe Robinson, V.C., R.A.F., of 36, Vineyard Hill, Wimbledon Park, who died on December 31 after returning from captivity in Germany on December 14, left £2,346.

Admiral Jellicoe has telegraphed to the Viceroy of India, expressing his most grateful thanks for the welcome accorded to the "New Zealand" and the assistance he received from all sides.

Miss Cornelia Sorabji, Adviser to the Court of Wards in Bengal, Behar, Orissa, and Assam, will address the members of the Halcyon Club on "India as a Field for Women Lawyers" on May 28.

Lady Stack, the wife of the Acting Governor-General, left Khartoum on April 18 for Port Sudan, whence Her Ladyship proceeds by the Khedivial steamer for Egypt en route for England.

Lieutenant-General Sir William Marshall, who was the General Officer Commanding in Mesopotamia, and is a member of a well-known Durham family, is to be offered the honorary freedom of Durham City.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major J. St. Aubyn King, Indian Army and R.A.F., and Jeanne, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Demuth, late of Nyasaland.

Sir Basil Zaharoff had the honour of being received by his Majesty on May 13, when the King invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Civil Division.

Miss Harriet Fanny Deck Nurnberg, of Onslow Villas, Weston Road, Bath, who left £19,028, gave, among other bequests, £500 to the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews for work in Roumania.

Mr. David R. Pinkney, of Messrs. Thomas Pinkney and Sons, who retired from the position of Consul to Greece for Sunderland when ex-King Constantine showed his pro-German sympathies, has been reappointed to that position.

The marriage arranged between Captain Jack M. S. Gardner, Indian Army, third son of the late Rev. W. R. Gardner, vicar of Huntingdon, and Mrs. Gardner, of Hemingford Abbot, St. Ives, Hunts, and Violet, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ringrose Jackson, of Hornsea, East Yorks, will take place at Hornsea Parish Church on June 3, at 2 p.m.

The marriage was celebrated on May 2, in Bombay, between Francis Joseph Binning, eldest son of the late Colonel Joseph Binning, C.I.E., and of Mrs. Binning, and Mabel Frances, only daughter of the late Hon. Francis R. Byng and of Mrs. F. Byng.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between the Rev. William Z. Jones, Hon. C.F., vicar of Baldersby, son of the late Dr. W. L. Jones, and Ruth Augusta, daughter of the late Colonel William Verner Ellis, Indian Staff Corps, Commandant, 14th Sikhs.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain R. H. Sheepshanks, D.S.O., 12th Cavalry, Indian Army, second son of the late Rev. T. Sheepshanks, of Arthington Hall, Yorks, and the Hon. Bridget Thesiger, third daughter of Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy of India, and Lady Chelmsford.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Albert K. Rollit will take the chair at the lecture which General A. H. H. Torcom (Chief of the Armenian Military Mission) is giving on "The New Armenia" in the Council Room of the London Chamber of Commerce, 1, 2, and 3, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, E.C.4, on May 16, at 3 p.m.

The marriage arranged between Captain A. G. H. Dyce, Indian Army, son of Colonel G. H. C. Dyce, C.B., and Mrs. Dyce, and Evelyn, second daughter of the late A. J. Brown and of Mrs. A. J. Brown, Cheviots, Eltham, will take place on Tuesday, May 27, at the Parish Church, Eltham, at two o'clock.

Among the names of the new members admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons appear the following:—M. A. Keshvalu, Madras and University College Hospital; G. T. Mody, M.B., B.S. Bombay, Bombay and Bristol Universities; and S. C. de S. Wijeyeratne, University College Hospital.

The King's Indian Orderly Officers for this year, who have entered upon their duties, are Risaldar Kunda Singh, 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry; Risaldar Hargyan Singh, 14th Murray's Jat Lancers; Subadar-Major Dalpat Singh; 6th Jat Light Infantry; and Subadar Fateh Singh, 24th Punjabis.

A marriage is arranged, and will take place in the autumn, between Duncan George Mackenzie, I.C.S., Political Department, Government of India, second surviving son of T. D. Mackenzie, I.C.S. (retired), of Kincraig, Exmouth, South Devon, and Kathleen Millicent Chandos-Pole, only daughter of the late Samuel Chandos-Pole and Mrs. Bankhead-Browne, Cecil Hotel, Simla, and formerly The Towers, Market Drayton, Salop.

In connection with the Czechoslovak Festival in London, concerts are being given at the Queen's Hall on May 26 (at 8.15 p.m.), on May 30 (at 3 p.m.), and on June 2 (at 8.15 p.m.); and at the Wigmore Hall on May 29 (at 8.15 p.m.), and on June 4 (at 8.15 p.m.). The whole festival is under the patronage of of their Majesties the King and Queen.

The annual dinner of the Gurkha Brigade will be held at the Trocadero on Thursday, June 12, at a quarter to eight o'clock. Applications for tickets should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. M. Hales, Messrs. Henry S. King and Co., 9, Pall Mall, S.W.

The annual dinner of the Indian Political Service Dinner Club will be held at the Savoy Hotel, at 8.15 o'clock, on June 18. Members of the service wishing to attend are requested to apply to Mr. Austin Low, Messrs. Grindlay and Co., 54, Parliament Street, S.W.

The annual dinner of the Madras Dinner Club will be held at 8 o'clock on June 4 at the Trocadero. Gentlemen desirous of attending will please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Austin Low, C.I.E., Messrs. Grindlay and Co., 54, Parliament Street, S.W.

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

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

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

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The Hon. Mr. C. M. Webb has been confirmed in his appointment as Chief Secretary to the Government of Burma.

It is stated that Major-General Sir L. O. F. Stack has been confirmed in his appointment as Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan.

Mr. Churchill has appointed Lieutenant-General Sir Philip W. Chetwode, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., to be Military Secretary to the Secretary of State for War and Secretary of the Selection Board, in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir Francis J. Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.

OBITUARY.

Dr. W. Beam died on April 15. Since 1904 he had been chemist to the Sudan Government.

Sir Hervey Bruce, Bart., who had gone to Morocco for the benefit of his health, died at Tangier on May 8.

The death occurred at the B.R.C.S. Hospital, Netley, of Colonel Edwin Beddy, 29th Punjab Infantry, in his 83rd year.

The death occurred on May 6, at Manorville, Westward Ho! of Colonel Charles John Pearse, Madras Staff Corps, aged 84 years.

The death occurred on May 4, at Simla, of Michael, second son of Quentin Q. Henriques, I.C.S., Montgomery, Punjab, aged six months.

The death occurred on May 9, in London, after an operation, of Henry Spearman Saunders, of 80, Philbeach Gardens, S.W., formerly of Ceylon, in his 79th year.

The death took place on May 8, in London, after an operation, of William James Maitland, C.I.E., of 18, Lennox Gardens, S.W., and Witley Manor, Godalming, aged 71.

Colonel Edward Campbell Davies, late of Ceylon, who has died at Brighton, was formerly in the Public Works Department of Ceylon. He retired in 1911 after thirty-three years' service. He had the Volunteer decoration, and in 1910 was nominated a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Magyar authorities at Debreczin, in Transylvania, organised demonstrations in honour of the collapse of the Bolshevist régime when Roumanian troops arrived.

Professor Simos Menardos, in a lecture in Athens on English Universities, recommended, amid cheers, that Greek youth should in future have recourse to British centres of education.

A *Daily Express* correspondent, writing from Geneva, states that the crown jewels and all properties of the ex-King Nicholas of Montenegro have been confiscated in favour of Serbia, and that his lands have also been taken out of his possession.

According to a Paris report, the Bulgarian Ministry has been reconstituted under the Presidency of M. Theodoroff, who keeps his portfolio as Minister of Foreign Affairs, while M. Madjaroff and M. Pastukoff succeed M. Liupketeff and M. Montaroff.

Under Lieutenant W. Seaton, 113 of the Royal Bucks Hussars have returned from France. The Bucks Yeomanry took part in suppressing the Bedouin rising in Western Egypt, and in the campaign in Palestine. They served as infantry in Gallipoli.

A message from Belgrade states that the National Councils at Zara, Fiume, and Susak have sent telegrams to President Wilson, thanking him for his defence of the Yugoslav people, and demanding to be incorporated in the kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

The Zionist Organisation, Palestine Office, Immigration Department, has already commenced the work of forming district centres for emigrants at Copenhagen and New York, of the organisation of an immigration centre in Palestine, and of preparing agreements with shipping companies.

The eighth annual report of the Distressed Indian Students' Aid Committee announces a contribution of £230 17s. 5d. from the King, which sum has been invested in the National War Bonds. During 1918 the amount of loans granted to thirty-eight students was £796 7s. 11d. from the General Fund.

An appeal is being made for £500 to keep the Crimean Memorial Church at Constantinople open until a congregation able to maintain the chaplain reassembles. The church is vested in the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, but owing to other demands the Society can go no further than the ordinary Peace grant.

Reuter's Paris correspondent states that an Abyssinian Mission arrived in Paris on May 10. The Mission is bringing to the French Government congratulations on the victory of the Allies. It will also proceed to Belgium. Two similar Missions will shortly leave Abyssinia—one for Rome, the other for London and Washington.

The Belgrade *Pravda* (Easter number) announces that all professors of the Belgrade University have been urgently called to return from foreign countries to their regular duties; also that the Serbian students are returning every day in great numbers from their military positions to Belgrade to renew their studies at the university and other schools there.

Owing to the inability of the President to attend the adjourned general meeting of the Anglo-Roumanian Society, and to the absence abroad of several members who desire to take part in the discussion of the proposed amendments to the constitution, the meeting, originally fixed for May 13, has been postponed till a later date, of which notice will be given in due time.

The *Busreh Times* of March 20 states that the Military Governor has received from Mr. Joseph Smoutha the sum of Rs. 10,000 to be credited to the Maude Memorial Hospital Fund. It is purposed to push on with the erection of the new hospital as quickly as possible; but the sum in hand, just over three lakhs, will not nearly suffice for the construction of a hospital worthy of its name and purpose, and further large donations are required.

The *Busreh Times* of April 3 announces that a Combined Civil Post and Telegraph Office has been opened at Kifil; that of April 8 states that the Civil Post Office at Faluja has been converted into a Combined Post and Telegraph Office, and is open to inland telegraph traffic; that of April 10 states that Civil Post Offices have been opened at Dohok, Chamchamal, and Dhibban Railhead, and that the Civil Post Office at Qilaat Sikkar has been converted into a Combined Post and Telegraph Office, and is open to inland telegraph traffic.

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FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1919.

THE "PLACID CONTENTMENT" OF THE INDIAN MASSES.

Among all the telling phrases which lend a savour to the Report on Indian Constitutional Reform, none has provoked so large a volume of acute, if occasionally also acrid, criticism as those which purport to depict the position of the masses of the peasantry, and no unprejudiced student will deny that ample scope for criticism exists. The writers express their profound belief "that nationhood within the Empire represents something better than anything India has hitherto attained; that the placid, pathetic contentment of the masses is not the soil on which Indian nationhood will grow, and that in deliberately disturbing it, we are working for her highest good." Surely, say the critics, that is impatient idealism run mad. Contentment is of itself a great gain, and before we stir up the passions of a few hundred millions of individuals, we are justified in asking for more solid reasons than the faith which possesses an administrator and a politician, however eminent in their respective spheres. Is this western ideal of the moment, this restlessness which we choose to dub progress, really the greatest ultimate good? Are we entitled to force it on a population as great in numbers as the total of its present adherents? Is it not possible that we ourselves may tire of it by the time it becomes fashionable in India? In a word, is the whole thing worth our while?

Such questions as these are not altogether easy to answer, and prudent men will prefer to approach the subject by an examination of the facts. Is it true, as the Report confidently asserts, and as its critics hastily assume, that the masses of the Indian countryside are placidly contented with their lot? Until that issue be determined, discussion of its bearing on politics is premature, and on that issue we find ourselves absolutely at variance with the writers of the Report. We maintain that profound discontent lies at the bottom of the ordinary peasants' mentality; in the present environment it rarely rises to the threshold of actual consciousness, and it may be easily overlooked by observers seated on the Himalayan heights, or even on such lesser elevation as the historic Ridge affords, but nevertheless it is there, and it constitutes one of the great dormant forces with which the world will some day have to reckon. The proof of this assertion must be sought in the experience of the men who know the peasant best. Has anyone ever met an individual peasant who could be truthfully described as contented? Do not the great majority regard life itself as an evil to be endured? The attitude which on a distant view suggests placid contentment is in fact a dour and steadfast submission to the inevitable; the peasant bends his neck to life as his oxen bow to the yoke, but a contented peasant is as rare as a contented ox, and both choose submission because they see no happier alternative within their reach. To talk of placid, pathetic contentment is to misread the facts: pathos, indeed, is not lacking, but neither contentment nor placidity is an important element of the problem. Nor can we wonder that the prevailing attitude should be that which we have indicated, for it is the only possible result of the experience to which the Indian peasant has succeeded by inheritance. The one feature common to all the various types of Hindu and Moslem rule was the ruthless and systematic exploitation of the masses by everyone who possessed, or even asserted, a claim to official countenance and support. The lot of the peasant was often made intolerable, as the records of constant rebellions show; at the best, it was tolerable, and nothing more. The towns lived upon the country, and the peasant paid for all. The mentality of the peasant of to-day is based essentially on that long and terrible experience. It is true that under British rule the grosser forms of administrative exploitation have come to an end, but while old grievances have been mitigated, new ones have arisen in their place; in the peasants' eyes, the towns still live on the country, and though lawyers and money-lenders may have succeeded to administrators, the change has not produced placidity or contentment in the minds of those who pay. The actual result is that the masses are no longer driven to rebellion, but they can easily be led in that direction as recent events have so plainly shown; and apart from such exceptional occurrences as the cutting of telegraphs or the destruction of railways, it is sufficient to recall the steady procession of violent crimes committed against money-lenders, rent-collectors, and other unpopular persons, crimes so sordid, and so common, as to be unworthy of mention in the cultured Indian Press. You may dream of placid contentment in Delhi, but you will not find it on the countryside.

On this view of the facts, it becomes unnecessary to discuss the moral issues which the critics have raised. There might, or might not, be sufficient grounds for disturbing a placid and contented peasantry, but in the absence of those qualities the question does not arise, and in its place we have to ask whether it is right to take measures which must speedily break down the attitude of submissiveness, which we have found to exist. We believe it to be right, but in any case we are quite sure that the attitude in question is breaking down; the peasant is already a little less submissive than he was, and the change once started is bound to progress, so that, apart from any ethical considerations, an adjustment of the constitutional machinery has become imperative. Englishmen, at least, have no cause to regret the change, for it is an inevitable consequence of the nature of our rule, and it has been directly fostered by some of our administrative activities. It is probable, indeed, that the future historian will date the new movement from Lord Curzon rather than Lord Chelmsford, for it was under Lord Curzon's orders that the masses first heard the gospel of self-help, the most powerful stimulant which could be applied to a depressed and submissive population. It has been preached widely during the last twenty years, and while the direct economic effects are as yet comparatively small, there is no doubt that the leaven is at work, that its operation is facilitated by the spirit of the time, and that the result will become more and more obvious as time goes on. Now it seems to us to be of the utmost importance to the whole future of India that by the time when the peasants become fully conscious that the remedy for their discontents lies in their own hands, they should be able to assert their claims within the constitution of the country. We grant that the struggle is likely to be acute and prolonged, if the privileged classes resist as they have resisted in other countries, but the worst that can happen in a Legislative Assembly is infinitely preferable to the alternative of a struggle outside its walls. To our mind this is by far the most powerful argument in favour of political change. The present position is one of unstable equilibrium; disturbing forces are already at work, and the resulting motion, when it comes, will have nothing in common with the ordered swing of a pendulum. It will resemble rather one of those mountain torrents which if left to themselves cause only devastation, but which may be so guided and directed as to be a blessing rather than a curse, and it will depend upon the measures shortly to be framed by Parliament whether the reviving energies of the Indian masses shall have reasonable scope within the law, or shall be diverted once again to the destructive courses which they have so often followed in the past.

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DEVELOPMENT IN MESOPOTAMIA

(From a Correspondent.)

The Government has not yet lifted the war veil of secrecy that has been drawn over our doings in Mesopotamia. The Press has referred very little to the present condition of the country or to impending developments. In fact, most people seem still to associate Mesopotamia with war campaigning. This is a great mistake. For two years the main occupation of our forces in the country has been industrial and political rather than military. There has been some sharp fighting and some fine military leadership during this period, but the fact remains that the main military work was done before General Maude's untimely death. Few things make me more proud of the British type than the manner in which British officers and soldiers have turned their hands to the work of settlement. These men were mostly civilians before the war; then they got trained as soldiers, quite regardless of the front on which they would serve; by chance they found themselves in Mesopotamia; and when the fighting there was done they settled down to the task of organising and developing the country. Truly we are an adaptable race. The blood of John Nicholson and Cecil Rhodes flows in us still.

I sincerely hope that the Government will shortly issue information about the transfer from war to peace in Mesopotamia. It will make us proud to know the number of officers and men who volunteered and were fitted for administrative work in this largely savage country. And we ought to know of the work of the many Indians who have gone to the country. It is a year since I was in Mesopotamia, but I know fairly well what has been going on there, and it seems to me highly desirable that the public should know as well. A Commission is now out there arranging for the transfer from military to civilian control, and we may well hope for early publicity about the state of affairs.

One very hopeful sign is that the Government is making way for private enterprise to a very considerable extent. This will shock our Socialists, and perhaps Mr. Wilson Fox and his colleagues on the Empire Resources Development Commission. But the policy is sound nevertheless. Government has indeed done wonders in Mesopotamia since the dark days before the Mesopotamian Commission. But, as I pointed out not long ago in *United Empire*, these triumphs were achieved when the conscription of men, ships, and goods was the law of the land. It is essential for the welfare of the country that Government shall confine itself to the task of governing. Hence I rejoice that Government has sold many of its Tigris boats, wharves, and quays, the big dock at Busreh, and so on. The new company which, I understand, Lord Inchcape has formed in connection with the B.I. Steamship Company is far more likely to further commercial development than any official department. The first shipping on the Tigris was conducted by a private firm, Messrs. Lynch and Company, and the new concern (which has absorbed Messrs. Lynch) has a fine field of utility open to it. Personally I should like to see the Mesopotamian railways also handed over to a company, preferably with Government part control, as in the case of the Abadan oil works. But at present the railways are scarcely more than military feeding lines. There is still, I believe, no railway between Kut and Amara, and the line between Baghdad and Kut is only narrow gauge, and, according to the opinion of many, laid on the wrong side of the river. Government will probably have to finish the building of the essential railway system, and then will come the time for handing its working to an operating company. Probably the main line between Baghdad and Busreh will not follow the Tigris route of the existing military railways, but will take the Euphrates course. This will be bad for Amara and the other Tigris towns, but we have to remember that agricultural development will centre on the Euphrates rather than on the Tigris.

To what extent private firms are already pioneering in Mesopotamia I do not exactly know. The fact that for some months the wives of officers and civilians have been allowed to live in Busreh shows that the peaceful settlement of the country is already far advanced. Mesopotamia's drawback will always be the absence of relief in the hot weather. From the fierce heat of India's Punjab or Sind Desert refuge can easily be taken to the hills; but there is no hill between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf, and the Persian mountains on the east are not likely for some time to be sufficiently safe for the erection of hill stations, though I believe one has already been planned. But with the development of agriculture and the erection of permanent bungalows, even the damp heat of Busreh will be bearable in comparison with the conditions under which we lived.

There will be enormous demand for cloth and articles of clothing, and, of course, for all land and farming implements. For four years the local Arabs have been earning unprecedented wages. There must be a good deal of money hoarded among them, and the demand for cloth is likely to be considerable. When I had charge of 500 Arab coolies their main garment was Government sacks. Building materials will be needed on a big scale, and I hope that Government will sell its brick factories, so that the manufacture of bricks may be carried out on business lines. The difficulties caused by the fact that there is no natural stone south of Baghdad will probably solve themselves now that we control the country north of Samarra. It always seemed a miracle to me that our roads were as good as they were, seeing that all stone had to be imported. In all these developments Mesopotamia will have one great advantage—namely, the magnificent physique of the Arab. I once agitated hard to exchange 300 Indian coolies of a Labour Corps for 200 local Arabs, and found work much easier when I succeeded. Of course, the type of man in a Government Labour Corps is not a high one, but in India I have seldom seen such fine and strong men as the Arab of Mesopotamia. But I fear that he too has been somewhat demoralised by Government methods.

I sincerely hope that Government will see that British enterprise has preference throughout the country. Mesopotamia has levied a heavy toll of British lives. Thousands of our countrymen have come to understand the country, and both British capital and British labour (and in British I include Indian) ought to have special facilities up and down the country. To those firms who are thinking of entering the Mesopotamian field I would give the advice that they should get hold of men who have been out there. There is a big supply of British men of all classes who as officers, sergeants, or privates have worked successfully out there as soldiers. We all grumbled at the time, and professed to hate the country. But I know that many who (unlike me) have the pioneering and Empire-building instincts are ready to go back. It will be a thousand pities if we allow even our Allies to follow in the footsteps of our victorious armies in Mesopotamia to the exclusion of our own people.

C. W. M.

On May 8 the King inspected a party of Indian non-commissioned officers belonging to Divisional Ammunition Columns, Royal Field Artillery, under the command of Captain H. C. Clogstoun, Indian Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France.


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

KIN GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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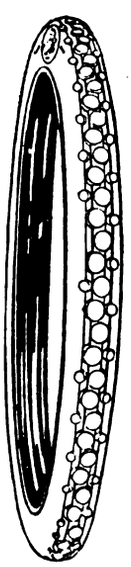
THE figure of Dunlop is known throughout the world. In that figure is personified the confidence which the Dunlop Rubber Co. has in every one of its products and the trade mark of the Company is shown below.

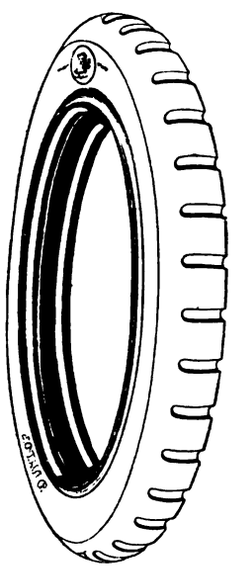
Look for this trade mark on every tyre you buy!

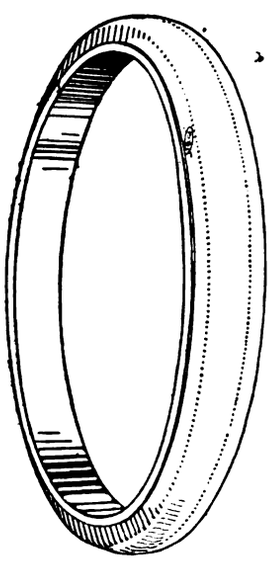


TRADE  MARK.


CYCLE.


MOTOR-CYCLE.


MOTOR.
(Grooved)


SOLID.

DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD.,
Founders of the Pneumatic Tyre Industry,
(Incorporated in England)
Para Mills, Aston Cross, BIRMINGHAM.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The report of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt for the year 1918-19 throws an interesting light on the general agricultural prosperity of the country as the result of war conditions. Owing to the high prices realised for cereal and fodder crops and for the cotton crop landowners were not only able to meet their annual liabilities with ease but also to repay a considerable amount of any arrears that might have been outstanding from previous years. During the year under review, in which it is pointed out in the report that the prosperity of the previous years was largely added to, the arrears of the bank, which in the first year of the war amounted to £E1,394,546, were reduced to £E151,326 as against £E403,786 at the end of the previous year.

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The net profits of the bank amounted to £E874,184 as against £E1,047,500 for 1917-18, and of this total the amount available for distribution on ordinary and deferred shares is £510,413. Of this, £120,900 is absorbed by the payment of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and the balance, which is available in equal shares in respect of the ordinary and deferred shares, with the respective balances and interest from the previous year of £E247,581 as regards the ordinary and of £E198,517 as regards the deferred shares enables the payment of an additional dividend of 8s. on the ordinary shares and of £40 on the deferred shares. The balance carried forward to the credit of the ordinary shares is £E369,798, and in respect of the deferred shares of £E315.274. The reason why large distributions have not been made is due to the fact that the net profits of the bank during the past year were in part due to the collection of arrears and receipts on sales of land, etc., which, it is pointed out, cannot be regarded as a stable source of income, and the directors have endeavoured to ensure the uniformity of dividends in future years.

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In the letter on "The Constantinople Market," published in these columns last week, our correspondent there briefly summarised the present position at Constantinople as regards the need for imports in the words: "We want almost everything pretty badly." That aptly sums up the situation in the majority of Near Eastern centres, as the result of war conditions, and indicates the great opportunity before British merchants and manufacturers, who, if they will only bestir themselves and enter these markets now, will be able to establish their trade firmly enough to withstand subsequent competition from other countries. In doing so they would be well advised to pay special attention to the Constantinople market, which, owing to its position, was before the war, and doubtless will be again, one of the great distributing centres of the Near East. The range of goods imported into Constantinople was very wide, including cotton and woollen goods, boots and shoes, ready-made clothing, hosiery, agricultural machinery, and pharmaceutical products, to mention only a few in the long list of commodities that were in demand.

The Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee commissioned an English agricultural expert in March to ascertain the condition of agriculture in Serbia, and his report, which has just been presented, states that the greatest damage done by the enemy was in the fertile region round Shabatz, which has been entirely denuded of agricultural implements, and where very few of the inhabitants remain, though they are gradually returning. The committee, acting on his recommendation that a gift of live-stock from this country would be of the greatest possible assistance to Serbia farmers, is arranging for the despatch of a large consignment of animals, among them a thousand head of cattle, many hundred pigs, and a large flock of sheep. The Serbian Government is undertaking the provision of shipping facilities, and it is understood that the animals will leave England in two steamers in the course of a few weeks.

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Sir Adam Block, it will be noted, estimates that the service of the Turkish post-war debt will require £T20,706,293, out of a total revenue of about £T32,000,000, and expresses the opinion that Turkey will find some difficulty in re-establishing her finances on a sound basis. That will undoubtedly be the case, and the difficulty is accentuated by the depletion of the resources of the country through the war. The future depends, partly of course, upon the conditions in the Peace Treaty, and there is every reason to believe that the interests of the bondholders will be adequately protected in that document.

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Persia unquestionably offers one of the most promising openings for the extension of British trade in the future, more especially because for the present, at any rate, there is less likelihood of competition than in many other centres. In the past Russia has been a very serious competitor, and Germany was also interesting herself in that field with the idea, as I have often emphasised, of eventually being in a position to exploit the country's important mineral resources. Such competition as there may be in the future will probably come mainly from Japan and India. The extension of the Indian railway system to Robat will naturally result in the gradual development of India's trade with Persia, but there is the fact to be borne in mind that the Persian market is very different from those in which Indian traders have hitherto been successful, and as regards Japan, an advantage lies in the fact that the Japanese are not able to produce goods equal to ours, and as the Persians know and appreciate British goods, they will certainly take them in preference if they can obtain them.

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The effect of the war has been to leave the Persian market very short of stocks of all kinds of commodities, and the opening is consequently very great, and only a little enterprise on the part of British merchants and manufacturers is necessary to take advantage of the position. Of commodities for which there is always a ready demand, mention may be made of cotton goods of all kinds—for instance, calicoes, muslins and prints—woollen goods and boots and shoes of good quality. There is also a good opening for paper, pharmaceutical products, and similar things.

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M. Moravatz, the head of the Yugoslav organisation, "Commerce Franco-Yugoslav," who is now in England, has issued an interesting statement on the trade position, in the course of which he says that the Yugoslav merchants have decided to sever all business relations with German manufacturers as far as possible. It is his hope, he explains, during his stay in this country, to find "real and stable competitors" for German goods in all the Balkan States, but especially in Yugoslavia. "I am trying to convince British manufacturers," he adds, "that they must help to the realisation of this our ambition, not only for our sake, but also for essential British and commercial and political interests."

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There is considerable scope for the extension of British trade with Algeria at the present time, as the existing requirements of that market cover a wide range, and a number of schemes for development are in view in connection with the ports and communications, to say nothing of comprehensive plans for general constructional work, all of which will entail in due course extensive orders for materials of various kinds.

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Mr. Burlumi informs me that since Greek currants have been decontrolled, and merchants have been perfectly free to trade, a brisk trade has been done at enhanced prices. There are, it appears, from 40,000 to 50,000 tons of currants in Greece, and the greater part is likely to be shipped to this country. The visible stocks here are absolutely nil, and the trade is therefore buying largely for immediate shipments from Greece at from 60s. to 70s. c.i.f. Liverpool.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866.)

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

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

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

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

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

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OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

Sir Adam Block's Report.—II.

As regards the farmed revenues, the tobacco revenue for 1914-15 was £T887,229, for 1915-16 £T782,857, and for 1916-17 £T817,393. The company has not yet paid the share of the Debt in the profits for the three years (£T780,000), the reason being that no General Assembly has been able to meet since the outbreak of the war. The Government defaulted in respect of the return of the Reftie Dues, and are debtors to the amount of £T54,000, and they are debtors for £T254 in respect of the Bulgarian tribute for three years.

Regarding the fixed assignments, the Government defaulted in the case of the Cyprus revenue, and are debtors for £T308,992, and the position has been the same in regard to the Eastern Roumelian tribute and the Tumbeki Tax, the amounts in question being respectively £T330,796 and £T25,000.

At the end of the year 1916-17 the Turkish Government were debtors to the bondholders for a very considerable sum. The annexed table shows the situation of the fixed assignments and the sums still due for each year by the Turkish Government. The total amounts to £T719,042, and, in addition to the debt, various other sums have remained in the hands of the Turkish authorities, and have been diverted from their proper destination, amounting to £T270,894, making the total £T989,936.

TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S INDEBTEDNESS TO DEBT ADMINISTRATION.

At the end of the financial year 1913/14, the Government owed to debt for fixed assignments (Roumelian Tribute, Bulgarian Tribute, Surplus of Cyprus, Tumbeki Tax and Reftie) £T. 25,000.

	Roumelian Tribute.	Bulgarian Tribute.	Cyprus Surplus.	Tumbeki Tax.	Egyptian Reftie.
	£T.	£T.	£T.	£T.	£T.
Balance of Financial Year 1913-14	—	—	—	20,000	—
Financial Year 1914-15	114,019·74	100,000	130,000	50,000	18,000
" " 1915-16	114,019·74	100,000	130,000	50,000	18,000
" " 1916-17	114,019·74	100,000	130,000	50,000	18,000
Sum due by Government	342,059·22	300,000	390,000	175,000	54,000
Received on account	11,263·22	299,745.57	81,008.31	150,000	—
Sum due by Government at the end of 1916-17	330,796	254.43	308,991.68	25,000	54,000

The report states that there will be a very considerable surplus of revenue for the year 1917-18, the accounts of which have not yet been finally made up, and of which the Government would normally have received 75 per cent. The Government's share in the surplus will suffice to reimburse the amount due as above, and the council will pay no share of the surplus in future years to the Government until these accounts are settled. Meanwhile the council will endeavour in other ways to obtain a settlement of these claims.

Interest and Sinking Fund.

The interest *paid* on the Unified Debt was in 1914-15 £T857,494, in 1915-16 £T93,088. and in 1916-17 £T115,725. The amount applied to sinking fund was in 1914-15 £T216,341, and for 1915-16 and 1916-17 nothing. The amount applied to Lots Turcs was in 1914-15 £T389,188, in 1915-16 £T214,764, and in 1916-17 £217,932, and large balances were carried forward, leaving a balance at the end of 1916-17 of £T5,812,847. The Unified Debt at the end of 1916-17 stood at: Unified Bonds, £T36,799,840, and Lottery Bonds £T10,512,607—total, £T47,312,447, against original totals of Unified Bonds £T42,275,772, and Lottery Bonds £T15,632,548—total, £T57,908,320.

It is anticipated that the receipts for 1917-18 will far exceed those of the preceding year, and that the receipts of 1918-19 will also be satisfactory. Sir Adam Block points out that it is impossible to foretell the future of the finances of Turkey at a moment when its territorial limits are unknown, and that bondholders must now await the decisions of the Peace Conference. "I have no hesitation in stating, however," he adds, "that their interests will be adequately protected."

The Financial Situation.

The general financial situation in the country at the present time is the subject of a brief survey in the report. The general Debt is shown at £T165,250,967 on March 1, 1915, and £E454,649,000 on August 31, 1918 leaving a difference of £T289,398,623. Deducting the Egyptian Tribute Loans there remains £T437,163,935. To the difference referred to of £T289,398,623 it is pointed out that there might be added a sum which cannot be fixed at present, but may attain very considerable proportions when Germany and the Entente Powers present the bill. It has been put as high as £T100,000,000.

The annual service of the pre-war debt required £T8,048,281, and estimating the interest and sinking fund at 6 per cent. the New Debt, excluding military requisitions and supplies, would require annually £T12,658,012 making a total of £T20,706,293. The average receipt may be taken at a round figure of £T32,000,000 per annum, and this figure does not leave much margin for the State Administration. "The Paris Conference, whilst deciding the territorial changes necessitated by the war, will doubtless take into consideration the financial situation of Turkey," Sir Adam Block adds, "and, as the proposed political and territorial changes are to me unknown, it would be quite impossible at this moment to state how far Turkey, even under a reformed financial administration, will be able to meet its engagements. The great part, no doubt, of the debt to Germany can never be paid, and as Germany in the war has utilised the services of Turkey as a vassal and mercenary, it would appear but just that Germany's claims should be cancelled. But even then Turkey will find difficulty in re-establishing its finances on a sound basis."

The effects of the war for Turkey, it is pointed out, have, in fact, been disastrous. The loss of population has been exceedingly great, and the resources of the country have been depleted, and it will take many years before the destruction can be repaired. However, in some parts of the country the peasant possesses more money than in the past, and despite the cessation of foreign trade, agriculture, the backbone of Turkey, has not suffered to a great extent, except where the populations have been deported and massacred but in the many districts where this has taken place the country has suffered a terrible set-back. The view is expressed that the economic outlook is generally therefore unfavourable, and it is remarked that since the Armistice the Government of the day have not yet shown that they are able to reorganise the Administration and to deal with the task of reconstruction.

On March 31 last the value of rupee notes under the denomination of Rs.10 in circulation in India was as follows:—Rs.5 notes, 929½ lakhs; Rs.2½ notes, 184½ lakhs; Rs.1 notes, 1,050½ lakhs. The value of notes despatched to Mesopotamia is Rs.1,512 lakhs, and 51 lakhs of one-rupee notes are now in circulation in British East Africa.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

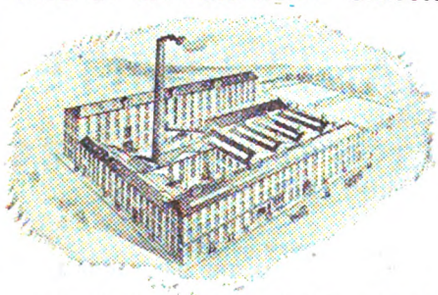
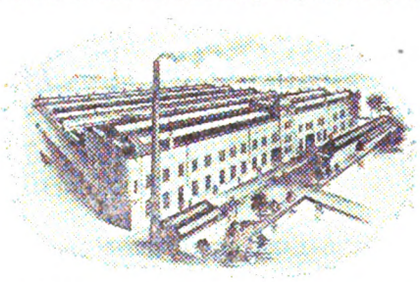
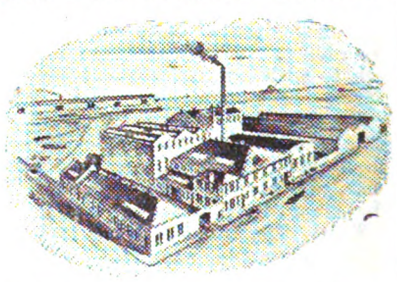
The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to February 28, 1919. (New Style, January 14 to March 13, 1919):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Pireus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Feb.	1919	2,935,626	2,675,058
Do. do. do	1918	3,021,296	2,153,000
Estimated receipts for 2 months (Law of Control)		4,816,666	1,783,333
Actual do. do	1919	7,284,485	5,351,010
" " "	1918	7,589,480	6,312,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 2 months	1919	+ 2,467,818	+ 3,567,677
	1918	+ 2,772,814	+ 4,528,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

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GREEK COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Review of the Post War Position.

Greece, after seven months' blockade and a long period in which the country was severely rationed, is quite without stocks of goods for export, with the exception of tobacco, currants, citrus fruit, skins, marble, a small quantity of olive oil and a fairly good stock of cotton goods, says the American Consul-General at Athens, in a report dated February 8.

The active war-time trade of Greece with Spain and Japan has already within the last two months fallen off greatly. Goods from these countries appear to be of inferior quality, and in many cases local merchants are refusing to take delivery of them; and an attempt is being made to re-export such of these goods as delivered. Some refusals to take delivery of Spanish goods are thought to be due to a drop of about 30 per cent. in the Spanish exchange, together with a falling off of freight and war-risk insurance rates, greatly facilitating imports from Allied countries. Goods which arrived aboard the Andreas, with the heavy freights charged by the Greek Government and war and marine risk insurance, cost the dealers about twice as much as goods brought in on the Themistocles, which arrived early in February. Most of the dealers are desirous of re-exporting these goods to protect themselves against losses.

In December, 1918, and January, 1919, laws were passed taxing incomes and profits on the stock exchange. According to a prominent financier of Athens these laws will seriously affect trade during the coming year. It is also understood that the Greek Government is considering the advisability of altering the import tariff, and has in fact denounced all its tariff conventions in preparation for these changes.

The Export Trade.

The only important growing crop at the present time is the citrus fruit crop. The quantity of these fruits is barely sufficient to meet the domestic requirements, and prices are comparatively high, tangerines and other oranges retailing at from 2d. to 4d. each in Athens, according to quality. Inasmuch as the quality is generally good it is thought that somewhat improved transportation conditions in Greece have contributed greatly to the scarcity. It is also reported that allied troops in Macedonia have purchased large stocks of such fruits.

No figures are available as to the stocks of farm products on hand. These, however, are said to be very limited, barely exceeding the domestic needs. At present, because of the food scarcity, there are embargoes on practically all food products. As conditions improve, exports of olives, figs, currants, nuts, and citrons may be expected to begin again in the regular channels.

The emery output has been controlled for several years by the French Government under arrangement with the Greek Government, and it is impossible to obtain figures at the present moment. The only two companies exporting magnesite are the Anglo-Greek Magnesite Co. (Ltd.) and the Société Financière de Grèce. The former has contracted with the British Government for its total output for six months following the signing of peace, while the latter is understood to have a somewhat similar agreement with the French Government. Their monthly outputs are said to be 5,000 and 3,000 to 5,000 tons, respectively. It is understood that the British Government is ready to allow the company whose output it controls to ship magnesite at times to other countries under special permit from the Ministry of Munitions. Besides magnesite, mines of lead, chrome ore, and marble are to be found in this district, but their production is of late very limited.

Since the beginning of the war lignite mines have been opened in Euboea, Peloponnesus, Attica-Boeotia, and Macedonia. Lignite has become an absolute necessity both for transportation and industries, replacing coal in large measure. During the months of December, 1918, and January, 1919, according to the statement of the Ministry of National Economy, the output of the lignite mines fell from 20,000 tons per month to less than 10,000, due to the prevalence of grippe.

During November, 1918, the Bank of Athens formed a company called L'Union Minière, with a capital of about £120,000, for the exploitation of mines in Greece. It is understood that as soon as mining machinery can be imported from abroad many mines of magnesite, iron, copper—and even gold and silver, it is rumoured—will be opened in Macedonia.

Timber Shortage.

There is and has been since the beginning of the war in Greece an alarming shortage of timber. Not only have all stocks been taken over by the Greek Government for the use of the Allies, but the former has issued permits for further cutting of timber, thus sorely depleting Grecian forests. It is stated that the Greek Government is seriously considering the advisability of refusing to grant permits for timber cutting for several years after the war. Prices of timber in Greece are exceedingly high—according to one statement attaining the figure of 1,000 drachmæ per cubic metre of inferior pine. Greece has never produced large quantities of lumber and has always been dependent upon neighbouring countries for its own needs of this article. It is thought that this is a propitious moment for American timber exporters to enter the field.

The only water-power developments in this district have a total horse-power of 1,700, of which 1,000 horse-power is used in the manufacture of calcium carbonate at Gorgopotamos, near Lamia. Several plans are being formulated relating to water-power developments, but as yet nothing has been realised. It is stated that there are undeveloped power sites in the Peloponnesus and in Macedonia, the latter in the Salonika district.

Industries in Greece were severely crippled during the war for want of fuel and labour. They have, however, during the months of December, 1918, and January, 1919, received a stimulus in the freeing of some coal and other fuel by the local Ministries and in the granting by the military authorities of long leaves of absence to mobilised men. Practically all industries in Greece are also suffering for want of raw material. This is due not only to the blockade and limited tonnage, but also to the action of speculators who entered the market as importers and brought in great quantities of unnecessary luxuries with the purpose of gaining large profits, so that raw material, such as iron in pigs and plates, steel, tin plates, etc., was only imported in very small quantities.

Openings for Machinery.

No new plants have been established to meet war-time needs, with the exception of certain small industries for the manufacture of an inferior motor fuel, sulphate of copper, and "staphidite" (an alcoholic beverage manufactured from the large stocks of currants that were deteriorating in the country). But since the signing of the armistice practically every industry and every capitalist has made plans for the establishment of new plants and the formation of companies.

No new railways or extensions are now under discussion, but, without doubt, large quantities of material of all kinds will be needed for the rehabilitation of existing lines as soon as deliveries can be effected. In general, conditions of railway traffic are bad, there is a serious lack of fuel, and equipment is worn out: while, because of reduced train service and troop and supply movements, the density of traffic has increased.

It is stated that M. Leonidas Embiricos, who has recently acquired the only private shipyard in Greece, is planning its enlargement, and that he has interested the firm of Cammell Laird and Co., Sheffield, who, it is said, will place 25,000,000 drachmæ (£965,000) in this scheme. Local financiers and shipowners in discussing the plan are inclined to be pessimistic, owing to the scarcity of technical labour and the high price of raw material, especially steel and iron. As far as the writer can determine, no vessels save small coasting craft have been delivered and no large vessels built in Greece. Several large orders have been placed with British shipbuilding yards recently.

It is stated that at least three of the large banks have lost heavily on credits opened for goods in Spain. This has been due to merchants preferring to forfeit their 25 per cent. of the value, deposited with banks, rather than take delivery of the goods.

THE PASSAGE PROBLEM IN EGYPT.

Lack of Accommodation and High Fares.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, April 30.

The burning question now is how to get a passage home, and the shipping agencies are besieged by applicants. However, most of the ships that pass through are already full, and those that have vacant berths are generally commandeered by the authorities. A particularly glaring case was related to your correspondent, and I have every reason to believe in the accuracy of the statements. A man had been promised berths by a shipping agent for himself and his family on a certain ship for a stated price. Two days later, when he went to pay the money, the agents told him that they were very sorry but that they could do nothing, as the authorities in Cairo had shut down on all the vacant berths that the ship would have on arrival. Next day this man, who had given in his name early in the year to the Government as wanting to get home, was informed by the authorities that berths had been allotted to him on this steamer on payment of a sum which was 12 per cent. higher than the shipping agent had asked for the same places. Presumably the shipping company were going to make a reasonable profit on the transaction, though the charge was only double pre-war rates, so the extra 12 per cent. is merely a monopolistic levy. However, that profit for doing nothing is quite reasonable compared to the super-profiteering of the authorities further East, who have recently charged passengers £80 for a passage from Bombay to Suez, and on top of that asked them to pay 5s. 6d. a day extra for messing. The hapless Anglo-Indian who used to growl about the P. and O. charge of £40 from Bombay to England will now look upon that much-maligned company as a philanthropic agency compared with the paternal Government. The French Government have attempted to ease the situation for their own nationals by allowing them to travel back to France on men-of-war, and on any French Government ship where room could be found or made. A request to the British authorities for a similar privilege has not elicited the courtesy of a reply.

An American Consular report states the citrus fruit crop in Greece during 1918 is estimated as follows:—Oranges, 49,000,000; mandarins, 51,000,000; and lemons, 35,500,000.

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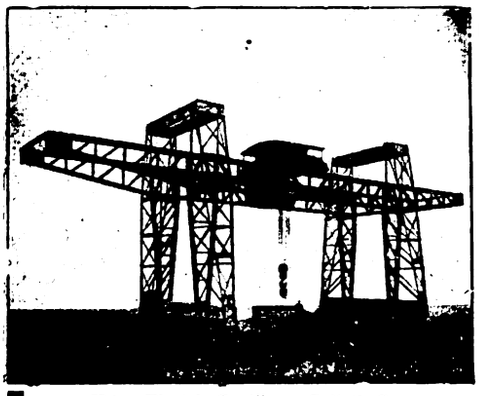
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Engineering Trade in India.

The Indian machinery market needs special attention on the part of British engineer manufacturers in view of the increasing industrial activity in Japan, especially in the production of modern types of agricultural and industrial machinery, and of the systematic efforts of the Japanese manufacturers to introduce their products into that market. Of course, the Japanese are not the only competitors there, for there are the American and Continental manufacturers, who are also endeavouring to secure a firm footing in the Indian market, and who, by studying local requirements and assisting prospective native purchasers with much-needed and appreciated advice, gradually gain the latter's confidence and their own purpose. Their energies are not confined to the principal centres; they also extend to remote districts, which, apparently, are somewhat neglected by British manufacturers. The latter should bear in mind the important fact that while the Indian purchaser in and around the large centres has every facility for obtaining the articles he requires for any industrial purpose there is a strong and persistent tendency towards the creation of new industrial enterprises under modern methods in the more remote districts. Purchasers in such localities, while anxious to develop the resources of their country, and knowing perfectly well what they want to do, are in many cases without knowledge of where the plant required can be procured. The Government of India and some of the Provincial Governments have appointed officers to assist prospective purchasers with advice; but, valuable as this official assistance is, it is not sufficient; and British manufacturers must take an interest in this question themselves. For instance, when an inquiry from such sources comes through for a plant of machinery it is useless for a manufacturer to quote for a portion only. He should estimate for the whole thing, whether he makes all the appliances himself or not, as the purchaser is quite unable to piece together a number of estimates from a variety of sources into a practical whole. If, while in such perplexity he applies to, or is approached by a non-British manufacturer, the result is obvious. Such opportunities aid the efforts of the latter.

Brick and Tile Industry.

There is a good opening for modern machinery for the manufacture of bricks, tiles, slabs, water-pipes, etc., in India, and manufacturers of this machinery would be well advised to investigate the prospects there. The tile industry was first introduced into the southern districts of India in 1865 by the Basel Mission, the factories of which gradually developed, and run now on up-to-date lines, in which every modern invention finds a place, the whole machinery being driven by steam. There are now over twenty-eight tile-factories in Mangalore, the first home of the industry, among which the works owned by the mission and two or three other firms are reputed for the quality and quantity of their output, which includes side products of a variety of descriptions, but especially for their ornamental cement flooring tiles, which are very popular with the house builders. The annual joint output of three factories in roofing tiles is estimated at over Rs.100 lakhs, under normal conditions. The Indian-owned factories employ the bulk of the 2,000 or more operatives, who are seen every morning wending their way to one or the other of the many factories which occupy the two sides of the town, bounded by the river. About six of the Indian-owned factories are driven by steam, and produce tiles which are a decided improvement upon the article made by the old methods and baked in the old pattern firewood kiln. The annual output of roofing tiles ranges from thirty to forty millions, and depends upon the foreign market, the local sale being insignificant. This industry seems to be the only one which has not been affected by the war. Probably this fact is an encouragement to further enterprises, for it is announced that the establishment of modern brick and tile factories is contemplated in other parts of India.

Implements and Tools.

According to recent reports, it is evident that with regard to the trade in implements and tools generally in India the British position has not been seriously assailed. It is, therefore, recommended that British manufacturers should continue to supply their well-known lines, keeping the price as low as possible, in view of the competition of Japanese and locally-made substitutes and of the well-finished American specialities. In cutlery it may be said that the Indian market is waiting for the full resumption of British supplies. Here Japan and, to a smaller extent, America are the only countries which have made any progress towards occupying the place formerly filled by Germany in this trade.

Acetylene Searchlights.

There is a good market for searchlights in the shipping centres of the Eastern Mediterranean at the present time. Apart from the ordinary boats engaged in the Coast and the Ægean Island service, there are numerous private yachts and sailing ships which cannot with safety set out by night unless they possess a searchlight. It appears, however, that the apparatus best known and chiefly used in those regions is the electric searchlight, the cost of which is almost prohibitive for the class of service or private ships.

It may therefore interest the owners of such coasting boats, and others, to know that there are several types of searchlights of British construction which can be obtained at very reasonable prices. The acetylene searchlight will be found particularly suitable. The instrument is, as a rule, self-contained, and generates its own acetylene gas without any separate generator. It may be fitted either with a silver parabolic reflector or a glass-covered reflector. By means of a swivelling attachment the lamps can be moved instantaneously in any direction, all round the compass. An automatic generator is provided which, when charged with carbide, will supply the lamp for eight or ten hours continuously. On the other hand, the lamp can be used intermittently as required, gas being turned on and off at will. The prices vary from £8 for a complete outfit of about 1,000 candle-power, to £12 or £14 for one of 1,500 candle-power. Manufacturers of acetylene searchlights would do well to approach the shipping centres of the Eastern Mediterranean by advertising or sending representatives, although the use of acetylene gas is well known and extensively used in most parts of the Levant.

Engineering Possibilities in Persia

In previous engineering notes reference was made to the progressive propensities of Persia. Little is known, however, of the enormous possibilities that exist in that country as regards the development of the agricultural and other native industries and mining, in which engineering is bound to play an important part. Persia raises great crops of wheat, barley, rice, fruit, cotton, wool, gums and drugs; and the industries include the spinning and weaving of animal and vegetable fibres, enamelling metals, and carving. Her mineral wealth includes iron, copper, coal, lead, cobalt, sulphur, salt, asbestos, gypsum, and petroleum. Comparatively little is being done with these, apart from copper mining and boring for oil. The latter industry has already been discussed in these notes. Hitherto the use of modern agricultural and industrial machinery and implements has been very limited. In recent years Russia supplied her with considerable quantities of agricultural machinery and implements, but with the changes which the war has made Persia will be freer to choose the market for her purchases. A proper study of Persia's requirements in connection with engineering matters is most essential for the achievement of satisfactory results in the forthcoming competition for the trade, etc., of that country.

TRADE WITH TURKEY.

Our correspondent at Constantinople, "Vidi," whose first letter was published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, is prepared to make commercial reports on business firms or individuals in Constantinople for subscribers to THE NEAR EAST desirous of opening up business with Turkey. Arrangements can also be made for the translation and printing in Constantinople of catalogues in Turkish and Greek. Unless the enquiry is particularly long or otherwise difficult no charge whatever will be made, and as regards the printing the net cost plus that of translation by competent Turkish and Greek translators will be the whole expense. Inquiries with reference to the above should be addressed to "Vidi," THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

Reuter's correspondent at Simla reports that the prohibition of the import of coffee into India has been removed.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Crops in Asia Minor.

The following are extracts from the economic reports of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the early part of the year:—

Mersina.

The condition of the crops has been very satisfactory. The area sown is greater than that of the preceding years.

The cotton and sesame harvests were very poor during the years 1917-18, owing to the lack of rain.

Since the armistice the rural population, which had diminished by about 65 per cent. during the war, has increased by about 15 per cent.

The stocks are amply sufficient to satisfy local needs, and there is a surplus for export.

Business transactions have been practically nil, communications by sea not yet having been re-established. With the resumption of these a great activity is expected, as much in exports as imports, in view of the disposable stocks of cereals and cotton on the one hand and the needs of the country on the other.

Rodosto.

Thanks to the rather abundant rains which fell during the month of November and up till the middle of December, cultivators have proceeded with the winter sowings of corn and barley under very favourable conditions. The temperature continuing propitious, the condition of the fields sown with wheat may be considered as very satisfactory, and the prospects for the next harvests are, for the moment, good, although the sowings of corn and barley are 30 per cent. below that of last year.

The sowing of onions is on a smaller scale than that of preceding years. The undecided political situation, in so far as it concerns our district, discourages several cultivators, who are content to work only the land situated in the zone of the town itself and neglect completely the large areas some distance from the locality. The condition of the live stock is satisfactory.

The export market is absolutely quiet. Our district continues to suffer the sad consequences of the war, and as long as the former leading commercial merchants of the town do not return, affairs will not improve.

Nevertheless, owing to the rather lively demand on the Constantinople market, a large quantity of corn and flour, valued at about £T20,000 has been exported during this month, thus producing for the few exporters appreciable profits. The only imports from Constantinople—colonial produce—are limited owing to the present exorbitant prices and to the strict needs of the district.

Adana.

The area sown with cereals is notably greater than that of the past season, and nearly reaches the area cultivated before the war. In spite of the lack of labourers, agriculture has benefited during the past year by the high prices fetched for cereals. Adverse circumstances, e.g., the marked fall in the price of cereals after the armistice, have led to the extension of the areas sown. The villagers, finding themselves unable, in fact, to sell their corn at high prices, have preferred to trust to the soil by sowing all the more as the impossibility of exportation would have prevented their keeping the cereals, which the climate of Adana only allows them to preserve for one season.

During the war agriculture has realised good profits; the villagers originally in debt have succeeded in reducing their debt. It is to be feared that they will soon suffer a crisis, agricultural expenses remaining the same, that is to say, high, while their crops will be sold probably at rather low prices, not enabling them to recoup themselves for their expenses.

Adalia.

Owing to the lack of labour, and the inclement conditions the area sown is 50 per cent. less than that of the past year. It is to be hoped that it will yet be possible to increase the sowings.

No business is being transacted in imports or exports. The lack of means of transport, and the exorbitant charges from Baladiz, the terminus of the Smyrna-Aidin line, to Adalia, and vice versa, of from Ps 15 to 18 per oke, compel importers and exporters to hold their hands.

There is no new industrial enterprise. The flour mills work regularly.

The price of a sack of flour of the first quality, which was £T9½, has risen to £T15 with a tendency to rise.

Angora.

The abundant rains that have fallen of late, coupled with exceptionally satisfactory atmospheric conditions, have favoured sowings, the work of which is actively pursued by farmers and villagers demobilised from the army. According to present indications we can count on a good harvest, much better than that of last year. Farmers, it should be mentioned, are contending against great difficulties, notably the scarcity of labourers, the shortage of domestic animals, and the high prices of seeds. Despite the deficiency of the last harvest, cereal stocks are more than sufficient to satisfy local needs. Large quantities of wheat and barley are in the warehouses by the railway stations, Eski, Chéhir, Angora, which cannot be exported at the present time to Constantinople because of the lack of communications.

Since the signing of the armistice business transactions have been restricted. The stagnation is principally due to the stopping of sending consignments by rail. The price of wheat and flour has fallen recently, but merchants holding large stocks are unable to profit by the relatively high prices of the capital. The need for money has become marked of late. During the last two months very active business has been done in rice. So much has been purchased here by the military authorities and some merchants that the price has risen to Ps.72-75 the oke which has not been reached since the outbreak of the war.

The flour mills of our town are unable to work normally owing to the lack of coal. The receipts of the Angora-Eski-Chéhir railway have been insignificant since the stoppage of goods traffic.

The weather has continued very favourable to agriculture during the early part of the year, during which sowings have taken place again. Moreover, the villagers have continued to prepare their soil for the summer sowings.

The export during the month under review has been less active than that of the preceding one, this owing to lack of sufficient stocks; in fact, on account of the fall in flour, there have been no arrivals from Bolou, Moudourniou, etc. The stock of potatoes is estimated at about 120 wagonloads.

Samsoun.

The tobacco crop has improved, compared to that of the preceding year, as appears from the totals—1918, kilos 2,580,000, against 1917, kilos 1,577,000. Production before the war was from 14 to 15 million kilos.

There is no business to report. Small quantities of tobacco are sent to Constantinople.

The revenues of the Treasury, in view of the present situation, have diminished considerably. Encashments are difficult. Salaries are paid regularly.

SERBIAN RECONSTRUCTION.

It is announced that the special post and telegraph officials' school will shortly be reopened.

In a special article in the *Trgovinski Glasnik* (Commercial Gazette) it is stated that a new Ministry has been created in the Yugo Slav State, the Ministry for Agrarian Reform. This paper says that agrarian reform is one of the most important reconstruction proposals to which much attention must be given.

In the south of Serbia near Uskub and Kossovo Field the new tobacco stock amounts to between 3 to 4 million kilograms. The Serbian Chamber of Commerce offered to sell this tobacco to the Monopoly, or to obtain permission to give licence to the growers and merchants to sell it for export.

M. M. T.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market More Active.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The demand in the market has been active and inquiry has been on a large scale. Although business has been somewhat irregular there have been free operations in most sections and the position of spinners and manufacturers is stronger than a week ago. The mill hours question is still unsettled but most people expect the two sides to effect an agreement without drastic action on the part of the operatives being necessary. Lancashire traders are very keen on the proposed Government mission to the Far East and the authorities are being pressed to proceed with the matter. Very little information seems to be available as to the extent of any damage which may have been done to the Egyptian crop by the recent disturbances. It is feared that possibly the irrigation works have been injured in some districts. A larger acreage seems certain. More business has been done in yarns made from Egyptian cotton and prices are now hardening. In piece goods for Egypt there was a slight pause in business towards the end of last week, but during the last few days demand has re-asserted itself and free buying has occurred in numerous directions. An extensive trade has been done for India and China in both standard makes and fancies. Manufacturers have now much more work to go on with and there is less machinery standing idle in Lancashire than at any time this year. A healthy demand has been experienced in American yarns for home use at hardening rates. An encouraging turnover has been reported in yarns suitable for India and some special sales have been put through for China.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Dekhari Tea Company have declared a dividend of 20 per cent. for 1918.

The directors of the Luskerpore Tea Company have declared a dividend of 8 per cent., free of tax, for 1918.

The directors of the Buxa Dooars Tea Company announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent.

The directors of the Chargola Tea Association have decided to pay on 31st instant a final dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, for the year ended November 30, on the preference shares.

Southern Punjab Railway.—The registers of the 4 per cent. cumulative preference stock will be closed from 19th to 31st instant, inclusive.

United Egyptian Lands (in liquidation).—The date by which holders of shares and share warrants who have not already claimed an allotment of shares in the new company (Egyptian Consolidated Lands, Ltd.) under the terms of the reconstruction scheme has been extended to 24th instant. Holders of shares and share warrants who desire to claim an allotment of shares must deliver claim to the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4, on or before 24th instant.

The net profits of the Scottish Ceylon Tea Company for 1918 were £6,113. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £1,802, against £2,854.

The report of the Vellikellie Tea Company of Ceylon for the year ended December 31 last states that the balance at credit of profit and loss amounted to £6,760. The directors recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year and to carry forward £3,235.

The report of the Craighead Tea Company for the year ended December 31 last, states that the balance at credit of profit and loss amounted to £6,656. The directors recommend a final dividend of 9 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 14 per cent. for the year, leaving a balance of £4,226.

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Suez Canal.— General meeting will be held in Paris on June 16. Holders of not less than twenty-five shares desirous of being present or represented must deposit their shares in London with Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons.

The interest on the 6 per cent. debentures of the Aboukir Company, Ltd., due June 2, will be paid on and after that date on presentation of coupon No. 1 at the offices of the company, 134, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, E.C.2. The outstanding 5 per cent. debenture bonds of the company falling due on June 1 (Sunday) will be paid on June 2.

An ordinary general meeting of the Cairo Electric Railways and Heliopolis Oases Company will be held at Cairo at 11 a.m. on May 20.

The report of the Rubber Estates of Ceylon to December 31 last states that the net profit amounts to £6,914; £4,516 was brought forward, making £11,430. It is proposed to place £1,000 to depreciation on plant and machinery, pay a dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, and to carry forward £4,305.

The directors of the British Darjeeling Tea Company announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (1s. per share), less tax.

The directors of the Mooply Valley Rubber Company announce an interim dividend of 6 per cent. (1s 2 2-5d. per share), less tax, payable as from 10th instant.

Coupons of the Persia Five per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1911, due May 15, will be paid at the Imperial Bank of Persia, or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3.

The directors of Balmoral (Ceylon) Estates recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31 last of 14 per cent., making 24 per cent., less tax at 5s. 9d. in £.

The report of the Ceylon Timber and Rubber Syndicate for 1918 states that profit amounted to £1,239; £3,543 was brought forward, less income tax £2,207, making £2,575. The directors recommend a dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, and to carry forward £195.

Subject to audit of the accounts for the year 1918, the court of directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the preference stock, and a balance dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary stock, making, together with the interim dividend paid in November last, a total of 7 per cent. for the year.

The report of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association shows trading profits £893,659, after making provision for general depreciation and excess profits duty, and £152,431 was brought forward; £300,000 is placed to various reserves, while the ordinary share dividend cum bonus for the year is made up to 12 per cent. and £169,590 carried forward. The directors further recommend the withdrawal of £490,000 from the general reserve and distribute the same to existing ordinary shareholders at the rate of one new 5 per cent. preferred ordinary share for every five ordinary shares now held.

THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIRS, 1920.

The *Board of Trade Journal* for May 8 contained an illustrated supplement dealing with the arrangements made by the Board of Trade for the British Industries Fairs of next year. The scope of the fairs will be largely extended, and they will be held simultaneously in London (Crystal Palace), Birmingham, and Glasgow. The three fairs are distinct from one another in regard to exhibits and trades.

The Secretary of State for India has informed Mr. Stewart, M.P., that the net amount of gold and silver imported into India since the commencement of the war is £21,400,000 of gold and 516,202,000 oz. of silver.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

AN English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields

The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., announces that communications have been received from Roumania to the effect that the managing director and a party, comprising some of the principal members of the staff, have arrived in Roumania. They have succeeded in recovering the company's title deeds, which are intact, and they have also succeeded in getting possession of the properties. Active operations have been resumed on the oilfields and, with the limited plant available, a small production is already being obtained.

Tramways of Alexandria.

A meeting of the Tramways of Alexandria Company was held on May 7, when the accounts for the years 1914-1918 were approved, and it was decided that the dividends falling to the first four years be payable on May 15 and that of 1918 on June 1.

Eastern Produce and Estate.

The report of the Eastern Produce and Estates for the year ended December 31 last states that the profit is £48,621, which added to balance brought in, including refund of excess profits duty (£7,484), makes £83,335. It is proposed to pay a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 11 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, to place to reserve against advances to coolies £5,000, to reserve fund (increasing same to £115,000) £5,000, to buildings and machinery £5,000, to staff pension and provident funds £2,000, and to carry forward £12,414.

India General Navigation.

The report of the India General Navigation and Railway Company for the year ended December 31 last states that after providing for all expenditure, depreciation and income-tax, there is a net profit of £139,463; £26,485 was brought in, making £165,948. Transfers have been made to debenture sinking fund £3,500, general reserve £14,095, for equalisation of dividends £10,000, to form the nucleus of a pension fund £20,000, insurance reserve £18,379, and to meet accumulated repairs £10,000. Dividends are proposed on the preference shares of 5 per cent and on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent., both free of tax, carrying forward £28,604. Interim dividends of 2½ per cent. on the preference and 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares have already been paid. The Mymensingh-Jagannathganj Railway has earned a profit of £23,423, against £23,961, and the Sylhet Lime Company has paid a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year. Meeting, Orient House, New Broad Street, E.C., May 28, noon.

NEW COMPANIES.

In the last half-year five joint stock companies, with an aggregate capital of 19 lakhs, were registered in the Holkar State, namely, the Central India Tile and Brick Works Co., Limited, capital Rs.5,00,000; the Central India Farming Co., Limited, capital Rs.5,00,000; the Central India Iron and Brass Foundry, Limited, capital Rs.2,00,000; the Industrial and Engineering Association, capital Rs.1,00,000; and the Central Indian Dairy Co., Limited, capital Rs.6,00,000.

Mr. Horace G. Hutchinson has been elected to the court of directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance, and consequently relinquishes his appointment as a local director attached to the West End branch.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

Although business has only been on the restricted scale and there was some renewal of weakness during the early days of the week, the tone at the close was distinctly brighter, with indications that Egypt was again coming forward as a buyer.

In Government stocks there is no change to record in prices. There are buyers about round current levels, but sellers are scarce.

In Bank shares Nationals have receded ¼ to 20⅜ and Agriculturals ⅛ to 6⅜. Anglo-Egyptians and Land Banks have kept firm with some small business passing.

In Land shares, in spite of a very satisfactory statement at the Aboukir meeting, the shares are 9d. lower at 25s. 9d., after being down to 25s. Delta Lands, on the unexpectedly good report, and with the sale of the Alexandria French mills property at the excellent profit of over £21,000, have jumped up 1s. to 14s. 3d. Foreign Trusts have also improved 6d. to 14s. 3d. New Egyptians have been somewhat duller, and show a decline of 6d. at 24s. Sidi Salems are ⅛ down but rather nominal at 2⅜. Sudan Plantations have again been active, and close ½ up at 7¾. United Egyptian Lands have been subjected to some further selling on the eve of the reconstruction, and close 4½d. down at 1s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters have been a feature and close ¼ higher at 12⅜, but sellers are exceedingly scarce. Salts and Sodas, after being ¼ down, close 1-16 lower at 2 11-16. Anglo-Egyptian B., after a large business, close ⅛ up at 5 7-16.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

Refinery at Swansea.

In the absence of Mr. Walter Long, Captain Pretyman last week laid the foundation-stone of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's oil refinery at Skewen, near Swansea. Sir Charles Greenway, who presided at the luncheon, said that when they first conceived the idea of establishing a refinery in this country to deal with imported oil it was said they were committing a grave mistake, because it meant paying dead freight on a percentage of crude oil which was lost in the refining process. This, like many social axioms, was an absolute fallacy. It was far more economical to refine crude oil in the country where the products were to be sold. The loss in freight was a mere bagatelle compared to the advantages in other directions. One great advantage was that it provided employment for a large amount of British labour. In future the company would be known as "The National Oil Refinery, Limited."

Captain Pretyman said that this country might secure enormous advantages from the industry. The part which oil had played during the years of the war was really as nothing compared with the part which that product was destined to play in the future. The British Government now fully recognised its real interests in securing adequate petroleum supplies for the Empire. There was a time when the Empire nearly lost the advantages to be derived from oil, and but for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company securing a concession from the Persian Government the position during the years of war would have been a serious one.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 7	May 15
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	89xd	89xd
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72½	72½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½	58½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	54½	54
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	84	84
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	89	81½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 1%, 1891	94	82	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6½	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15½	15½
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	76	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9⅛	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7⅞	7⅞
London County and Westminster	—	17	17
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅜	20⅜
National Bank of India	43	53	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	26/6	25,9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8½	12½	12⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/3	14 3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	13,9	14/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/6	24/-
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	7½	7½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3 1/16	3 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/10½	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅜
Anglo-Egyptian B	—	5 5/16	5 7/16
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅜	26/-	26/-
Khedivial Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	2⅜	2⅛
Do. Mail Ord.	⅜	6	6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4¼	4¼
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	3/16	—	5 7/16
Anglo-Persian	1⅜	—	26/6
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	13/3
Roumanian	1 1/16	—	21/3
Traian (Roumanian)	—	—	14/1½

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—May 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1,690,000 francs, against 780,000 francs.

The Turkish fig crop in 1916 is reported to have been about 19,000 tons, 16,500 tons in 1917, and 18,000 tons in 1918.

Attention is drawn in an American consular report to the developing market in Colombo for earthenware and porcelain-lined sanitary bathroom installations.

Imports into British India in March increased by £2,897,000, whilst exports decreased by £2,366,000, as compared with last year.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

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

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

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

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

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ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

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The Bank effects the following transactions:—

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2.—Receives private deposits for fixed periods or on current account. 3.—Discounts commercial effects and allows quarterly loans.
4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
6.—Buys and sells country and foreign cheques, etc. 7.—The Bank is entitled to the exclusive privilege of putting in circulation gold and silver banknotes. The telegraphic address for the Head Office: **Nationalbank**, and for the branches and the agencies: **Bank.**

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
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RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£85,000*

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£856,000**
RESERVE - - - - -	**£220,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agencies at Busreh and Baghdad

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Capital, Fully paid up	**Rs.2,00,00,000**
Reserve Fund	**Rs.1,61,00,000**
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 420.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Although the Austrian delegates have arrived in Paris—a little prematurely perhaps, since the terms are not yet quite ready for presentation—there is no sign that the Turkish delegates will be summoned in the immediate future, and the "Big Four" have evidently not settled the destinies of the Ottoman Empire so quickly as was at one time anticipated. Nor is it, of course, possible to disregard the fact that there may be legitimate differences of opinion, nor merely as to the destiny of this or that strip of territory, but as to the questions of high policy in Asia Minor, which may take some time to reconcile when they are at last seriously tackled. At the moment, however, the Conference does not appear to have thoroughly explored the ground.

While these grave matters are being debated, some interest attaches to the unofficial forecast of the *Echo de Paris* as to the terms to Turkey. According to this detailed account the Ottoman Empire is faced with extinction, both as a European and an independent State. It is suggested that of the European territories part will be conveyed to Greece, while the remainder will be formed into a new international State, with Constantinople as the capital. The character of this State is not more exactly defined, save to say that it will be administered under the mandate of the United States; France was offered, and, in the opinion of the journalist making the forecast, wisely declined the responsibility of the task.

As regards the Asiatic possessions, the writer suggests that Armenia is to make a nation under American protection; apparently with internal autonomy, but under the control of Washington so far as foreign affairs are concerned. Britain is to have her mandate over Mesopotamia and Palestine—the writer does not mention Arabia—while France obtains the whole of Syria, including Diarbekir and Adana and fractions of Anatolia. "Finally, Italy gets the district of Adalia and the protectorate of the Turks, who will make their new capital Broussa or Konia."

We give this forecast for what it may be worth; it is obviously in some ways an intelligent anticipation before the event has been decided, and it is quite obviously open to revision. It is at least possible that its publication was encouraged as a *ballon d'essai*, less for criticism in France—whose aspirations would be fully satisfied were the Peace Treaty framed on these lines—than for discussion in America. President Wilson has been defined as an autocrat with a time-limit, but he may probably desire to see American opinion more explicitly formulated before he makes so fundamental and irrevocable a change in the foreign policy of the United States as, according to this statement, he appears to have decided upon.

Nobody, of course, would suggest for a moment that the American assumption of responsibility for Constantinople and Armenia, should it take place, would be due either to ambition or to self-seeking; the post of guardian would prove anything but a bed of roses, and we doubt if it would be even indirectly profitable in any recognised sense of the word. The United States certainly contemplated no such outcome of the war, and probably nobody at Washington or elsewhere in the Republic foresaw anything of the kind two years ago. At the moment, too, the prevailing tendency in America appears to be to return to domestic affairs and to regard European intervention as a closed chapter in history—a chapter that was indeed inevitable, but a merely temporary addition to her proper responsibilities. This forecast, on the other hand, contemplates a permanent and not temporary assumption of foreign responsibilities, and that not only in Europe, but in Asia. It needs no prophet to foresee that the departure from precedent—and the United States is the very embodiment of political conservatism—will cause grave searchings of heart in the Republic.

The proverbial caution of the Father of the Republic will undoubtedly be invoked against "entangling alliances," and President Wilson may have hard work to convince his countrymen that the policy of his predecessor is out of date. Even if he were to maintain that a mandate under the League of Nations is neither an entanglement nor an alliance—a proposition that it would need some subtlety to demonstrate—the further suggestion that the responsibility for Constantinople should be divided between France, Britain, and the United States, which has been made in some quarters, finally negatives that idea. The triple responsibility for the administration of one of the historic storm-centres of the world would, in fact, involve the United States in a kind of permanent alliance with France and Britain.

For our part, however we may differ as to the wisdom of the details of administering Constantinople and Asia Minor—and on that matter very much might be said—on the major proposition of a permanent association between the three great Powers of the modern world not a word will be said in France or England. But we are by no means so certain of the attitude of America.

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The appendix to the Peace Covenant, by which America and Britain bind themselves to go to the aid of France in the event of an attack by Germany, while accepted here as a natural outcome of the war and an obligation which honours us as well as our gallant neighbours, has excited much searching of heart in America; and while the League of Nations has been accepted in the States as in some sort a guarantee against future war, it is impossible not to notice that American opinion as a whole seems to be swinging back from the world-stage to what may be called, without offence, the local drama.

The United States showed a similar revulsion of feeling after the Spanish war; and while opinion there quietly accepts the possibility of playing the protector of Latin America, it seems by no means so certain of the advantages or the necessity of protecting Armenia or Constantinople. Current opinion there, so far as it can be judged on this side, seems either indifferent or hostile to such a consequence of the war. It is, very naturally, not fully instructed in either Near Eastern or Asiatic politics, and it appears increasingly aware of the serious domestic problems of reconstruction which it is called upon to face at home. The world will therefore watch with interest the outcome of President Wilson's policy.

Meantime, Greece, apparently impatient of the delays at Paris—which in this instance at least appears to be inevitable—has occupied Smyrna with the countenance and assistance of the French and British. The step, which follows and was perhaps suggested by the recent Italian landing in Adalia, appears to have been received with enthusiasm both in the port and in Greece itself; patriotic demonstrations, the ringing of church bells, and the blowing of hooters and sirens greeted the Greek troops on their landing, although a subsequent telegram states that a collision with the Turks took place which appears to have been serious, since 400 casualties were reported. Had it not been for the participation of British and French troops, it would have been assumed that the Greek action in this respect was but one more instance of the policy of staking-out claims which has been followed so frequently during the last few months by the Balkans and other countries, but the combined Allied action forbids such a supposition, and it is clear therefore that M. Venizelos, whose genius has been fully recognised by the representatives of the Great Powers at Paris, has succeeded in convincing M. Clemenceau, Mr. Lloyd George, and President Wilson both of the justice of the Greek claim to Smyrna and of the practicability of that policy of "Greater Greece" so intimately associated with his name—a policy which, but for his forceful and commanding character, could never have got from the realms of patriotic dreams to accomplished fact.

However much we may congratulate Greece in this fulfilment of her cherished ambition, it is a pity that the statesmen in Paris did not make some formal announcement of their policy in this matter. It appears to anticipate the Peace Treaty in decisive fashion, and its effect in Italy has not been too fortunate. It is indeed idle to suppose that the secular antagonism between Greece and Italy, which has been in evidence over a thousand years, would cease to exist at the present moment when the partition of the world is again being undertaken and rival claims are being fulfilled or disappointed; but the manner in which the destinies of the Levant are being settled has once again inflamed opinion in Italy, already uncomfortably alert and not too friendly to the judgments of Paris on account of the difficulties in the Adriatic.

Unfortunately the Fiume difficulty is not yet settled. Direct conversations have taken place between Italians and Yugoslav representatives at Paris without decisive result, and formulas appear to have been submitted to and revised among the Big Four without agreement. The rival propaganda continues with unabated zeal on both sides; as a proof of the heat which has been engendered it may be mentioned that the Italian propagandists are now suggesting that "international finance" is dictating the surrender of the port to the Yugoslavs," and hinting that German Bankers are covertly working for the latter; while the bewildering flood of ethnographical considerations and statistics of nationality continues to descend upon the public. *The Times* continues steadfast under its new editor in its advocacy of the Yugoslav case for possession, and advises Italy to give way in its own interests, but the invitation appears to have evoked no enthusiasm in the quarter for which it was intended.

The discussion in Parliament last week on the situation in Egypt did something to reassure the public, and the criticisms that were subsequently made in the Press can hardly be called very substantial. The root fact appears to be that a wave of unrest is spreading through Mohammedan countries at the present time. It is mainly due, no doubt, to the downfall of the Turkish Empire, which has caused ominous repercussion in Afghanistan as well as in Egypt; and it is also suggested in some quarters that Mohammedan opinion in India and elsewhere is not altogether satisfied with Mr. Montagu's attitude to Islam, and that in addition the rumours of a British evacuation of Cyprus have not been without effect in Egypt. Each and all of these matters may have played some part in fomenting the recent disturbances, but there are happily grounds for hoping that the worst is now over.

Even if they wished to do so—which they certainly do not—those responsible for the safety and well-being of the British Empire could not afford to ignore such manifestations of unrest within the Moslem world as those which have been visible of late; and it is satisfactory to find that the Empire's representatives at the Paris Conference have not forgotten the Moslem point of view—as was sometimes supposed. The Government of India, we are told, discountenances the application of the "bag and baggage" policy to the Turk, and the removal of the Sultan of Turkey from Constantinople is deprecated by many authorities, as being likely to have a deplorable effect in India. It is easy to argue that such sentimental consideration of the Sick Man is itself deplorable and entirely misplaced, as has been shown above. The fact remains that the sentiment is, obviously, there, and must be reckoned with. Of course, if the Turks were swept out of Europe, it would be, not because they are Moslems, but because they have shown themselves unfit to hold a key-position so important to the world's well-being as Constantinople. But it would be hard indeed to convince the Indian Moslems of that fact. An embarrassing situation thus arises. That a way out of the difficulty will be found is not to be doubted. In the meantime it is to be hoped that Moslem India will recognise that its sentiments, as well as its material interests, are matters of real concern to the Empire, and almost equally is it to be hoped that certain persons in this country who have been endeavouring to show—and with marked success—that the spirit of fanaticism is not yet extinct in Europe will have the good taste to keep silence.

The two Indian reports whose publication we noticed briefly last week stand on very different planes. That which deals with the Division of Functions among the various authorities is of interest mainly to the practical politician, who wants to know what powers he and his fellows can hope to exercise at the outset; the statesman, on the other hand, is inclined to pass lightly over these transitional arrangements and concentrate his attention on the Franchise Report, which is designed to lay the foundations of the new constitutional structure; he asks, first of all, whether the proposals will result in an oligarchy which must presently be dismantled, or lie on the road leading ultimately to democracy, and he is prepared to acquiesce in many anomalies and even some risks if he is assured that the general direction is sound. Statesmen, however, are in a minority, and we shall take the politicians' interests first.

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The Report on Functions follows closely the lines laid down by Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu, and we may say at once that the powers assigned to the new Legislatures and the popular Ministers are at least sufficiently important to make the scheme worth having; education, sanitation, economic development, and the rest, present problems and possibilities worthy of the best talent which India can supply, and afford an ample training ground for statesmen as well as for administrators. The machinery provided for settling difficulties between the two sides of the Government is, to our mind, less satisfactory; we have steadily insisted that the Provincial Governors would be overweighted under the original scheme, but the Committee have found it necessary to throw fresh burdens on their shoulders, and there is an element of truth underlying the flippant criticism which has reached us that, since eight provinces are affected, and there are only seven archangels, the new régime must start with at least one Governor too few.

Perhaps, however, it is unnecessary to discuss these and other details of the proposed dyarchy at present. The Report discloses, what was already common knowledge, that the dyarchy itself has been condemned by about half the provincial administrations, and that various alternatives have been put forward, which were not, of course, considered by the Committee, but will, nevertheless, have to be taken into account at Whitehall. Similarly it is useless to examine the financial proposals, because the Committee had not time to discuss the important modifications suggested by Sir James Meston, who may be trusted to see that they are not overlooked by the India Office. We cannot, therefore, regard the Report as the last word on the very complex subject with which it deals; within the limits set by the terms of reference it explores the ground thoroughly, but there is more to be said before Parliament can get to work.

The other Report, dealing with the Franchise, seems to make a nearer approach to finality. We examine its main features elsewhere, and here it must suffice to say that its provisions offer to the *élite* of the peasantry an opportunity of making their voices heard with effect in the Legislative Councils and on whatever subjects may be ultimately assigned to popular control. Whether the opportunity will be taken is a question which can be decided only by experience, but the offer at least constitutes a generous instalment of the policy laid down in August, 1917. Under existing conditions ministerial responsibility must in India mean responsibility to the peasants, who form the great majority of the population, and no real progress will be possible until the peasants begin to "take charge." If these proposals are adopted, they will enter the school of practical politics, even though they may be placed at first in the lowest form, and their subsequent promotion will depend mainly upon their own efforts.

The most controversial subject dealt with by the Franchise Committee was what is known as Communal Representation, and, as was generally anticipated, the scope of this institution receives a considerable extension. Apart from Moslems and Sikhs, whose claims had already been recognised, separate communal constituencies are to be marked off for Indian Christians, Europeans, and Anglo-Indians, or, in the alternative, these classes are to be represented by nominations. The non-Brahmins of Madras, who claimed similar recognition, unwisely put themselves out of court by refusing to offer evidence, but the Committee leave the door open for compromise, which is the most they could do in the circumstances, and, speaking generally, the whole question seems to have been handled with great fairness and discretion; nobody really likes communal representation, but communal differences are in India hard facts, and in our eyes the great merit of the Franchise Report is that it takes facts into account, and subordinates to them considerations of logical symmetry and theoretical perfection.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 29.

The Political Situation.

The situation has undergone a great change for the better since the date of my last letter (April 21). The Government officials have returned to their work, the Post Office and scavenging services have resumed their activities, the railwaymen are at their posts, and it has become possible to run more trains; while everywhere there are indications of a return of economic and commercial activity.

General Allenby's Proclamation.

The return of the officials was brought about by the issue of a Proclamation by General Allenby, in which he ordered them to return to their posts on the morning of the 23rd, and thenceforward punctually to fulfil their duties, failure to comply with this order entailing forfeiture of all pension rights and erasure from the list of Government officials. At the same time he informed them that none of them would be paid for the time during which they had been absent without leave. About 80 per cent. of the officials put in an appearance on the morning of the 23rd, and it is quite possible that the number would have been greater if the extremists had not intimidated them *en route*. Since then the staff at the various Administrations is for all practical purposes at its pre-strike strength, thanks to the order issued forbidding intimidation and the measures taken by the military authorities to afford protection to the officials who had returned to their duties.

Resignation of the Cabinet.

On the same day as the officials resumed their work the resignation of the Cabinet was announced. Rushdi Pasha had presented his resignation on the evening of the 21st, and the Sultan accepted it the following day; but although the resignation was rumoured, official confirmation was not forthcoming until the 23rd. The motive given by him for his resignation was ill-health, and, knowing that he has been ailing for some time, we must accept that as the true reason. At the same time, there is no doubt that his personal failure to settle the official crisis must have counted for something in his decision, and it is very much to be regretted that he did not see his way to carry on at any rate until the crisis had passed, for he must have been aware that the Proclamation of General Allenby—the terms of which were unofficially known the same evening as he presented his resignation—would materially influence the situation for the better. So far no new Cabinet has been formed, and from the fact that a Proclamation has today been issued empowering the Under Secretaries of State to act as Ministers in all administrative and legal



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matters, it is to be assumed that the formation of a new Ministry is not contemplated in the very near future.

American Recognition of the Protectorate.

Shortly after the promulgation of General Allenby's Proclamation publication was given of a letter from the American Diplomatic Agent, announcing President Wilson's recognition of the British Protectorate over Egypt. Nothing could have been more opportune and more calculated to convince the officials of the utter futility of resisting any longer, and of the little sympathy they could expect from Europe with the line of action they had adopted. It is no exaggeration to say that no public declaration has of late years affected the "Intelligenzia" more deeply than did this pronouncement of the head of the American nation. Ever since Dr. Wilson first enunciated his fourteen articles and proclaimed the doctrine of the right of small nations to "self-determine," the "Intelligenzia" has relied, and has taught its followers to rely, on the President for out and out support of their claims for independence. Time and time again they have approached the local American representatives, directly and indirectly, although whenever those gentlemen have been persuaded to say anything—which was very rarely—it has never been in the direction of encouragement. In fact, had the "Intelligenzia" only been in the mood to receive them, hints have repeatedly been thrown out to them as to the impossibility of the United States supporting them in their movement, and certainly not in the manner in which they were seeking to attain their objects. If Dr. Wilson's decision has given them a shock by shattering their hopes they have themselves alone to blame. They thought that by engineering open revolt and destruction of property, public as well as private, they would enlist sympathy for their cause, but they have only found criticism of their actions and the affirmation of the very régimé which they aimed to get rid of.

The officials state that they returned, first, because the Cabinet had resigned, and had therefore shown that it was in sympathy with them in their demands, and, secondly, because they did not wish their country to suffer any longer from the stagnation of affairs brought about by their abstention from work. As a matter of fact they did not come to their decision until after they had heard of the imminent promulgation of General Allenby's Proclamation. The latter certainly sowed dissension in their midst, for numbers of them had no wish to wreck their careers in an attempt to obtain independence for their country; and the split was widened by Dr. Wilson's pronouncement to such an extent that the strike committee found itself forced to bow to the will of the majority. Whatever it was, however, that brought the officials back to work, it is eminently satisfactory for all concerned that they should have returned to their duties even at the eleventh hour, and that with them should have come some of the worst ringleaders; for the latter's precipitation in complying with the order, so as not to incur forfeiture of their rights to a pension, which their incitement of their followers had caused the latter to risk, can hardly fail to break the maleficent influence which they had contrived to exercise over the more moderate of their colleagues.

The only elements which are still standing out are the students and the tramway employees. As regards the former, the directing bodies of the various schools have issued notices ordering the students to resume their places at their respective colleges on the morning of May 3. As regards the tram workers, on more than one occasion it was thought that a settlement had been arrived at, but owing to the influence of the political agitators the men were induced to hold out. Now that the back of the political agitation seems to have been broken there is greater possibility of a settlement.

Al Azhar yet remains to be dealt with. The Azharites are still very excited and continue to preach active resistance. There is, however, every reason to believe that this incitement will fall on deaf ears, as the return of the mass of strikers and followers must make them less ready to resort to the extreme action which Al Azhar advocates.

Altogether, as I said in my opening paragraph, the situation has undergone a very marked change for the better. There is everywhere a much healthier atmosphere, although no doubt there is among the strikers and agitators still a certain amount of soreness and of irritability, due to a great extent to the fact that they have not attained their object, but have had to bow to the authority whom they had resisted. Nevertheless, the general resumption of normal activities is so much to the good, and in the circumstances it will in a great measure depend on the firmness with which the authorities continue to handle the situation whether or not we progress towards pre-strike conditions.

'Gallipoli Day."

Last Friday was "Gallipoli Day." In the morning a special service was held at All Saints' Church, and in the afternoon General Allenby presided at a meeting at the Anzac Hostel. The stage was beautifully decorated with floral wreaths destined for the graves of the Gallipoli heroes, and a very large audience attended. The programme included an address from General Allenby, a hymn, the reading of the lesson and the singing of the Recessional, and the proceedings terminated with the National Anthem and the Last Post. Afterwards the wreaths were placed on ambulances and transported to the British cemetery at Old Cairo.

GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 1.

The First of May.

Greece has been awaiting—or perhaps it would be more correct to say that Athens and the Piræus have been awaiting—with some anxiety the advent of the First of May this year. Labour in this country as well as in others has been unsettled by the events of the last few years, and the success attending demands for increases in the daily wage had begotten a sense of solidarity among the trades unions which the facts of the case hardly justified. A movement for the celebration of May Day on recognised international lines was started. A general holiday for all workers was to be proclaimed, and the attempt in other quarters to insist upon the incongruity of April 18 in Greece being observed as May 1 was brushed aside. The actual history of the movement is a little obscure. Whoever originated the idea probably relied upon the natural popularity among the working class of a day's holiday, and hoped to turn the occasion to political account. But while a higher wage makes an instinctive appeal to everyone of whatever nationality, Greece is still a long way behind other countries in Europe in the political development of the Labour movement. Party politics here are still of the personal order; groups in the Chamber are ranged behind individuals, and do not conform to more or less permanent political theories. There are Socialists in the country, but they have not succeeded in forming a party of more than one member in Parliament. They have gained considerable encouragement latterly from the Labour unrest in the chief towns and ports of Greece, and a successful May Day would have considerably strengthened their position. From the course of events it would appear as if they had tried to force the pace unduly. The leaders of organised labour distinguish between trades unionism and Socialism, and they refused to be

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JERUSALEM. — JAFFA.

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stampeded for the benefit of the latter. The celebration of May Day caused misgivings in the ranks of those for whom it was ostensibly being arranged; a large number of trades unions backed out, and the Government adopted a firm line in regard to the proposal for a general holiday of all workers, including shop assistants, railway and tramway staffs, and electricians. It refused to allow communications to be interrupted throughout the day, or Athens and the Piræus to be in darkness. Of its own accord it authorised a stoppage of trams and trains between 1 p m. and 4 p.m. to enable the staffs, if they were so inclined, to attend a general *réunion* of workers in the country between Phaleron and Athens; but there were to be no processions or meetings in the city, and the electricians were to be back at work by 5 p.m.

The day, as far as the two towns were concerned, passed uneventfully, with no more inconvenience to the general public than was caused by the absence of waiters in a number of hotels and restaurants, and the non-appearance of the newspapers.

Political and Other Problems.

The Paris Conference is lasting too long for Greece no less than for other countries. M. Venizelos is too valuable a man to be able to be spared indefinitely from his place here, and there can be no doubt that the number of questions for which he is expected to find a solution is accumulating rapidly. The verdict of the Conference in regard to the Greek claims is naturally the first consideration, and the more favourable that verdict is the easier should M. Venizelos's task be. Greece, however, remains divided against herself, and no statesman can feel any satisfaction with such a condition of things or desire to see it indefinitely perpetuated.

But the problems with which the country are confronted are not only political. Greece has taken some strides forward in the last twenty years in the realm of material progress, but much ground still remains to be covered. There is now railway connection with the rest of Europe. To make the particular line more equal to the strain of traffic that it may be expected to have to bear, it has to be overhauled, some bridges strengthened and new ones built where temporary structures have hitherto been doing duty. The capital and its chief port also call for attention. Athens is still without an adequate water supply, and the Piræus harbour requires to be enlarged to be equal to its present-day rôle. The actual state of congestion there arising from the importation of more goods than can be handled and stored is a subject that calls for separate discussion in the commercial section of THE NEAR EAST. The Government, I understand, has very rightly decided that the Athens water supply claims first attention, and this time-honoured question now has a reasonable prospect of being settled on sound lines by the adoption of the Stymphalia scheme.

Another difficulty is the housing question. A large number of refugees have flocked to Greece from Southern Russia, and it has become necessary to pass a law that no one may occupy more than one house. In common with all the measures that have had to be enforced under the Venizelist régime it is most desirable that in this case also justice should be administered evenhandedly. There need be no anxiety about the future of the country if those who espoused the wrong cause are constrained to admit that penalties have been enforced without vindictiveness, and that there is no room for bitterness arising from a sense of injustice suffered.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 5.

Hungarian Atrocities.

We have already referred to the acts of brutality of which the Magyars have been guilty in the regions beyond and about the demarcational zone fixed between them and the Roumanians. The subject has since become a matter of history, though of such very recent history that the families of the victims have not yet had their sorrow tempered by time. Among the more known cases is that of the mother of Julius Mania, President of the Directing Council of Transylvania, and be it added, in parenthesis, one of the most able men and strongest of characters ever produced by the Roumanian nation on either side the Carpathians. This lady, who is 76 years old, was seized on April 16 by the orders of Bela Kuhn and transported. For some time nothing was heard regarding her destination, but it has since been reported that she is interned in Budapest. Another flagrant case is that of the lawyer Ciordash, one of the most stalwart of Roumanian nationalists, whose mutilated body was recently discovered near Oradea Mare.

The Roumanian Advance—

The advance of the Roumanian army through Transylvania and beyond has so far progressed since the subject was last mentioned that we can say to-day that it has attained the goal which it was supposed to be pursuing. The river Tissa has been reached, and in parts even left behind, as in the Tokay region. Roumanian, and even non-Roumanian, territory has been completely cleared of Bolshevism. It has been smart and thorough work, and not quite the simple walk-over that some believe, for the resistance offered by the Zeklers, if not really serious for troops as efficient as those called upon to overcome it, was in places of a determined character, and the Roumanian losses are not insignificant. Reports come from all points of the magnificent reception offered to the troops in the liberated localities, not only by the Roumanian populations, but in many instances by the steadier Magyar elements as well, who are more than relieved to exchange a régime of terror for conditions of law and order. Many functionaries and higher officials are swearing allegiance to King Ferdinand.

—Its Results.

The crushing defeat suffered by Hungarian Bolshevism all along the line has brought Bela Kuhn to reason, or at least to some approach to this state. Proposals of peace have ensued on the part of the Magyar Government, followed closely by a proposal of armistice. Both have been rejected, or rather ignored. But the refusal to treat with the present Government at Budapest, combined with the presence of Roumanian troops on the western bank of the Tissa, surely provides Bela Kuhn with matter for serious reflection. For the question, "Where will the Roumanian military action cease?" must present itself to his mind as it does to that of the Roumanian public, though on different grounds. Some people are of opinion that the troops have advanced quite far enough, and that by strengthening their positions behind the natural boundary offered by the Tissa they would secure ample safety to the country. This way of reasoning seems sound enough as far as it goes, but it may or may not have the defect of being short-sighted, according to the point of view adopted. If the army continues to advance then we shall be justified in inferring that the Government has decided to aim a death-blow at Hungarian Bolshevism by penetrating into its very heart. This would imply the adoption of a broad and far-reaching policy, which ought to establish claims on the gratitude of all Europe.

Scepticism Justified.

But the latter point cannot fail to awaken a measure of scepticism, for Roumanians fully realise that neither individuals nor nations are always judged according to their merits. It is a fact that the part played by Roumania in the war, the inordinately heavy sacrifices she has made, and the peculiarly difficult circumstances that have beset her path, have not met with due recognition or appreciation on the part of her great allies, whose attitude seemed to suggest at one time that it was her own fault if she had "bitten off more than she could chew." The recognition of her territorial aggrandisement in no way absolves the Entente of her obligations, for Roumania has taken nothing to which she was not entitled. She fought, among other things, for the liberation of provinces bearing a strongly-marked Roumanian character, and this object once attained, the latter joined up with the mother country, thereby following the course which national instinct pointed out as providing the strongest guarantees for the maintenance of their ethical and territorial integrity. So that in no case, assuming, of course, that the political ethics of the past have been dropped, need Roumania regard the recog-

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nition of her territorial acquisitions as an acknowledgment of obligations incurred. On the other hand she would seem to be in her right, morally speaking, if she expected some return for the services rendered to the European community at unreasonably heavy cost to herself, services which, be it added in justice, she continues to place ungrudgingly at the disposal of civilisation. Such recognition might show itself by an immediate energetic effort to extricate her from the morass into which she has been driven, and in which she has floundered quite long enough.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Greek Vessel Launched.

An event of local interest which has been looked forward to for some time, has recently taken place on the picturesque North Coast of the island, at Kyrenia, viz., the launching of a Greek sailing vessel of about 230 tons, built at that port. The owners are two Greeks, Demetrius Severis and Savas Kharalambou, who have both been generous benefactors of the town of Kyrenia. The ceremony was witnessed by a large number of Greeks and Turks. The High Commissioner, who was unable to be present, sent a telegram of congratulation and good wishes. The British officials from Nicosia included Mr. J. R. Holmes, President of the Court, and the Principal Forest Officer. The Bishop of Kyrenia performed the ceremony of consecrating the vessel, which was named "The Apostle Andrew." A blue cord was cut by Madame Severis, and the ship was launched amidst great enthusiasm, carrying the British flag in the stern and Greek colours at the bow. The Bishop in a speech alluded to the event as one "of political significance." This is the second vessel only that has been built in the island since the occupation, the other being a schooner built at Limassol in the early eighties, which, however, had but a short career. Times have changed mightily since classical times, when large fleets were fitted out in Cyprus, built of timber from the then vast forests of the island. Thus in 480 B.C. Cyprus sent 150 ships to join the fleet of Xerxes against Greece; and when Alexander advanced into Phœnicia the island sent 120 warships to assist him in the siege of Tyre.

The Museum.

When peace is established it may be hoped that fresh steps will be taken for the enrichment of the Cyprus Museum. The balance-sheet for last year shows that the fund has yielded but poor results. The receipts, amounting to £592, include a Government grant of £450, the latter only sufficing for the salaries (including bonuses) of the curator and watchmen (£448). In these circumstances little could, of course, be done either by excavation or purchase. Antiquities were bought for £52, and a balance of £22 only remains. The Museum, however, thanks to the work of classification by Professor Myres, of Oxford, now illustrates to a very interesting degree the arts, in pottery, glass, and metals, in the various periods of island history. In spite of the fully justified criticism of Professor Flinders Petrie, that the course of archæological work during the British occupation has been far from creditable, the collection is already well worthy of inspection by all travellers.

Miscellaneous.

Summer hours have been started in all Government offices. The work of the Legislative Council proceeds smoothly; and agricultural prospects in general are good.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—"Truth has rough flavours if you bite it through," as your correspondent, Mr. Burlumi, whose letter appears in your last issue, seems to have realised. I think I am entitled to claim that the present-day Greek is what Sir Patrick Colquhoun's investigations discovered him to be. Mr. Burlumi does not deny the accuracy of Sir Patrick's conclusions, neither did Dr. Lanitas in his letter, to which Mr. Burlumi refers as being both true and statesmanlike.

In spite of its mixed population, the administration of Cyprus has been generally successful. It must be remembered that for the last forty years it has been practically a British colony with an English High Commissioner at its head, whose duty it has been, amongst other things, to safeguard the political rights of the Moslem population. The manifest prosperity of the island is due entirely to British rule, and this prosperity, no doubt, is greatly attracting the attention of the "Motherland." Hence the bare assertions and the groundless claims which are made in respect of nationality and for the "restoration" of the island. Why should England now give it up? No English statesman, surely, would care to risk a repetition of the blunder of the cession of Heligoland? And why, indeed, should the Cypriots be thought to be so intensely anxious to join modern Greece?

The present-day Greeks are pretty shrewd, if they are nothing else, and I can well imagine some who see the singular statements of their compatriots about Cyprus crying out, "Save us from our friends"!—I am, etc.,

Cypriot.

THE NEW ARMENIA.

At a meeting held on May 16, under the auspices of the British Armenian Chamber of Commerce, at the offices of the London Chamber of Commerce, Cannon Street, over which Lieut.-Colonel Sir Albert K. Rollit presided, General A. H. H. Torcom, chief of the Armenian Military Mission, said that Armenia at the Peace Conference claimed Cilicia, with its free ports on the Mediterranean, as the indispensable factor to its existence and development. During the war she had lost through massacres and deportations one-third of her population, and had made considerable military efforts. The new Armenia appealed to capitalists in the allied and associated countries to exploit a soil fertile in agricultural products and a subsoil rich in minerals, and to help her to prosperity. M. Take Jonescu, in moving a vote of thanks, said peace would not be concluded without the creation of a large and independent Armenia, and remarked that Roumania and Armenia would be neighbours by the Black Sea.

WAR GRATUITY OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

The Secretary of State for India announces that, with the concurrence of the Government of India, it has been decided to issue to Regular officers of the Indian Army, Indian Medical Service, and of the British Garrison in India, and to departmental officers with honorary rank of the Indian Unattached List, a gratuity for war service on the same conditions generally as those announced for officers of the British Army in Army Order IV., dated February 11, 1919. The gratuity will be payable, in the case of officers still on the active list, on August 4, 1919, or the termination of the war as defined by statutory authority, whichever is earlier. It is not payable to any officer commissioned after February 11, 1919. Officers who have retired, and the legal representatives of officers who have died or have been killed during the war, should apply for a form of claim to the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, London, S.W. 1.

PALESTINE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

The University Extension Board of the University of Liverpool have organised a course of lectures on Palestine. The course should prove of particular interest and a valuable means of acquiring information upon the subject, a unique characteristic of the series being the comprehensive nature of the topics and the fact that the lectures will be delivered by Christian, Moslem, and Jewish lecturers, thus affording opportunities for hearing facts from authoritative sources and opinions by representative exponents. Having regard to its inter-credal and international nature, the course is the first of its kind held under the auspices of an English University, and testifies to the sympathetic interest aroused by the new prospects in Palestine. The lectures (admission to which will be free) will be delivered in the Lecture Theatre, New Arts Building, Ashton Street, Liverpool, on Tuesdays, commencing May 6, at eight o'clock, the hour being subject to alteration, due notice of which will be given. The syllabus is as follows:—May 27. Islam in Palestine. Mr. H. K. Selim. June 3, The Re-settlement of Palestine by the Jews. Mr. Bertram B. Benas, B.A., LL.B. June 10, The Economic Prospects of Palestine. Professor P. M. Roxby, B.A. June 17, The Political Prospects of Palestine. Mr. Bertram B. Benas, B.A., LL.B.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Time was when it fell not to my lot to read the leading articles of newspapers, and exceeding happy I was in my wise ignorance. But, alas! a sadder fate has long befallen me, and it is part of my daily duty to pick out the rich gems of journalistic thought. Now every schoolboy knows that the present problem of the world is the future of Turkey, but I sorrowfully confess that I do not know what is the best plan for that unhappy part of our globe. But happily, I am nearly alone in my ignorance, for the journals of Fleet Street know all about it—at least I thought so until in a leading article in a contemporary this week, entitled "The Scramble for Turkey," I discovered the following:—"Mr. Montagu, accompanied by the Maharaja of Bikanir *and other representative Mohammedans*, has arrived in Paris. . . ." The italics are mine. I repeat, I do not know much about the subject, but I do know that the Maharaja of Bikanir is not a Mohammedan.

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A few days ago I read in the *Manchester Dispatch* some delightful stories of the popularity of the British Tommy in Syria. Mr. Roy Young, who calls his article "Two Conquests in Syria," describes, or rather refers to, the conquest of the land and the conquest of the heart. Especially was the second victory complete among the Arab children, for whom Tommy always had a kind and cheery word. But where in this war have children not loved the British soldier? "The Syrian folk," says Mr. Young, "have not forgotten that when the English reached the country and found a starving population despoiled and robbed by the Turks, our men, in hundreds of cases, gave half their own rations to women and children." This case finds plenty of parallels in other theatres of war. The British soldier is notorious for hating a void in his own stomach, but that hatred has often been overcome in this war. Although it was forbidden by the authorities, I often saw in France soldiers scrounging tins of bully or coughing up a few centimes for French or Belgian kiddies. These memories do not fade in a day; and as the French and the Orientals are credited with having long memories, I hope that the unconscious kindness of the simple British soldier will be seeds sown in a fertile soil.

***

I wonder how many of my readers know the history of the Hope Diamond, which is a great stone, weighing 44½ carats, and flashes with the beauty of a sapphire and a diamond. The history of it is connected with its evil influence, which is supposed to date from the time when Europeans stole it from a temple in Burma. From that time all its owners have suffered evilly. The son of the latest owner, who is Mr. Edward B. McLean, proprietor of the *Washington Post*, was a little time ago killed in a motor accident. The tale of the victims of the Hope Diamond is really an extraordinary one. Tavernier, the great traveller who brought it from the East in 1688, died of fever. Marie Antoinette frequently wore the Diamond, and her end is common knowledge. The Hope family purchased it in 1830, but in 1901 Lord Henry Francis Hope sold the jewel. After that it passed through many hands, including that of the Russian Prince Kanitovski, who was assassinated by revolutionists. For a short time a Greek jeweller was the unfortunate possessor of it, but he was thrown over a precipice and killed. It was then obtained by the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, and it did not bring him luck! The misfortune which appears always to have beset the owner of the diamon dis really inexplciable.

***

The European war has differed from past wars in many respects; it has created new elements, and has improved old methods; but one thing which can never be beaten is the record of good marching which past wars show. Yet the latest campaign has some singular examples of marching ability. We have recently read how one British sergeant marched a small party of eighteen Russians from Archangel to Ekaterenburg, in the Urals—a distance of 1,400 miles! My readers will remember how a small party of Russians from the Caucasus met a detachment of our Mesopotamian force; though in this case the agents were not, if my memory serves me correctly, on foot, being Cossacks, and a troop of British cavalry. Of course, these *rencontres* serve little military purpose, but they do help further to show what man, unaided by mechanical contrivances, can do against natural obstacles.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egyptian Gift. May 15.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, replying to Captain Wedgwood Benn, said: On March 9, 1918, the Egyptian Council of Ministers offered to contribute £E3,000,000 towards the expenses of the war, and they described this gift "as an evidence of gratitude towards Great Britain, in that Egypt has been spared the evils of an invasion." Their offer was gratefully accepted. They further decided to open a credit in the Budget of 1918-19 of £E500,000 in order to meet other military expenditure directly connected with Egypt, and provisionaliy estimated at that figure. I am not able to state at the moment what is the exact sum contributed by the Egyptian Exchequer during the year 1918-19, nor am I aware that any further contributions are expected.

Major ORMSBY-GORE: Is it not a fact that this offer was made entirely by the native Ministers, and that British officials neither asked for it nor expected it?

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: I think it is an accurate statement.

Charges Against British Troops. May 19.

Sir J. D. REES asked the Secretary for War whether he possessed any evidence that Britsh Indians, or any troops under British command during the war committed atrocities in Egypt, such as maltreating women, firing villages, and robbing the inhabitants.

Captain GUEST: No information, official or unofficial, has been received to the effect that any troops, either British, colonial, or native, have committed any of the atrocities suggested. General Allenby reports that a Press campaign of this kind was evidently being worked up by agitators, probably with a view to assisting the Nationalist campaign in Paris. He has also reported that the troops showed most praiseworthy restraint, often under great provocation. This has been confirmed by both foreign and native witnesses. In a few cases, where a search for arms had to be made at night, portions of certain villages were accidentlly set on fire and women were naturally frightened, but no more. Egyptian villages are made of mud, with roofs of dry cotton stalks, and fires are always a frequent occurrence. To anyone who knows British and colonial troops and the standard of discipline in Indian units, the suggestion that they would maltreat women is manifestly absurd.

May 20.

Earl WINTERTON asked the Secretary for War whether any action had been taken against the person residing at the Imperial Hotel who had issued circulars reflecting on the honour of our troops in Egypt on behalf of an organisation called the Egyptian Association.

Captain GUEST (Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury): Yes. In consequence of the circulation of documents containing a number of mendacious statements concerning the conduct of British troops in Egypt, search was made yesterday afternoon in a room at the Imperial Hotel rented by an Egyptian. The documents seized are now being considered by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Topics in Parliament.

WAR EXPENDITURE (INDIA AND DOMINIONS). (May 13.)

INDIA: Emigration.—Montagu-Chelmsford Report. — Army Officers (Children's Allowance).—Criminal Law Amendment Bill. PEACE TERMS: Mesopotamia. GABBARI PRISON, ALEXANDRIA. BLACK SEA (TRANSPORT FACILITIES). (May 14.)

PEACE TERMS: Republic of Georgia (Caucasus).—Austria and Turkey. COST OF WAR (EGYPTIAN CONTRIBUTION). BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR (GRAVES IN TURKEY). Troops in Caucasus (Army Bonus). TROOPS IN INDIA (REPATRIATION). CEYLON (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM). INDIA: Country and Imported Spirits. AFFAIRS IN EGYPT. (May 15.)

INDIA: War Expenditure. — Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Scheme.—Central Publicity Board. EGYPT (LORD MILNER'S COMMISSION). PEACE TERMS: Persian Government. INDIA: Education Service. (May 19.)

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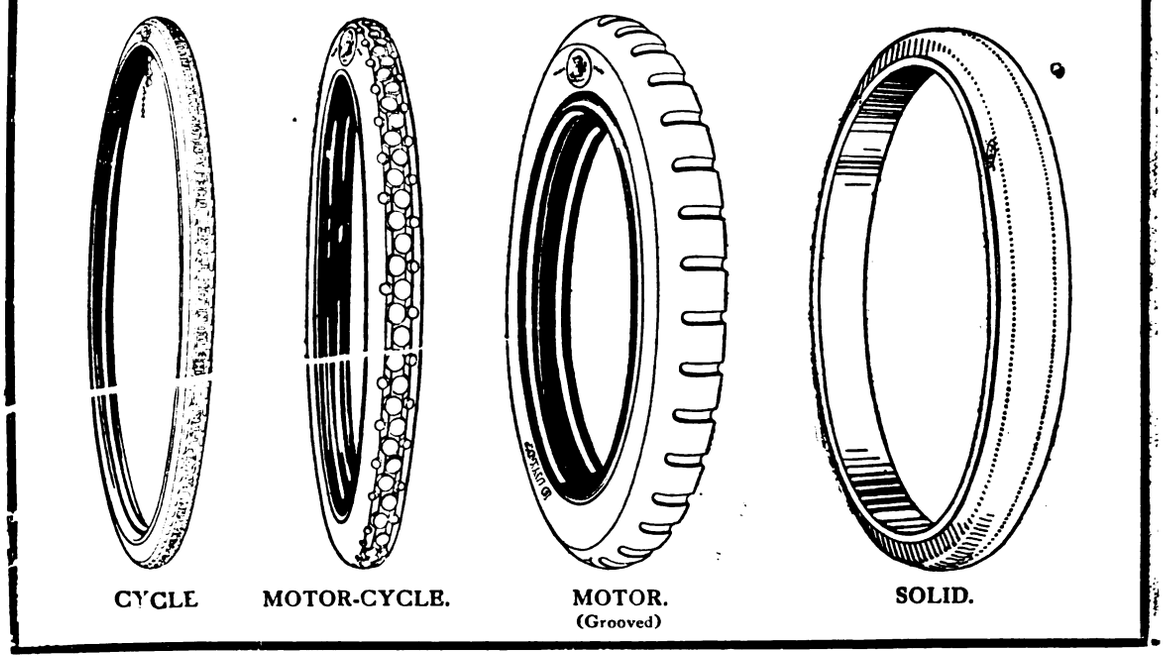
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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FROM ADAM TO JOSHUA.

This is a fascinating and brilliant study of the beginnings of the history of Man and his relations with the Creator, the Old Testament story of the Garden of Eden and of the Wanderings in the Wilderness. Sir William Willcocks approaches his theme and handles it throughout with all the originality that we should expect from him; but it would be impossible for the most orthodox critic to accuse him of any lack of reverence; and the average man is likely to find the book of great value in helping him to regard as real events that he has, in all probability, regarded in quite a different light. It is not that the view put forward is an entirely new one; Sir William's theory regarding the crossing of the Jordan, for instance, has been advanced before, and more than once; but his intimate acquaintance with the lands he writes of, and his unrivalled knowledge of irrigation engineering enable him to reinforce his arguments with many a telling point; while his constant reference to present-day manners and customs of the regions dealt with lend his comments on, and explanations of, the ancient narrative a virility that is lacking in many other writers on the subject. No one can avoid being struck by the manner in which his professional studies have enabled him again and again to throw light on some knotty problem, or in which his knowledge of irrigational requirements in both countries has enabled him to identify himself, so to say, with the very spirit of those who studied the subject in the past. As Professor Sayce writes in the Preface which he contributes to the book:—

He has brought us not only fresh materials for the solution of the old Biblical problems, but, what is even more important, fresh ways of solving them. Untrammelled by traditional interpretations and critical theories or assumptions, he has attacked them with a fearless disregard of accepted "conclusions," and with a combination of robust common sense and expert knowledge. I do not agree with all his results, but there is not one of them which can be disregarded or which does not excite thought and discussion.

The author places the Garden of Eden of the Bible between Anah and Hitt, on the Euphrates, and the Sumerian Garden of Eden between Jello and Eridu—or at the southern end of the Shatt el Hai. He tells us that "Adam represents mankind and Eve represents womankind, just as Cain represents the agriculturists and Abel the shepherds. It is the Oriental way of recording facts or narrating events." The truth of this statement will be recognised at once by anybody acquainted with the Orient; and Sir William's development of the Cain and Abel theory will surely convince all who know the border lands of the Bedouin. Similarly his arguments in support of the Anah-Hitt site will carry conviction to most minds. Unfortunately it is impossible to do justice to them here; but they will richly repay reading in the original.

In his chapter on the story of The Flood Sir William is on ground more familiar to the public; and though his remarks about the confusion between "mountain" and "desert" may still come as a surprise to some people who cling to the Ararat mountain theory, they will not startle many readers. It is good, however, to have the real meanings of *Bahr* and *Jebel* so forcibly driven home as is here done. In this chapter we learn incidentally that the great bar at the mouth of the Shatt el Arab "is formed almost entirely of Karun mud," and that salt water from the Gulf has never penetrated into the Affech swamps or even to the Susiana marshes.

The description of the plagues of Egypt and of their severely natural origin is one of the best things in the book, and nowhere, perhaps, does the extraordinary range of the author's studies and experience make itself felt than in this and the preceding chapter. The description given of the ancient engineering feats in the Fayoum is vivid and sympathetic, and by the time we read: "Three thousand five hundred years ago the Egyptian question was the irrigation question, even more thoroughly than it is in our day," we can feel the truth of the statement in our bones. Surely, if Sir William Willcocks had taken up either Assyriology or Egyptology, he would have clothed the dry bones of those sciences for us in a way that very few of their professors succeed in doing!

But it is not only in regard to the past that the author is so interesting. Constantly we come across descriptive bits and shrewd comments concerning the present. Thus, in the first chapter, we read of an Arab sheikh who asked why the English did not "come over and teach us freedom." "No use, sheikh,' I said. "We have been in Egypt under thirty years, and from one end of the country to the other they all wish us out. In twenty years you would be tired of us, and try to get rid of us." The old man stroked his beard and said: "Yes; are we not all the sons of Adam? He thought he could improve on Paradise." Again, it is surprising to read of the Emir Khazzal of Mohammerah stating "that the Arabs were pleased to see irrigation engineers, not because they looked forward to agricultural pursuits, but because the land could no longer support them as shepherds." So the cradle of civilization is now feeling the pinch of competition!

* "From the Garden of Eden to the Crossing of the Jordan." By Sir William Willcocks, K.C.M.G. (Cairo: French Institute of Oriental Archæology. 5s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Bengali Book of English Verse." Selected by Theodore Douglas Dunn: with a Foreword by Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"En Yougoslavie." (Sixth edition.) By Charles Rivet. (Paris: Perrin et Cie. 3 fr. 50 c.)

"West and East with the E.F.C." By Captain E. Vredenburgh. (London: Raphael Tuck and Sons.)

"Také Jonescu." By D. Iancovici. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 3 fr.)

"Balkan Fancies and Other Poems." By Captain A. J. Mann, R.A.F. (London: A. and C. Black. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Home and the World." By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Macmillan and Co. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

The Cambridge University Press are publishing shortly "The Church of the Holy Sepulchre," an illustrated history and description, by Mr. G. Jeffery.

We have received a copy of the *Russian Outlook*, a new journal dealing with Russian and Russo-British affairs. The paper, which has the support of prominent Englishmen and Russians who are determined that Bolshevism shall not triumph in Russia, appears to be interested chiefly in the political, social, and commercial aspects of Russia. Its production is excellent.

THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

The India Office issued the following communiqués on May 15:—

MAY 12.—No change in the situation at Landi Kotal [Khyber]. All quiet Kohat. Wazaristan and Baluchistan. Operations on May 11 included air reconnaissances in Bazar to Besewal and Kam Dakka. Bombing raids were carried out with effect. Guns captured by us on the 11th now number six and one Gardner gun. Estimate enemy killed on 11th at least 100, including many Afghan regulars.

MAY 14.—Dakka still reported evacuated as result of our air raids, and no movements of importance observed on Jalalabad road. No tribal Lashkars had collected in Tirah, Mohmand, and Bajaur up to May 10, and nothing further from Khost.

The following announcement was issued on May 19 by the India Office:—

Information from Chaman [in the Quetta area] indicates that three Afghan regiments have arrived at Fort Baldak [within the Afghan border, sixty miles from Quetta, and 400 miles S.W. of the Khyber]. These are stated to be for defensive purposes. Considerable supplies of arms and ammunition are also reported to have arrived. Parachinar reports two Afghan regiments on Peiwar Kotal [a pass on the frontier, 90 miles west of Peshawar] on the night of the 13th-14th, and a position taken up by Afghans on spurs within the British limits at the head of Kurram Valley [immediately south of Peiwar Kotal]. The arrival of three regiments and two guns at Ali Khel [nine miles on the Afghan side of the frontier] is also reported. Waziristan is normal, the frontier tribes all being quiet, and the internal situation also quiet. From the Khyber area it is reported that the forward concentration of the force continues. There is wire-cutting and sniping in the Khyber. Information from Kohat is that dispositions to deal with the Afghan movement in the Peiwar area have been made, and the Kohat force is being reinforced.

The following communiqué was issued by the India Office on May 21:—

Reports received from the Government of India state that our forces at Dakka were attacked by the Afghans in force on May 16. The enemy were driven off, and the night was quiet. Our casualties are reported at about 130. On the 17th the 1st (Indian) Brigade, with the co-operation of aeroplanes, attacked the enemy on the hills to the west of Dakka, which were captured by 3.50 p.m. Our casualties have not yet been reported. The enemy's strength was reported as eight battalions with guns, four of which were captured, and over 100 enemy dead, mostly regular troops, have already been counted. On the 18th the situation was reported by the G.O.C. 1st (Indian) Division as very satisfactory. Our pickets now hold the hills to the west of Dakka, and Sherabad and Robat (about two miles north-west of Dakka) are occupied by us. This successful action is reported to have had an instantaneous and beneficial effect on the tribes.

The India Office announced on May 20 that the following message had been received from the Viceroy of India:—

Council of Regency, Bahawalpur, have placed Imperial Service troops and whole resources at disposal of Government in view of Afghan war. At representative gathering of Moslems, Sikhs, and Hindus at Lahore, Lieut.-Governor of Punjab received from all communities convincing assurances of support to Government in the present crisis.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. May	1919. May.		1337. Shaaban.	5679. Iyar.
23	10	Friday	23	23
24	11	Saturday.....	24	24
25	12	Sunday	25	25
26	13	Monday	26	26
27	14	Tuesday	27	27
28	15	Wednesday	28	28
29	16	Thursday	29	29

The Thakore Saheb of Limbdi visited the King on May 17.

Prince and Princess Antoine Bibesco have returned to town from Walmer Castle.

The Roumanian Minister has left London for Paris to attend the Peace Conference.

The Maharajah of Bikanir and Lord Sinha arrived in London from Paris on May 18.

M. Také Jonescu was married on May 21 to Madame Adine Olmazu, a Roumanian lady.

M. A. G. Cretziano, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, left London on May 21 for Paris.

Princess Marie, daughter of the Queen of Roumania, has taken up her residence at Ascot.

M. Nicolas Misu, a member of the Roumanian Military Delegation, left London on May 21 for Paris.

Madame Bratiano, wife of the Roumanian Prime Minister, arrived in town on May 19 from the country.

General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, Governor of Gibraltar, arrived at Casablanca (Morocco) on May 18, and was received by the Resident-General.

Lady Oranmore and Browne is now convalescent after her recent operation, and has left London for Bexhill. Lord Oranmore remains at 12, Cavendish Place.

Major-General Louis Vaughan, upon his appointment as Commandant of the Staff College, Quetta, India, had the honour of being received by His Majesty on May 17.

The paper which Colonel Tilho was to read on June 16, under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, has been postponed, as the author finds himself unable to come to London.

Prince Paul of Serbia on May 21 visited W. Yovan M. Yovanovitch, formerly Serbian Minister in London, and Madame Yovanovitch. Prince Paul will visit Italy before returning to Serbia.

The marriage took place on April 30, at the Catholic Church, Feltham, between Major F. R. Cosens, 4th P.A.V. Rajputs, and Miss Peggy Allan, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Allan, Crendon Lodge, Feltham.

The marriage took place on April 14, at Ambala, India, between Charles T. I. Roark, 1st Life Guards, attached Poona Horse, and Grace Muriel (Molly), youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Campbell, of Perth, Western Australia.

On May 22 Lieut.-Colonel Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., gave the first of the two Chadwick Public Lectures at the Barnes Hall, 1, Wimpole Street. His subject is "Hygiene in Egypt," upon which he is lecturing again on May 29.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Ariston St. John Diamant, of Eastling Manor, Faversham, Kent, and Cairo, Egypt, and Nora, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shore, of The Old Mill House, Farnham, Surrey.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at 3.30 on FRIDAY, the 30th MAY (for business only), at the Offices of the Society, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.1.

The marriage of Captain L. H. Barford, I.A.R., and Mary Sheila, eldest daughter of the late H. P. Todd-Naylor, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., and Mrs. H. P. Todd-Naylor, of Walton Court, Cheltenham, will take place at Christ Church, Westminster, on June 12, at two o'clock.

The engagement is announced between Captain R. C. Lyons, M.C., Royal Field Artillery, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Lyons, late of Kilmore, Tunbridge Wells, and Francis, elder daughter of Colonel A. L. Lindesay, Indian Army, and Mrs. Lindesay, West View House, St Andrews.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant Raymond George Francis Herault de Caen, D.S.C., Royal Navy, only son of the late John Herault de Caen, Pewessalawa, Ceylon and Gladys, only daughter of the late Charles Hussey Panton Vivian.

The engagement is announced between Godfrey T. B. Harvey, of Calcutta, late of the Guides, Cavalry, Indian Army, eldest son of the Rev. Frank and Mrs. Harvey, of Whitchurch, Hants, and Hilare, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George E. J. H. Barlow, of River Lodge, Bourne End, Bucks.

The marriage was celebrated on April 2, at the Cathedral, Lahore, by the Rev. H. S. Stephenson, between Major C. J. R. Turner, 15th Sikhs, elder son of the Rev. W. H. Turner, Hazelwood Vicarage, Derby, and Stella, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Muir Masson, Caversham, Lahore.

The wedding of Brevet-Major E. R. P. Berryman, D.S.O., 39th Garhwal Rifles, third son of the late Rev. C. P. Berryman and Mrs. Berryman, Delaford, Guildford, and Nell, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fielding, Broadsground, Opton St. Leonards, will take place at Opton St. Leonards on June 10.

The council of the British Academy have awarded the Cromer Greek Prize, founded in the academy by the late Lord Cromer, to Mr. J. F. Mountford, M.A. (Birmingham), Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for an essay on "Greek Music and Its Relation to Modern Times."

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between the Rev. I. Lloyd-Jones, of St. Stephen's, South Kensington, only son of the late Rev. D. Lloyd-Jones, vicar of Amlwch, Anglesea, and Margaret Campbell Broadfoot, only daughter of the late Ramsay Douglas Broadfoot, barrister-at-law, of the Indian Civil Service.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Reginald F. Atkins, 67th Punjabis, third son of the late Colonel Robert Atkins, 15th Bengal Lancers, and Mrs. Atkins, 10, Florence Road, Southsea, and Flora Jean Evans, youngest daughter of Stephen W. Evans, J.P., and Mrs. Evans, of March Hill, Bagshot.

The marriage was celebrated on May 10, at Beeston Regis Church, between Capt. R. E. Marriott, I.A.R.O., of the Indian Public Works Department, U.P., second son of Mr. W. Marriott, M.Inst.C.E., and Mrs. Marriott, "Kylemore," Sheringham, and Valérie Maria (Sister Valérie), eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoch, of Bâle, Switzerland.

Among wills recently proved are those of Major-General Jas. Lawtie Fagan, of Porchester Terrace, W., late of the Indian Army, who left £5,163; Colonel Robert Henry Jennings, C.S.I., R.E., 4, Roland Gardens, South Kensington, S.W., who left £8,839; and Major Charles Francis Blackett, late Rifle Brigade, an Indian Mutiny veteran, who left £22,862.

Professor Vacher Burch read a paper on "The Name of the Mother of Zeus in the 'Minoan' Script" on May 15 in the Latin Theatre of Birmingham University. He claimed to have deciphered the script, which has hitherto been a mystery, and showed that her name was the same in root as De or De-meter and Zeus himself. His evidence is to be published shortly.

The engagement is announced of Wilfred F. H. Watson, Egyptian State Railways, of Ballingarrane, Clonmel, County Tipperary, eldest son of the late Lieut.-Colonel S. Watson, Royal Artillery, and the Hon. Mrs. Watson, and Evelyn Irene Hamilton, only child of the late Arthur J. H. Wills and Mrs. Macculloch, and niece of Brigadier-General and Mrs. Curteis, of 9, Southwell Gardens, S.W.

At the Greek Church of St. Sophia, in Moscow Road, Bayswater, after the Liturgy of St. Chrysostom, on May 17, a *Te Deum* was sung to commemorate the taking over of Smyrna by Greece. Dr. Pagon's, the Great Archimandrite, officiated. Among the congregation were the Greek Minister, with the *personnel* of the Legation, M. Gennadius, hon. Greek Minister, and Lady Gennadius.

The marriage was celebrated on May 17, at the Pro-Cathedral, Kensington, by Father Bernard Vaughan, assisted by Father Nicholson, between Lieutenant Philip Tudor Owen, late the Buffs, only son of the late Dr. S. Holgate Owen, of Manchester, and of Mrs. Holgate Owen, of 33, Addison Mansions, Kensington, and Rita Ethel Mary, youngest daughter of the late Major-General H. Warrington, Madras Infantry.

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The King has awarded a Knight Commandership of the Bath to Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel (T./Major-General) Alfred William Fortescue Knox, C.B., Indian Army, in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him in Eastern Russia.

The engagement is announced between Montague C. Kelway Bamber, only son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Kelway Bamber, of Ceylon, and Beatrice Kemble, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Twiss, formerly of 5, Bullingham Mansions, Kensington.

The engagement is announced of Major L. A. Howes, D.S.O., M.C., R.A., son of Charles Anley Howes and Mrs. Howes, of Bombay, India, and Gwendolen Mary, only daughter of D. Herbert Grimsdale, J.P., and Mrs. Grimsdale, of The Shrubbery, Uxbridge.

The engagement is announced between Harold Alfred MacMichael, D.S.O., of the Sudan Civil Service, eldest son of the late Rev. Charles MacMichael and of the Hon. Mrs. MacMichael, and Nesta, elder daughter of Canon and Mrs. Stephens, 104, Belgrave Road, S.W.

At the annual meeting of the London branch of the Women's Friendly Society in Calcutta, at Lady Stanley's house in Gledhow Gardens, Lady Chelmsford was present and expressed great sympathy with the work of the society. The Rev. Herbert Anderson, the hon. secretary, spoke on the various phases of the work and the necessity of support and encouragement from home. Sir John Stanley and Mrs. Pugh also spoke, and the meeting was followed by a sale of the work done by the girls and women in the homes.

The garden party of the Indian Civil Service Dinner Club will take place at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Regent's Park, at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11. Tickets, for themselves and their guests, will be supplied to any Indian civilian, or to the wives or families of Indian civilians, price 5s. each, on application to the hon. sec., Austin Low, Esq., C.I.E., care of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., 54, Parliament Street, S.W. Owing to there being so few civilians home on leave, the annual dinner will not be held this year.

The annual dinner of the Punjab Frontier Force Dinner Club will be held at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, on Wednesday, June 11.

The annual dinner of the Hyderabad Contingent Dinner Club will take place at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, on Thursday, June 12.

OBITUARY.

Professor R. P. Karkaria, of St. Xavier's College, Bombay, died on May 13.

Mr. Charles Ceccarelli Morgan, British Consul at Rome, died on May 12 at Taranto.

The death occurred on April 14 at Blair Athol, Coona, India, of Norman Roswell, aged 64.

The death occurred on May 13, at Bognor, of Houghton Baldwin, late of Calcutta, in his 66th year.

The death occurred on May 16, at Bude, of Gavan Andrew Gilchrist, of Constantinople, in his 73rd year.

The death occurred on May 16, at Southsea, of Major-General Charles Lewis Prendergast, Indian Army, retired, Colonel 28th Punjabis, aged seventy-five.

Surgeon-General P. M. Ellis died suddenly at his residence at Benlleck, near Pwllheli, on May 16, at the age of 65. He retired from the Indian Medical Service six years ago. General Ellis took part in the Burmese Expedition in 1886-7, for which he had the medal with clasp.

Major-General John Beresford Beresford, late of the Bengal Staff Corps, died at Portrush on May 16 in his 92nd year. He entered the East India Company's service in 1845, and was posted to the 29th Regiment Bengal Infantry. During the Indian Mutiny he served on the Punjab frontier, and for two years he was British Resident in Kashmir.

Colonel G. H. Brook Coats, C.B., has died at Brighton. Son of the late Colonel John Wilson Coats, M.S.C., he was born in 1852 and served in the Afghan war of 1878-80, taking part in the famous march from Kabul to Kandahar and the battle of Kandahar. He was also present at the relief of Chitral in 1895 and the storming of the Malakand Pass. Later, while serving with the Tochi expedition, he was mentioned in dispatches. From 1886 to 1891 he was district staff officer and D.A.A.G., Bengal.

Two more bands of Bulgarian *komitadjis*, armed with army rifles, are reported to be active in the Strumnitza district.

Officers of the Indian Medical Service holding the temporary ranks and appointments in the field as D's.M.S., with the acting rank of surgeon-general, or D.D's.M.S., with the acting rank of colonel, are now to be permitted to count service therein towards the additional pensions for which surgeon-generals and colonels respectively are eligible after certain periods of active employment in permanent appointments. Such services need not be continuous.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

An appropriation of £600,000 for the relief of Armenia and Syria has been placed in the hands of the distribution committee at a meeting in New York of the American Relief Committee.

The Belgrade *Pravda* of April 26 announces that an English mission, under the direction of Miss Wilson, has founded in Belgrade a kindergarten for the children, which is to be managed on the English system of education.

To the Inter-Allied games which are to take place at Paris from June 22 to July 6, the Kingdom of Hedjaz is sending Arabian thoroughbreds for the horse-riding contests. Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia, and Yugoslavia are also sending contestants.

On May 14 His Majesty inspected a party of Indian officers and non-commissioned officers belonging to the Royal Field Artillery Base at Rouen, under the command of Captain H. C. Clogstoun, Indian Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France.

The Serbian Relief Fund desires to express its appreciation of British Red Cross help. During the past year the British Red Cross Society, through its representative at Salonika, has given £11,410 in material to the fund, hospitals, and dispensaries in Serbia.

Reuter's Madrid correspondent states that on May 15 the police forces and loyal troops occupied the Laasieltuya position of the Benisaid Kabile, the right flank of which and the front facing Tafersit were already occupied. This completes the encirclement of the Kabile. The enemy lost five killed.

The production of the new Abyssinian postage stamp is, after a delay of nearly two years, due this month. In May, 1917, after the coronation of the Empress Zeonditou, an order was placed in France, but owing to paper shortage could not be executed. Eventually the work was undertaken by a Swiss printing house in Berne, but further delay was caused through the original designs furnished by the Ethiopian Government proving unsuitable for reproduction. Fresh drawings were therefore made, and by December, 1918, the plates had been prepared, and last March the first consignment was dispatched to Addis Abeba. There are eleven pictorial designs in the series, eight of which are illustrative of big game—antelopes, giraffes, leopards, lions, buffalo, rhinoceros, and ostriches. The likeness of the Empress appears on the three highest values, while that of the heir-apparent, Ras Tafari, is seen on the 1, 2, and 4 guersch stamps.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1919.

THE DESTINY OF AUSTRIA.

Even more important to the Near East than the terms which the Allied Powers have imposed on Germany are the terms which the statesmen in Paris are now engaged on for settling the future of Austria; for while German ambition in the outer world was the ultimate cause of the war, it was obviously Austrian ambitions in the Near East which were its immediate cause. At one time, it is true, public opinion in this country, and to a less extent in France, was naturally less concerned with the past, and therefore more tender regarding the future of Austria, which was regarded as more of a formal than an actual enemy; and the fact that Austrian rule was admittedly less harsh than that of Germany was for long advanced as a reason for pursuing a less drastic course with Vienna than Berlin. It was not seen that Austrian rule was less harsh because it was less efficient, and that as Vienna came to lean more heavily on the support of Berlin the case for clemency, such as it was, grew steadily less. But even early in 1918 some at least of our statesmen were still ready to speak of an autonomous Austrian Empire run on apparently much the same lines as before 1914 as a possibility for the future; and it was not until much later in the year of victory that the full conviction became general that the Austrian Empire as it had been understood for the last few centuries must in fact cease to exist. In every forecast of the terms of peace that conviction has been manifest, but it has been manifest, we must frankly admit, not merely because such is recognised to be the necessary fate of Austria, but because Austria has itself fallen to pieces of its own weight. It has been destroyed from within at least as much as from without; and it is therefore hopeless for Conservative politicians of the old type to attempt to restore it.

Austria, said Bismarck in a well-known epigram, "is a house of bad Slav bricks held together by good German mortar." The mortar, whether good or bad, has fallen out, but the walls of the house which has collapsed are being successfully used to form national States after the new model. The theory of the Austrian Empire, as an Imperial State of diverse races ruled for the common good by one common Crown and Parliament, was in truth admirable, but the practice was in fact abominable, for the policy of the Habsburgs was purely selfish, and the methods of the Parliament alternated between occasional suspension by an autocratic Ministry and the quarrels of a beargarden by the rival deputies. The whole system was noxious and unnatural to a degree, and only the political antiquary and the few ruling families that lived by exploiting the Crown and the country in Vienna need regret its extinction. The path before the new nations that have taken the place of the old Empire will not be easy, but at least it will run on more natural lines than the mediæval methods which survived so long revolutions, defeats, and even universal suffrage in the nineteenth century, and which only collapsed with the utter exhaustion of the whole country last autumn. The revolt of the Yugoslavs and Czechs, the defection of the Poles, and the selfish policy of Hungary, in fact, anticipated and underwrote the decisions of the Peace Conference. Whatever theoretical conclusions had been come to before by the statesmen now in Paris had to be studied afresh in the light of these fundamental facts, which reduced Austria as the geographers had known it to two or three insignificant German provinces and an Imperial city without an Empire or an Emperor.

The future of Vienna would be a matter of interest for Vienna rather than the world at large were it not that the city, with its long traditions of government and the admitted distinction of tone which has hidden from many the barbarity of its policy, may yet dispute the future headship of the German people with Berlin, which was merely vulgar with the Hohenzollerns, and is merely impotent without them. In that event, and in view of the obvious German revolt against Prussia and the tendency of the political centre to swing again to the south, at least towards Bavaria, we may look for a repercussion on Eastern and Near Eastern polity generally. Three new States in any event will be set up out of the ruins of Austria and Germany—Poland, Yugoslavia, and Bohemia. These three, if they were to cohere together in a new triple alliance, could successfully oppose the curious combination of Prussian bullying and Austrian intrigue which so successfully domineered over Central and Eastern Europe before the war, and which may again attempt to seek some profit from the smouldering ruins of ambition when the dust of the recent conflict has begun to disappear. Disunion between the three new States, and any attempt to pursue those old sectional quarrels and jealousies which have been somewhat too evident in the past, here as in the Balkans, would naturally tempt the defeated Powers to revive the methods which were intended to conquer the world, and which, on a smaller and less conspicuous stage, would at least stand some chance of disturbing small and new States whose people are exhausted by the war, and who cannot in any event have many resources behind them at the start of their career. For the next generation at least the most urgent necessity of the States which will take the place of the Austrian Empire must be peaceful economic progress, and it is probably true to say that the less they have to do with politics and the more they give their energies to commerce the better will it be for their political future and their economic stability. The same is true undoubtedly of all the Balkan States, who will be neighbours and we hope intimate associates of the national States which are taking the place of the Austrian Empire. The disappearance of that unwieldy and unprogressive dominion was a necessity of the new Europe; it has given the opportunity of liberty to peoples whom it had too long oppressed, and it has at length removed an intolerable menace from the Balkans and the Levant. The conception of the Berlin-Byzantium-Baghdad Railway, which a year ago lay athwart the free development of the whole Near East, has finally vanished with the collapse of Prussia; the downfall of Vienna will be the means of opening fresh commercial routes and developing the great economic potentialities of the Balkans on sounder lines than would have been possible before the war. But it is for the people concerned to use their opportunities sanely; nor will they look in vain for sympathy and encouragement from the peoples of England and France in the difficulties which undoubtedly await them, as well as in the opportunities which now furnish so rich a promise for their future.

Miss E. J. Robinson, hon. secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, has received the following cable:—"Condition refugees Erivan, Alexandropol districts too awful to describe; 1,500 dying daily starvation, disease. More than 10,000 orphans want care, food, clothing. Large quantity flour, foodstuffs, medical, clothing urgently needed. Cable funds, Khatissian, Prime Minister, British Force, Constantinople."

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THE INDIAN FRANCHISE.

THE POLITICAL CENTRE OF GRAVITY.

India is to have a new Constitution, under which certain limited powers will be assigned to elected representatives. Lord Southborough's Committee has now prepared schemes for the election of these representatives in each of the more important provinces, and we turn to the Report to ascertain the location of the political centre of gravity; if these schemes are adopted, what class or classes of the people will control the exercise of the powers which are to be transferred?

Past and Present.

Everyone knows that in India as a whole, and in most if not all the separate provinces, the peasant cultivators form a majority of the entire population, and consequently in a pure democracy they would be entitled to control an absolute majority of votes in each legislative assembly; for the moment these majorities would probably be homogeneous, so that, if democracy were introduced to-day, the peasants would be masters of the country, and would retain that position until the inevitable formation of parties should give the minorities a chance of turning the scale. Everyone also knows, or should know, that within the historical period the peasants have had no political power whatever. Before British rule the centre of gravity shifted between individual despots and the bureaucratic oligarchy which they employed; the peasants could assert themselves only by rebellion, and, so long as they submitted, the despots or the oligarchs could do what they liked. Our rule has been not less despotic in form, but has been characterised by a different spirit. During the nineteenth century the interests of the peasants usually came first; though they had no power, they had much influence, which was exercised through the local officers, on whom the governments relied for advice, and in this way a very real, though informal, change in the centre of gravity took place. The enlarged Legislative Councils formed under the Morley-Minto scheme, and still in existence, marked a reaction from this advance, because so much increased influence was given to the privileged classes that the peasants' voices could scarcely be heard; Governments have had to ask not what the peasant needed, but what an unrepresentative Council thought, and we have of late been on the high road to oligarchy, a fact of which the privileged classes have been perfectly aware.

The Distribution of Seats.

A few figures will make the present position clear. Leaving Assam out of account, we find that in the seven large provinces the Councils now include 130 elected members: forty-six of these represent special interests (landholders, universities, commerce, industry, and the like), while eighty-four are supposed to represent the general population, but mainly under a system of indirect election which makes representation a farce. These eighty-four members, again, are about equally divided between the town and the country; the rural population is about nine-tenths of the whole, so we may say that, while in a pure democracy 117 members out of 130 would speak for the country, at present not more than forty-five do so in theory, and not more than half-a-dozen in practice. The position will be very different if the Southborough proposals are accepted; in the same provinces there will then be 562 elected members, of whom ninety-two will represent special interests, eighty-five will come from the large towns, and 385 (or 69 per cent. of the whole) from rural constituencies under a system of direct election. Rural members will have an absolute majority over all others (including officials and nominations) in the Councils of every province except Bengal, and there can be no doubt that while they hold together, and so long as they correctly interpret the wishes of their constituents, the rural electors will be in a position to do nearly as they like within the limited sphere provided at the outset by the new Constitution. The proposals thus involve a definite shifting of the centre of gravity in the direction which democratic theory indicates; their practical working will depend partly on the franchise and partly on the capacities of the men who are to exercise it.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The Franchise.

Who, then, are to be the electors in rural constituencies? Only a few general statements can be made on this point. Women must wait, and, in the country at least, they will not mind; there is to be no literacy test, but military service will very properly qualify. Beyond this point we get into details, because conditions differ from province to province, and the proposals can best be explained by examining the case of one unit as a sample. For this purpose we take the United Provinces, the most populous administration in India. Here the rural electors will consist of (*a*) some small classes, such as income-tax payers, military pensioners, and tenants with special rights; (*b*) all but the very smallest landholders; and (*c*) the aristocracy of the ordinary cultivators, those paying rent of at least Rs. 50. The ordinary rural constituency will consist essentially of the mass of landholders and the larger tenants, diluted, but not swamped, by the householders of the smaller towns; it is estimated that 6 per cent. of the male population will have votes, but most of the voters will have interests substantially identical with those of the bulk of the smaller tenants, so that the constituencies may be regarded as predominantly peasant. Landless labourers and servants will have no votes; they, like the women, must wait. No attempt is made to secure that the values of votes shall be equal; this ideal is indeed rendered impossible by the wise acceptance of the compromise on the religious question reached by the politicians in 1916, and we find that, while in Moslem constituencies a rural member will on the average represent only 7,500 electors, elsewhere the number will be about 25,000. In the non-Moslem constituencies, again, variations in economic conditions produce some startling results; in the Eastern districts, where holdings are very small, only from 2 to 3 per cent. of the males will have votes, while in the West the percentage rises to 10 or 12, and in one exceptional district one male out of every five will be enfranchised at the outset, a very big step in the direction of democracy. We do not complain of such inequalities as these; we are only at the beginning, and, so far as we can judge, the distribution of votes, while it is unequal, follows roughly the distribution of potential political capacity. The scheme for this province is a bold experiment on a great scale. Should it fail it will give invaluable data for a fresh start, while if, as we hope, it is successful, it can be developed readily on the original lines until the masses of the people become masters of their own destinies.

The schemes for Bombay and Bengal provide for the enfranchisement of about the same proportion of males as that which we have just examined; elsewhere the proportion is substantially smaller, ranging from 3½ per cent. in Bihar to little over 1 per cent. in the Punjab. The general basis of the franchise is the same in each case, but the qualifications differ according to the circumstances of each province, and the precise figures adopted appear to have been chosen, as a rule, by the local government immediately concerned. We are not at present disposed to criticise them in detail. The extent of the opportunity varies, but in each case we are justified in saying that, for the first time in history, an opportunity will be offered to the predominant elements of the population to choose members who shall be able to speak for them with authority and give effect to their united wishes.

The Electors.

What use will the peasants make of this opportunity? Data for a detailed forecast do not exist, and for the present pessimists and optimists have equal scope. We may, however, recall the fact that, while Indian peasants are slow to learn, they are not fools; they will probably make many mistakes at the outset, and the experiment

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must not be judged on the results of the first elections, but rather on the progress made as time goes on. The best thing that could happen would be that the second election should be fought on some simple outstanding issue—compulsory education, rural sanitation, or, best of all, a tax falling directly and obviously on the peasants; in that case we should expect to see the downfall of many shams, windbags, and axe-grinders, and the appearance in politics of a class who exist but are as yet in the background, the sane and moderate men who are in a position to voice the peasants' interests and to press their claims. That would mean a very different India, but, in any case, it is still some distance off.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

London and Baghdad.

In the *Contemporary Review* for May Mr. J. E. G. de Montmorency has written round an exceedingly beautiful idea, and has called his article "The Magic Bowl of Baghdad." He commences by showing that the Baghdadi sees in London much that is invisible to the Cockney's eyes, and similarly the Londoner as a stranger to Baghdad has a grasp over the city impossible to its permanent inhabitants.

Baghdad sees many strange foreigners wandering in its bazaars. Fugitives from Armenistan, from Ispahan, from wherever the Christians of the Middle East are slaughtered, Jews from Aleppo, Smyrna, Antioch, Turks from the Bosphorus, Russians, Persians, Kurds, mingle with the dwellers of Mesopotamia, and not least strange are the men from Ultima Thule, from Britain. It is a place of wandering wondering strangers who gather here as they gathered in Babylon, in the land of dreams and shadowy shapes, of magical enchantment, the land between the brimming rivers where Haroun al Rashid wandered in the moonlit nights of breathless wonderment. But perhaps even Baghdad, in its hushed, teeming twilights, sees not so many strange men as London; and the Thames is not less mysterious than the Tigris. For the Thames the Channel is the Euphrates, and she flows down from London Bridge, with her mystic cargoes of human souls as hungry for the Channel tides as ever the Tigris is for the slow throb of the Euphrates across the Mesopotamian marsh, the vast land of floods and fruitfulness. London, the Baghdad, the Babylon, of the West, hungers, too, for the sound of many waters, and hides in her bosom mysterious strangers, who come and go with tidings of strange things. . . . To those who look for wonderful creatures, many are vouchsafed in London—Chinamen, magnificently robed, with pigtail hanging even to the heels, may be seen in the open daylight of Chancery Lane. Turbanned men, negroes, American Indians, lords of the yellow races, may be seen in strange attire.

The New Arabian State.

In the *Correspondance d'Orient* of April 30, Dr. Georges Samné has written a well-reasoned article upon "Le Califat Arabo-Syrien," in which he points out that King Hussein is truly a national sovereign:—

Hussein is not only an ardent Mohammedan; he is an experienced man, capable of deep thought. He guards against falling into an excess of that more or less mystic ambition which for so long urged on the sultans of Constantinople to cherish the dream of a chimerical and dangerous Pan-Islamism. He knows how poor a claimant he would be to the universal Caliphate, and wisely limits this Caliphate to the Arabs and Syrians. In this his moral authority and prestige are in no danger of being contested. For Arabia Hussein is truly a national sovereign; he acts only with his people, whose affection and respect he possesses. What other sentiments could the Syrians have towards this whole-hearted man who has toiled so well for their deliverance The whole history of the Syrian people shows us that this country remember sand never forgets services done for them. Just as their attachment to France is unshakable, so will they always be devoted to the generous ruler who so resolutely espoused their cause, even in the darkest hours.

Hussein, says Dr. Samné, was more fitted than anyone else to become the spiritual chief of the Mohammedan Syrians; and he was assisted in gaining this position by "the two great Powers destined henceforth to play the most important part in the East, France and England." And this mutual assistance will not cease.

The maintenance of all the alliances, thanks to which civilisation has been saved, must be the corner-stone of future peace. Just as the solidarity of the barrier of the Rhine depends on a union of France, England, and Belgium; just as the barrier of Eastern Europe depends on the union of Poland and Roumania in close collaboration with the great Western Powers; just as the alliance of France and Italy is the condition of peace in the Mediterranean, so the peace of Asia can be founded only on the faithful and disinterested union of France and Britain with the Arabs and Syrians. It is good to see in the Caliphate of Hussein a token of the solidity and permanence of this union

Turkey.

To the *Observer* of May 18 Sir Theodore Morison contributed a very interesting article, entitled "The Future of Islam," in which he dwelt on the fears of the Mohammedan world regarding the fate of Turkey, and shows that those fears are not merely selfish.

How can I make intelligible the devotion which Mohammedans feel for Islam? It is not patriotism in the ordinary sense of the word, for it is not associated with one particular country or race, nor is it bigotry or religious fanaticism, for some of the most zealous defenders of Islam at the present day hardly believe in its creed at all. The young Moslems in India, Turkey, and Egypt are either sceptics or they hold unorthodox opinions which would scandalise the divines of Al Azhar or Deoband; even among old-fashioned Moslems who are untouched by European ideas there is, and has always been, a good deal of free thought. I know in India a Mohammedan scholar who was notoriously an atheist, but he was a vigorous champion of Islam, and was for that reason accepted even in orthodox circles as a good Moslem. The explanation of this apparent anomaly is, I believe, that Islam is more than a creed—it is a civilisation; it is a social group with a philosophy, a culture and an art of its own; it is conscious of its separate existence, proud of its past, and confident of its capacity to develop in the future. For this social group Mohammedans feel an intense affection, which, if not patriotism, has many of the characteristics of patriotism.

INDIAN ARMY RETIREMENTS.

In the *Gazette* of May 16 it was announced that, the suspension of retirements during the war having been withdrawn, the King has approved the retirement of the following officers of the Indian Army, with effect from April 12, 1919: General Sir J. E. Nixon, General Sir J. B. Woon, General Sir R. I. Scallon, General Sir M. H. S. Grover, General Sir H. B. B. Watkis, Major-General Sir C. H. Powell, Major-General E. C. W. Mackenzie-Kennedy, C.B., Major-General A. Wallace, Major-General Sir J. A. Bell, Major-General K. S. Davison, Major-General P. M. Carnegy, Major-General C. P. W. Pirie, Major-General W. A. Watson, Major-General C. I. Fry, Major-General M. Cowper, Major-General F. W. G. Wadeson, and Major-General W. G. Walker, V.C.

THE JEWISH LEGION.

The Zionist Organisation has issued the following:—

Lieut. V. Jabotinsky has made the following statement respecting the "Judeans" now stationed in Palestine:—

"The Jewish Legions are a part of the British Army, and will stay in Palestine if Britain will maintain an army in that country. At any rate, until the Peace Conference has determined the international status of Palestine it is impossible to commit oneself on the future of our Legions. Of course, we all hope that our country will come under the trusteeship of England; then we shall have here a still greater Jewish Legion with its own name (the Jewish Legion is now a part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces), insignia, and language.

"Every Jewish volunteer must realise that the Jewish Legion in Palestine has at the present moment even a more important mission than it had before. For their own sake and for the sake of our ideal, these men ought to stay in the army until the general demobilisation. The Government is in full agreement with this attitude, so far as we know. What is more urgent in this transition period is: Good military behaviour, exemplary discipline, boundless patience, and ideal tact."

The Zionist Commission is making an inquiry with a view to ascertaining the number of "Judeans" who desire to settle in Palestine and the nature of their qualifications. It is stated that a knowledge of Hebrew will be requisite for most of the positions which the commission may have to fill.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Trade conditions in Greece are discussed in an important dispatch which appears on page 484, to which I would draw the attention of British exporters. While the present position is complicated, it is pointed out, by large imports of certain products from Spain which importers are desirous of disposing of elsewhere in order to obtain better goods from Great Britain and other countries, calling for discrimination on the part of exporters for the time being, the present range of requirements is, nevertheless, wide, and "on all hands," says our correspondent, "one is met with the same appeal: Cannot British manufacturers be urged to interest themselves practically in this market before the control of it has passed entirely or largely into other hands?" With an opportunity such as is presented in Greece before them, it is unthinkable that the business community here should be backward; but I would venture to impress upon them that time is not on their side, and that the market must be entered now.

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While the war lasted there was every excuse for the absence of optimism on the part of Allied holders of Turkish bonds, but Sir Adam Block's report shows that the position is much better than might have been expected. The amount of the uncashed coupons of bondholders is £5,500,000, and funds to meet this total exist, only they are in Turkish paper piastres or German paper marks, and the present state of the exchange makes it impossible to remit these funds. The exchange question cannot improve until Turkey is in a position to export her produce freely, since only by that means can she create the necessary credits abroad. Some of the restrictions on trade have been removed, but so long as any remain the position is bound to continue to be difficult.

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The great opening for British goods in Egypt is the subject of interesting comment in the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce there. It is pointed out that the country has always been regarded as a promising market by Manchester exporters, and that during the war it has lived well up to that reputation, cotton fabrics being one of the few classes of goods, apart from materials needed in the prosecution of the war, which have not shown a decline both as regards value and quantity of imports since 1913. As regards the future, however, emphasis is laid on the point that British merchants should henceforward regard the market as more than an outlet for textiles, and in this connection the *Journal* states that Egypt affords as good an opening as can be found anywhere for developing business in substitutes for the merchandise previously supplied by Germany and Austria.

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The scope in this direction has been dealt with at length in these columns, and I refer to the subject now merely in order to keep before the business community here an extremely promising opening for the extension of British trade in the Near East. It goes without saying that the claims of the Egyptian market must receive adequate attention at the hands of British merchants and manufacturers. So far other countries have made no progress worth mentioning in filling the places of Germany and Austria, and there is no reason in the world why most of the trade in question should not be secured by this country. But if this is to be done there must be no delay in entering the market.

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I shall only briefly touch on some outstanding points in the report of the Indian Cotton Committee, a summary of which will be found elsewhere in this issue, as it will in due course be the subject of detailed criticism. As regards the all-important question of the extension of the cultivation of long-staple cotton in India, the broad conclusion of the committee is that India cannot for at least ten years grow cotton in any large commercial quantity of a staple longer than 1 1-16 in., but that India can, however, render very material assistance to Lancashire in hosiery yarns. The "Northerns" and Karuganni cottons of Madras, the Broach and Kumpta cottons of Bombay, and the Gaorani cotton of Hyderabad, it is pointed out, if picked in a clean condition, carefully ginned and pressed, and shipped in a pure state, would provide a yarn suitable for the hosiery trade.

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The most important of the recommendations of the committee is the proposal that a central cotton committee should be established, with its headquarters at Bombay, its main function being to act as an advisory body to the Government and the trade on all matters connected with cotton. Adulteration and other practices which have adversely affected the reputation of Indian cotton cannot be securely prevented, in the committee's opinion, without a system of licensing ginning and pressing factories, coupled with the preliminary step of the assignment to all factories of distinctive numbers and marks. Finally, the problem of securing an adequate price to the cultivator, who is at present handicapped by the number of persons who handle his products, is met with the proposal that the system of cotton markets already existing in the Central Provinces and Berar should be extended to other parts of India. It is further recommended that cotton prices should be published in up-country markets, and that efforts should be made to increase the numbers and expand the activities of co-operative sale societies.

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Cable delays have again given rise to complaints on the part of the business community. Following the recent representations to the authorities, to which I have referred, and in which Manchester took a leading part, a marked improvement took place, but it was, apparently, only temporary, and last week traders were again complaining of delays, it being stated that in some cases it was taking about 20 days to get a reply to telegrams to India, and that there were also heavy delays in regard to messages to the Near East. The President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has sent a further letter on the subject to the Board of Trade, pointing out the adverse effect on trade development "owing to the really hopeless position of the cable services between this country and both the Near and Far East." He urges that permission to use codes should be granted, and asks whether Government messages are not taking a somewhat undue share of the available services.

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India and Ceylon plantation companies will be somewhat seriously affected in the event of the new rate for rupee exchange continuing for some time, which seems not improbable. These companies while receiving sterling for their produce have to buy rupees in order to establish the necessary credits on the other side for working expenses, and an addition of 2d. the rupee will mean a considerable increase in their costs.

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The strike of Suez Canal employees, which broke out last week, is, it appears, entirely an economic movement. Negotiations had been taking place between the company and the employees, some of whose demands were to have been granted. Despite the sympathetic treatment of their claims by the company, however, the employees adopted the attitude that all their claims must be met. The company refused to agree to this, and a strike was thereupon threatened for May 15. Two days earlier the employees at Port Said stopped work, and their action was followed by further developments. Coming at a time when it is essential that shipping movements should be unhampered, the strike is particularly unfortunate, for, in view of the general nature of the strike, it is obvious that its continuance cannot fail to have a serious effect on transit movements.

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Some particulars of the trade of Mesopotamia for 1917 through Busreh are given in a recent American Consular report, the most interesting feature of which to me is the wide range of imports which include such commodities as candles, clocks and watches, jewellery, liquors, matches, paints and painters' materials, soap, spices, umbrellas, oilcloth, and mats and mattings. The Mesopotamian market is one which deserves, and must receive, special attention at the hands of British traders, for with the development of the country the openings for trade there will be immensely increased.

COMMENTATOR.

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TRADE CONDITIONS IN GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Athens, May 1.

The Congestion in the Piræus.

It is hardly necessary to explain to the newcomer on arrival at the Piræus that the port is suffering from congestion. The Customs sheds have overflowed right round the harbour; mountains of goods are piled up on the quays and in adjacent squares in the enclosures formed by barbed-wire fencing; tarpaulins do their best to afford protection, but here and there are obliged to give up the attempt, and all concerned have reason to congratulate themselves on the Greek climate.

The reasons for such a state of affairs are not far to seek. Greek merchants appear to have overlooked the fact that the war might one day come to an end. It is only fair to them, however, to remember that they had passed through the particularly uncomfortable period of the blockade, and when things were righting themselves very slowly they jumped at the chance of obtaining all—possibly more than—they wanted from Spain. Orders were given in 1918 as if the war were going to last indefinitely, and prices remain of no consideration to the purchaser. The armistice came, and close upon its heels the goods from Spain, together with the immediate prospect of better stuff from the Allies. The Greeks like good things when they can get them. The Spanish goods could not hope to compete with the more popular makes or products of Great Britain, France, and the United States. Merchants, sighting an opportunity of getting rid of their Spanish purchases in Turkey, Roumania, and elsewhere, refused to sell at a loss, preferring to leave their goods at the Piræus until trade with these countries could be resumed.

In the meantime more and more ships arrived with cargoes at the Piræus. Labour difficulties caused delay in the unloading, and congestion increased; goods got left in lighters, with a tendency for those most urgently required to be at the bottom; others went astray more actively, providing a convenient explanation for failure to discover those that were merely misplaced.

It is a long road, however, that has no turning, and there is no reason to suppose that the Piræus will not ultimately prove able to overcome its present difficulties. Some relief has been found with the opening up to trade of Turkey, Roumania, etc., and it would, no doubt, be greater if the problem of exchange and return cargoes could be solved. But the fact remains that Athens—or, rather, Greece—has outgrown the existing harbour accommodation at the Piræus, and until this has been enlarged the rapid handling of goods at the port must be handicapped.

An Expectant Market.

While the present state of things lasts there must needs be some discrimination in the type of goods sent to Greece. In some instances, indeed, very careful investigation may be required to prevent the repetition of the experience of one firm that sent a large consignment of a product very much in demand in Greece, overlooking the fact that the Greek Government had already on hand a supply sufficient for a very considerable length of time. But not much examination is necessary to show that Greece has many requirements waiting to be filled. Great Britain's trade rivals are alive to the fact, and are busy—sometimes too busy—securing orders. An inquiry for some important bridging material was sent to England. News of this reached an Allied agent on the spot, who at once offered the railway in question to supply to the same specifications in every particular at 15 per cent. lower than the price quoted in England, whatever that might prove to be when the quotation arrived.

On all hands one is met with the same appeal: Cannot British manufacturers be urged to interest themselves practically in this market before the control of it has passed entirely or largely into other hands. The enterprise of the Federation of British Industries is thoroughly appreciated; but, needless to say, it has had the effect of stimulating the business people of other countries to establish as firm a hold as possible before the exhibition opens next September. Americans especially must be given credit for their activities. They form a substantial proportion of the foreigners moving about in this part of the world, and if the Greek shopkeeper is to be believed, they must all, male and female, have constituted themselves trade commissioners for the benefit of American industries.

Petrol and Gas Engines.

A more detailed investigation of Greek requirements calls for a separate article. Here I should like to emphasise again a point that has been repeatedly urged in The Near East—the large demand for petrol and gas engines, both for marine and land purposes. Greece is developing her shipbuilding trade, and will need to purchase an increasing number of engines of all types, from the small auxiliary for fishing craft upwards.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated May 15:—

Weather conditions satisfactory. Recent rains have benefited spring crops and facilitated preparations for later crops.

Afghan disturbance at first caused slump share and Industrial Markets but firm measures successfully taken have revived confidence and better tone.

Bombay Fully Good Broach Rupees 512 Spot, 523 July and August. Piecegoods market little change. Calcutta Jute Market quieter, sowings completed, prospects good. Sackings quiet. Hessians easier. Rice maximum control price Rangoon increased from 335 to 385.

Cable delays and exchange position restricting business.

For all India new companies registered 1918-19 number 292 authorised, capital 2138 lakhs. (In 1917-18 and 1916-17 the corresponding figures were 278 covering 3058 lakhs and 184 covering 1726 lakhs. The capital Issues Act of March, 1918, checked the formation of public companies in 1918-19.

—Dated May 11:—

General beneficial rain obtains. Weather still feebly unsettled.

Total imports into India for year 1918-19, Rs.16,903 lakhs. Total exports Rs.25.585 lakhs. (Similar figures for 1917-18 were 15,042 and 24,256 respectively.)

Fully Good Broach 529 Rupees (last week 519). Piece Goods market more active both Manchester and local. Calcutta Jute market quiet but steady. Jat Fours 11 rupees 8 annas (last week 12 rupees). Rejections 6 rupees 8 annas (last week 6 rupees 8 annas). Jute sowings almost completed and prospects favourable. Sackings very firm. Hessians firm at advance.

AMERICAN SILVER FOR INDIA.

In reply to Mr. Rupert Gwynne, who asked how many United States treasury dollars sent to the Government of India, under the Pittman Act, had been delivered, Mr. Montagu says:—On May 1, 194,961,672 fine ounces of silver, representing approximately 252,000,000 melted dollars, had been delivered.

TRADE WITH PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

From Our Port Said Correspondent.
Port Said, May 1.

Trade with Palestine and Syria seems to be still hampered by regulations, though a ray of hope came a few weeks ago only to be later extinguished. On March 7 there was an official notice to the effect that "All military regulations governing trade between Egypt and these areas (O.E.T.A.) . . . . are hereby withdrawn." Then the next paragraph tells the trader where he is to apply for a licence to trade. To an ordinary man they seem mutually contradictory.

Later on in the same notice are the words "O.E.T.A. (South) Permits are not required for export of merchandise by sea to Jaffa and Haifa, nor for the despatch of goods by parcel post." Perhaps there is some occult difference between a permit that you don't want and a licence that you must have, but a clear explanation would be welcome.

Seeing this notice, a man took a parcel containing four small bottles of magnesia powder to the post office to send to a friend in Palestine. The official at the P.O. said that he must have a permit to send a parcel to Palestine, but suggested that the contents should be made into two parcels, when perhaps they could be sent by letter post. This was accordingly done, but the clerk at the letter department insisted on the parcels being opened, and then said that the powder would have to be emptied out of the bottles and put into boxes before he could accept them. The man thereupon did them up again and slipped them into the sample post box. They arrived safely a few days later. However, he wrote to the War Trade Department in Cairo, asking whether the P.O. official had the right to refuse the parcel in view of the official notice previously quoted. His letter was returned to him ten days later, stamped "Approved for export."

Of course, owing to the upset in Egypt the carriage of goods by rail is rather disorganised, but the regulations as to trucks seem to have been framed to make the charges prohibitive for the small trader who only has ten or fifteen cases to send at a time, for he must pay for a whole truck whetner he uses it or not. This, of course, leads to great waste of space. The sea carriage up to Palestine is equally unsatisfactory, as £7 10s. per ton is being charged for merchandise between Egypt and Beyrout. Delays are frequent, and merchants say that London is nearer than Jerusalem, as goods sometimes take eight weeks to reach the latter place from Egypt. There are plenty of small vessels being demobilised now, which could be run on the coast during the summer and relieve the commercial stagnation, till the regular lines trading up the Syrian coast, get into working order.

The immense amount of cargo, which was stored during the war in the French Government sheds in Port Said, has practically all gone now, and has no doubt materially assisted in getting French industry restarted.

TUNISIAN PROPERTY TAX.

A tax has been imposed in Tunis on the surplus value as compared with the pre-war value of any real property of which the ownership may in the future be conveyed by a French or Tunisian subject to a foreigner. This special tax, which came into force on March 1, is calculated on the following basis:—50 per cent. on the amount below 100,000 francs; 60 per cent. on the amount between 100,000 francs to 250,000 francs; 70 per cent. on the amount between 250,000 francs to 500,000 francs; 80 per cent. on the amount over 500,000 francs.

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INDIAN COTTON.

Committee's Recommendations.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1917 to investigate the question of the extension and improvement of cotton cultivation in India has now been published. The president of the Committee was Mr. J. Mackenna, I.C.S., Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, and the other members were Mr. F. Hodgkinson, member of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, who represented Lancashire interests; Mr. N. N. Wadia, representing the Bombay Millowners' Association; Mr. W. Roberts, Principal of the Lyallpur Agricultural College; Mr. G. S. Henderson, Officiating Imperial Agriculturist; Mr. H. F. Ashton, executive engineer, Punjab; and Mr. F. Noyce, secretary.

Stress is laid in the report on the necessity for treating the problem of cotton cultivation as an organic whole, and it is pointed out that it avails little if pure, or improved, strains of cotton are evolved, or if facilities are provided by the Irrigation Department for the extension of cultivation unless the product is marketed in a condition which enables it to secure its proper price, and unless the cotton trade pays that price for it. The Committee explains that it has acted throughout on the fundamental assumption that "there is a genuine demand for long-staple Indian cotton, and that the trade is willing to pay a sufficient premium for it, to make it worth the while of the cultivator to grow it, but that there have been various obstacles in the past which have prevented it from doing so. We have submitted proposals which will remove these obstacles and will enable long-staple cotton to compete with short-staple cotton on its merits. It will therefore rest with the cotton trade to convince the cultivator in the only way in which he can be convinced, that long-staple cotton pays him better than any other varieties. If it succeeds in doing so, as we trust it will, India will be able to make no mean contribution to the resources of the Empire."

Prospects of Help for Lancashire.

It is the view of the Committee that the only parts of India from which assistance to Lancashire can be expected in the near future are the districts in which cotton of an inch or slightly more in staple can be grown in large quantities—that is those parts of the Madras Presidency in which Cambodia and Karunganni cotton are grown, and the Punjab, where American cotton is making rapid headway. Egyptian and American cotton has been successfully grown in Sind in spite of many difficulties; it is considered that cotton of a quality even better than that grown in the Punjab, and up to 1¼ inch in staple, could be grown there with ease, provided that perennial irrigation were established by the construction of a barrage on the river Indus at Sukkar. In no other part of India is it possible to bring about so great an extension of cotton cultivation as in Sind. All that is required is water.

The conclusion arrived at is that India cannot for at least ten years grow cotton in any large commercial quantity of a staple longer than 1 1-16 in. Up to this length Madras might furnish half a million bales and the Punjab 200,000 bales, but these cottons will only be capable of spinning up to 34's twist and 44's weft in the Lancashire mills if the quality of the material and the production per spindle are taken into consideration. Lancashire has not derived as much assistance from India as she might have done in hosiery yarns, and in this direction it is suggested that she should be able to render very material assistance. The "Northerns" and Karungarni cottons of Madras, the Broach and kumpta cottons of Bombay, and the gaorani cotton of Hyderabad are of excellent colour and strong and regular in staple, the length of which is from six-eighths to one inch. If these cottons were picked in a clean condition, carefully ginned and pressed, and shipped in a pure state, they would spin an excellent, full, and even yarn suitable for the hosiery trade, especially if certain necessary alterations were made in the preparation machinery in Lancashire. At present this class of cotton is almost entirely exported to Japan and the Continent.

The Cultivators.

The securing of an adequate return to the cultivator presents one of the most difficult questions. Here the committee advocates the establishment of cotton markets such as exist in the Central Provinces and Berar. The advantages of the Berar system are that the cultivator is able to come into direct contact with the buyers and to sell his produce when and to whom he likes; and under it he is paid for the full weight of his cotton. It is recommended that markets should also promote clean picking and prevent the damping, mixing, and adulteration which are very prevalent in India. The establishment of more co-operative societies and the payment of land revenue assessment after the marketing of the crop, instead of before, are also recommended. For the prevention of malpractices such as damping, mixing, and adulteration the Committee recommends the licensing of all ginning and pressing factories and the provision of an identifying stamp for the bales of each factory.

Recommendations.

The Committee recommends the appointment of a Central Cotton Committee, with a Central Cotton Exchange under a royal charter in Bombay as a remedy for the present lack of co-ordination and co-operation in regard to matters concerning the crop. The Central Committee would consist of nine official and ten non-official members, including a representative of Lancashire, and would be a purely advisory body. Besides disseminating information the Committee should give advice on such subjects as general cotton policy, the safeguarding of existing areas of long-stapled cotton and their extension, necessary or desirable legislation, the publication of cotton forecasts and yields, valuations of new varieties of cotton, and the standardisation of weights. A further recommendation is the establishment of a central cotton trade association under a royal charter in Bombay, which would be to the trade in India what the Liverpool Cotton Association is to the cotton trade of Lancashire. This Association would establish a proper basis of classes of cotton for future contracts by fixing the number of grades which may be tendered under each, licence brokers and commission-houses, and establish a clearing-house for settlements at least weekly.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Prices in the market continue to advance and in all quarters more money has had to be paid for yarn and cloth than a week ago. The tone undoubtedly is very strong and bullish views prevail in all sections. It is difficult to obtain reliable information as to the prospects for the new Egyptian cotton crop. With a larger acreage, however, bigger supplies should be available next year, but, of course, the weather conditions later on will be very important. It is officially announced that it is not the intention of the Government to retain control after the end of July. Trading in futures in Liverpool, therefore, will be resumed on June 2. The adjustment of values will be very interesting. A more extensive business has been done in yarns made from Egyptian cotton. Some substantial lines have been put through in both carded and combed qualities, and prices have hardened. Plenty of cloth demand has been met with for Egypt, and an encouraging turnover has transpired in a variety of goods. Owing to the recent advance in prices offers from Cairo are falling behind and local shippers are acting on their own initiative. Free operations continue to take place for India and China in standard makes and miscellaneous cloths. Steady support has been given by shippers to Java, Singapore, the Straits Settlements and South American outlets. Manufacturers of cloth are improving their position almost from day to day, and the amount of employment available for the operatives is distinctly larger than for a long time back. Home American yarns have been decidedly dearer. There has been an active demand for all counts and qualities. Ring beams are stronger than ever, and cannot be obtained quickly. Some fair lines have been put through in yarns suitable for dyeing for India and cops for the Continent continue in active request.

THE REBUILDING OF BELGRADE.

An article in the *Trgovinski Glasnik* of April 20 deals with the rebuilding of the different public buildings in Belgrade, which will shortly be commenced, and for which a new credit of ten millions dinars has been voted. This journal urges the rebuilding and extension of the Belgrade Central Railway Station to cope with inland trains and also to provide adequate facilities for the passage of the London-Paris-Constantinople-Baghdad, the Athens-Saloniki-Belgrade-Bucharest-Odessa, and the Belgrade-Zagreb (Agram) Fiume-Sarajevo-Dubrovnik (Raguza) trains.

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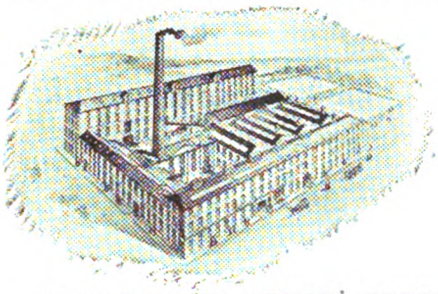
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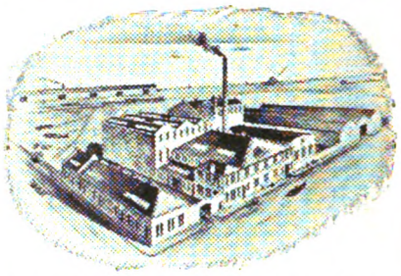
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Wealth of Baku.

In view of future commercial developments a few notes on the history and resources of one of the more important districts of the Near East, Baku, may be of interest. Baku, the great petroleum district, in the industry of which a considerable amount of British capital is invested. Baku is a well-known name, but the history and immense value of its oil-fields are not so generally known. "In oil Baku is incomparable," says a well-known British expert in petroleum and its industries, "and I know of no oil city that will compare with it in subterranean wealth. Los Angeles, chief town in the oilfields of California; Petrolea, Canada's petroleum capital; Beaumont, of Texas; Boryslaw, chief town of the widely scattered group of oil-fields in Galicia; Campina, in Roumania; and a score of other oil-producing centres, can in no way be compared with Baku. Baku is greater than any other oil city in the world. If oil is king, Baku is its throne."

The discovery of petroleum at Baku is by no means new. On the Apsheron Peninsula, where the famous Baku oilfields are situated, springs of oil and natural gas have been known to exist from time immemorial. Indeed, there is evidence that petroleum has been flowing from the Peninsula for at least 2,500 years. Some of these springs, formally held sacred by local fire-worshippers, who took them to be manifestations of the gods, still exist, and have been giving out gas and oil for centuries; but it was not until the tenth century that the natives first appear to have utilised the oil for practical purposes. An Arabian chronicler of the Masudi period mentions that the people of Baku, having no wood, prepared their food by means of earth saturated with oil; and he gives an account of a great volcanic mountain in its vicinity, which is now extinct. By the thirteenth century the industry appears to have made some progress. Marco Polo, the celebrated explorer, mentions that at that time petroleum was already being exported on camels to the surrounding countries. Peter the Great was not slow in recognising the potentialities of the mineral wealth of Baku, and one of his first instructions to General Matoushkin, who captured Baku from the Persians in 1723, was to send him "a thousand poods (about sixteen tons) of white oil, or as much as possible," and to find a refining master. In 1735, when Baku was restored to Persia, there were about sixty hand-dug pits at Balakhani, which produced from 1,500 to 4,000 tons per annum. The oil was chiefly used for burning in lamps and lubricating the axles of carts.

First British Connection.

In 1754 an Englishman, Jonas Hanway, was entrusted by the British Government with a commercial mission on the shores of the Caspian Sea, and in the course of his travels visited Baku He has left an account of his impressions in a book entitled "An Historical Account of the British Trade Over the Caspian Sea," in which he mentions the fire-worshippers of Baku, and describes the object of their cult as follows:—"A few feet from the temple is a recess in the rock in which is an underground opening 6 ft. long by 3 ft. wide, from which there issues a perpetual flame, very similar to that produced by alcohol when burning, but even more pure. When the wind blows it rises sometimes to the height of 8 ft., but is not so ardent in calm weather." He also describes the oil found at Baku as an excellent remedy for "gravel, chest affections, and headaches," and also mentions that it was exported to India as a varnish. In 1800 the oil sources of these fields were being exploited by Armenians and Persians, who produced from primitive hand-dugs about 15,000 tons per annum. In 1813, when the Baku Khanate was finally restored to Russia a start was made to develop the industry on commercial lines, and the Crown Department leased all the pits to a contractor for £13,000 per annum, then considered a large sum. During the succeeding years, however, the industry developed very slowly, and it was not until 1872, when the contract system was abolished and land leased to private individuals, that any real progress was made.

First Use of Boring Machines.

This change of system coincided with the advent of the first wells drilled by machinery, and from that time the output grew by leaps and bounds. In 1883 there were in the Baku fields more than 400 drilled wells, producing about one million tons. By 1890 the number of wells had increased to 680, producing 2½ million tons. In January, 1912, there were about 4,300 wells producing as average of 500,000 tons per month! The most important producing field in Baku is that of Saboonchi, which contributes rather more than one-third of the total output. Next in order of production come Bibi-Eibat, Ramani and Balakhani. Some mention is called for here regarding the phenomenal spouters, or fountains, which Baku has produced during the last forty years. One of the first was struck in 1874 at Balakhani, and flowed for several days at the rate of 2,500 tons of oil per day. Two years later the same company struck another well, which flowed for ninety days, and gave up during that time about 100,000 tons of oil. In 1877 Orbelov Brothers brought in a monster spouter at Shaitan Bazaar. At the start the well was easily capped, but while the valve was being tightened the pressure shattered it, and the oil burst forth with uncontrollable force. In less than forty days some 150,000 tons of oil had gone to waste. About that time big spouters became of such frequent occurrence that they ceased to become a matter of comment, and every well drilled was confidently expected to become a fountain. The result was that the price of oil fell, in consequence of the glut on the market, to about ¾ copeck per pood, or 11d. per ton, as compared with 37 copecks a pood in the year before the Balkan War. The record for spouters was maintained during the period 1880 to 1890. The year 1891 was famous for the celebrated Zubalov spouter, which brought in at Bibi-Eibat, and gave up more than 400,000 tons of oil in a few weeks, the price of which would to-day fetch over a million of pounds. The number of spouters struck in the Baku fields has since decreased greatly, not more than about 100,000 tons of oil being obtained before the war from that source per year.

Agricultural Machinery for Greece

Although the special opportunities in Greece for the disposal of all classes of agricultural machinery and implements have already been pointed out in these columns, some further particulars derived from a recent report prepared by the Greek Government on the same subject might be of interest to agricultural engineers, manufacturers and shippers. Moreover, the official facts and figures give a better idea of the requirements of the country in that line of goods. The cultivated area under cereals is given as just below 2,250,000 acres, and under raisins, currants, and other produce an additional 665,000 acres. To deal with this acreage and its produce it is stated that the country has only 160 threshing machines, 120 reapers, and 100,000 ploughs; and it is added that the Greek Government some time ago placed an order with an American company for 15 motor-ploughs and 200 tractors, fully equipped for ploughing, harrowing, hoeing and threshing It is mentioned that two agricultural machinery factories in Volo (Thessaly) are capable of producing annually 15,000 to 19,000 ploughs, 500 threshers, 200 hand presses, 40 presses for olive oil, and 60 wine presses. The Greek Government's estimate of the imports of machinery necessary to supply a year's need is as follows:—10,000 ploughs, 200,000 ploughshares, 500 harrows, 200 reapers, 25 threshers, 100 presses, 500 sulphur sprayers, and 500 sulphate of copper sprayers for grape vines. Ploughs used to be imported, to a large extent, from Germany, and certain other kinds of agricultural machinery and implements from Austria. It must be mentioned here that although the two agricultural machinery factories in Volo are capable of producing annually a considerable number of ploughs, threshers, and other implements and presses, many of them are exported to Asia Minor, Turkey and Egypt, where they are often preferred to others of Continental or American manufacture. It may also be pointed out that now is the season when agriculturists in Greece are able to buy machinery and implements mostly on cash terms, if the machinery can be promptly delivered; or to give orders for it for the next season.

Diesel and Semi-Diesel Engines.

Disputes have often occurred between buyers and sellers in the East over the definition of Diesel and semi-Diesel engines. A correct and approved definition will be of much interest to buyers, and a help to them in the purchase of such engines. A Diesel engine is a prime mover actuated by the gases resulting from the combustion of a liquid or pulverised fuel injected in a fine state of subdivision into the engine cylinder at or about the conclusion of a compression stroke. The heat generated by the compression to a high temperature of air within the cylinder is the sole means of igniting the charge. The combustion of the charge proceeds at, or approximately at, constant pressure. A semi-Diesel engine is a prime mover actuated by the gases resulting from the combustion of a hydro-carbon oil. A charge of oil is injected in the form of a spray into a combustion space open to the cylinder of the engine at or about the time of maximum compression in the cylinder. The heat derived from an uncooled portion of the combustion chamber, together with the heat generated by the compression of air to a moderate temperature, ignites the charge. The combustion of the charge takes place at, or approximately at, constant volume.

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INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

Convened by the East India Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, a meeting was held on May 19 under the presidency of Sir Charles C. McLeod.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick, Indian Trade Commissioner, said that they were on the threshold of a new era in Indian economic development. For their hopes to be realised close co-operation was necessary between British and Indian firms. If India was to be the Asiatic pillar of the Empire the co-operation which had already started must grow.

Sir Charles McLeod said that for some years he had been trying to induce English firms to employ Indian students who wished to learn industrial methods It had been thought by some that if they did so the students would make use of the knowledge to the detriment of the trading concerns of this country. He thought the reverse would be the case. If British traders did not welcome those students they would do in the future as they had done in the past—go to other places and open connections with those countries to the detriment of the industries of the Empire.

Mr. Dick, deputy chairman of the section, pointed out that in India there was a want of labour. Government assistance was necessary, and if the Government could only distinguish between assistance and interference they would get on very well. Whenever they went to a Government Department they were treated with suspicion if they asked for a concession.

The Serbian Ministry of Commerce announces that British merchants can avail themselves of the port of Salonika for all articles to be sent to the South of Serbia and all the districts up to Nish, as the railway line Salonika-Nish is free for traffic. The port of Fiume can be used only for transport going to Serbia, Slavonia, and Croatia.

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INDIGO CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

Professor H. E. Armstrong, speaking before the Royal Society of Arts on May 15 on "Soil deficiencies in India, with special reference to indigo," pointed out that before the war, in 1914, the area devoted to the indigo plant in India was less than 150,000 acres, whereas when synthetic indigo was first put upon the market by the Germans in 1897 the area occupied was 1,688,042 acres. When war broke out, arrangements were made to increase the production, and the total area, in 1916-17, under cultivation was three and a half times that of the five preceding years. The greatest increase was in the Madras Presidency, where the industry was mainly in the hands of the small-holder, who, however, produced a very inferior quality of the dyestuff, containing only 40 to 50 per cent. of indigotin, the Bihar product containing 60 to 70 per cent. In Bihar, an increased acreage of only about one-third was brought under cultivation, and there was an actual slight falling off as compared with the average of the five years preceding 1915. The conditions became changed during the latter part of the war, and in consequence of the stoppage of export, growers were no longer encouraged; now the Madras district, once more, was ceasing to produce; moreover, the total quantity of Bengal indigo available from last season's crop was only 1,600 chests (4,200 cwt.), and much of this, he believed, was not of high quality. And not only had the area under cultivation been small, but there had been also a great diminution in the yield.

Phosphatic Depletion of Soils.

Christopher Rawson, who was the first to study the problems of indigo cultivation and manufacture, he continued, was led to the conclusion that many, although not by any means all, of the Bihar soils were deficient in available phosphoric acid. A large number of soils, sampled in 1907, were subsequently examined by Dr. Leather, who reported in 1908 that they were almost uniformly deficient in available phosphate. Mr. W. A. Davis was led to the conclusion that neglect of these warnings was the main cause of the difficulties which had been met with in the cultivation of indigo, and the undoubted falling off in the yield, especially of cereals, on many of the estates. He drew special attention to the danger ahead in his paper—published in the special Indian Science Congress (1917) number of the *Agricultural Journal of India*—and in the first of his indigo publications from the Agricultural research Institute, Pusa. He had found that no attempt had been made by planters to meet the deficiencies pointed out by Dr. Leather, and that it had not been suspected that the more and more marked failure of the indigo plant to afford second cuttings, as well as the almost complete impossibility of securing seed from the Java plant, was due to the steady and continuous impoverishment of the soil.

From the large body of evidence as to the depleted state of the Bihar soils brought forward in his paper, Mr. Davis drew the conclusion that unless manuring with superphosphate were at once resorted to on a considerable scale, a very serious falling off of indigo crops, similar to that experienced at Belsand, would take place over a very wide area. He met with great variation in the total amount of phosphate in the soils, but in most cases it had been present in an unavailable form. Mr. Davis was convinced, from careful study of a large number of individual fields on indigo estates, that the actual fertility practically always (putting aside those in which some other obvious cause of failure was apparent, such as the presence of salts, continued water-logging, or a light, highly porous soil which failed to hold moisture) corresponded closely with the available phosphate values. In nearly all the soils examined the phosphate was the one constituent which was extraordinarily deficient—potash, lime, nitrogen, and humus being present in relatively great excess. Mr. Davis's explanation had been challenged and it had been urged that defective aeration or waterlogging were the real causes of failure. But against this was to be set the fact that all crops had been affected; moreover, the failure had been only of comparatively recent occurrence; it had come about gradually, and it had been greater in extent and magnitude as time had gone on. Methods of cultivation and climatic differences were not likely to have altered in this way; moreover, well-drained, well-aerated areas had suffered as badly as those which were subject to flooding.

The Future.

Turning to the question whether it be possible to bring about a return to the high yields of indigo obtained formerly, Mr. Davis had accumulated much evidence from which it was clear that the necessary improvements could be effected by continuous and systematic treatment with phosphatic manures, provided these be properly applied, taking into account local peculiarities. He was able to quote a few instances in his Indigo Publication No. 2., and had added to these in No. 4. From his latest advices, he learnt that instances were accumulating in which his forecast had been justified beyond question.

The real difficulty now to be overcome lay in restoring phosphate to depleted subsoils. In the case of light, sandy soils, apparently, superphosphate was readily washed down by the rains and an immediate response followed; but in very fine soils, like that at Pusa, the superphosphate was held, at first physically, in the topmost layer; and later, by the action of the lime which was present in large amount, it was changed into insoluble phosphate. The aim must be to maintain the phosphate in a soluble condition. In the Pusa soils, when superphosphate was used alone, or in conjunction with a slow-acting organic manure like cake, there was little benefit apparent in the first year, but the effect was obvious in the second; but when a large dressing of green manure was also applied, the whole benefit of the superphosphate was secured at once.

The late Sir William Crookes, in his well-known address to the British Association at Bristol in 1898, drew special attention to the need of nitrogenous fertilisers, if the world were to be kept supplied with wheat; and he laid stress on the probable shortage of such materials. He may have exaggerated the difficulty, in view of the method of overcoming it, adopted by man from time immemorial, by growing leguminous crops in alternation with cereals. But in the interval, the difficulty had been met by the discovery of converting the nitrogen, of which there was inexhaustible stores in the atmosphere, into either ammonia or nitrate. A far more serious difficulty ahead than that foreseen by Crookes, although of the same order, was the smallness of the phosphate supply of the world—for that, apparently, there was no remedy.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Crops in Asia Minor.

The following are further extracts from the economic reports of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the early part of the year:—

Ada Bazar.

The snow, and subsequently the rain, which fell during the month of February, have been very beneficial for the cultivated land; on the other hand, these conditions have retarded the sowing of potatoes, of which 50 per cent. should already have been sown, whereas these sowings have not even yet commenced. It is expected that this delay will adversely influence the production.

Likewise, owing to the snow and rain, the soil already cultivated for the summer sowings will have to be recultivated when the weather permits, and this will also put back the summer sowings.

Angora.

The forecasts of the coming harvest are universally favourable. It is hoped that the harvest will be exceptional.

There is a complete cessation of all commercial transactions. This place has never known a similar lull.

Prices have remained stationary; they vary between Ps.65-70 per oke.

Aintab.

The 1918 harvests were very good. The areas sown during these three months have surpassed those of the year 1918 by 100 per cent. The work and sowings of the winter, nearly finished everywhere, have been carried out in good conditions. Up to now the temperature has been satisfactory, and continues to be favourable to the sowings. Beneficial rains have fallen during these last two months. Up to the present no complaint is manifest; on the contrary, it is generally agreed that, provided no unforeseen contingencies arise, the harvest will be good, and 100 per cent. superior to that of last year. The rural population of our region, which was very reduced, has, to a certain measure, increased by reason of demobilisation.

The stocks of cereals are amply sufficient

Dr J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

Safeguard your Health with this Reliable Medicine.

Cuts short attacks of HYSTERIA, SPASMS, PALPITATION.

A true palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, TOOTHACHE, RHEUMATISM.

Checks and arrests FEVER, CROUP, AGUE.

The Best Remedy known for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.

ACTS LIKE A CHARM IN DIARRHŒA, CHOLERA, DYSENTERY.

Of all Chemists, 1/3 and 3/-.



Always ask for a 'Dr. Collis Browne's THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

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to satisfy local needs. For, in spite of the lack of means of transport, arrivals continue. The harvest of pistachio nuts, which constitute an important article in our district, according to reliable forecasts, will also, be good.

Kastambol.

Sowings have taken place under good conditions. The winter, less rigorous this year, has enabled the peasants to work in the fields, and the cultivated soil has been sown. It is not at present possible to predict what sort of harvest there will be, as this will specially depend on the spring rains. All the same, it is hoped that it will far surpass that of the past year, which was very much below the normal figure.

There has not been much business doing during the month.

Eski-Chehir.

Atmospheric conditions continue to be favourable to sowings, which have been effected on a much larger scale owing to the return of the agriculturists. According to reliable estimates, the area of the fields sown has exceeded that of the preceding year by more than 80 per cent. The disposable stock of cereals on our market is valued at from 40 to 50 wagons.

Konia.

The agricultural situation of our district is far better than it was the preceding year. The ground sown is 50 per cent. more, it is said, than that of 1918. Although this figure appears to be exaggerated, there is every reason to suppose that the sowings must be better, if we take into account the particularly fine weather and rainy winter of this year, which enabled the demobilised villagers to cultivate a greater part of their fields.

Rodosto.

The climatic conditions having generally continued to be favourable, the germination of the cereals has been premature, and the vegetation is advanced. Forecasts for the next harvest continue to be good. It must be added, however, that its success will depend largely on the spring rains. The rains falling this month have benefited the work in the fields for the spring sowings. The condition of the livestock is very satisfactory.

The report of the Lochnagar (Ceylon) Produce Company to December 31 last states that the balance brought forward was £6,165, less excess profits duty 1917, £2,528. After writing off depreciation of buildings and machinery there was a loss for the year of £2,885, leaving to be carried forward £752.

The report of the Panawatte Tea and Rubber Estates for 1918 states that the net profit amounted to £6,619, which with £12,526 brought in gives a total amount for appropriation of £19,145. The directors propose the following appropriations:—To interim dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, paid in January, which, with tax, absorbed £5,750; to final dividend of 7½ per cent. (making 12½ per cent. for the year), less income-tax, £8,625; to write off for depreciation £1,000; to carry forward £3,770.

The directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway have declared an interim dividend of £3 per cent., payable on July 1, the same as last year.

The report of the Pundaloya Tea Company of Ceylon for the year ended December 31 last states that the balance at credit of profit and loss is £7,575. The directors recommend a dividend of 7 per cent. (less tax at 5s. 9d.) on the Ordinary shares, and to carry forward £4,283.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK of EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that at a General Meeting of the above-named Company, held in Cairo, on the 16th May, 1919, it was decided that a DIVIDEND of 8s. per Share on the Ordinary Shares of £5 each and £40 per Share on the Deferred Shares of £5 each, should be PAID, on and after the 19th May, 1919, at the National Bank of Egypt, in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4).

Payment will be made in London, less income-tax.

The said dividends will be paid to the holders of Ordinary and Deferred Share Warrants to Bearer on presentation of the respective Dividend Coupons (Ordinary No. 16, Deferred No. 15) at the above Banks.

Forms for listing the above-mentioned Coupons will be supplied on application by the bankers above-mentioned.

Coupons must be left with the bankers for previous examination.

By order,

F. T. ROWLATT,

Cairo, 16th May, 1919.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

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

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
Lieut.-General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
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Jerusalem.
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Nicosia Larnaca.
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(Over 80 Branches in the Near East).

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The report of the Balmoral (Ceylon) Estates Company for 1918 states that the net profit amounted to £14,546, to which has to be added interest, £576, and balance from the previous year, £5,872, less excess profits duty 1917, £1,965, making £19,029. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 14 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 24 per cent .for the year, £7,285; to place to reserve for depreciation £1,000, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £2,887.

The report of the General Ceylon Rubber and Tea Estates for 1918 shows a profit of £17,759. After providing for London charges there remains £18,206 at the credit of profit and loss, to whioh has been added £30,314 brought forward, making £48,519 to be dealt with. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, which, with the interim dividend of 5 per cent., paid free of tax, is equivalent to about 17.02 per cent. for the year. This leaves £21,069, out of which the directors propose to place £10,000 to reserve and carry forward £11,069.

NEW COMPANIES.

Egyptian Companies.

Among the companies recently registered at the Alexandria Mixed Tribunal are S. Sachs and Co., with a capital of £E8,000, for textile and general trade; E. Lopez and Co., with a capital of £E10,000, for flax cultivation and the flax industry: Maurizio Hadida and Co., with a capital of £E4,000, for general trade; the Anglo-Belgian Commercial Co., Ghyselen and Mizrahi, with a capital of £E10,000, for general trade; and Emmanuele N. Cocchinaris and Co., with a capital of £E5,000, for general trade.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MAY 9.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20 11/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	114
" " Div.	Frs.	165
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 13/32
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	12
" priv.	L.E.	4 3/8
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	196
Bons de Panama	Frs.	163
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	98 1/4
" Priv.	Frs.	106
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	101
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 17/32 xd
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 3/4
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 7/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	12
Unifiée	L.E.	89 1/2
Privilégiée		76 3/4
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7 1/2
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 3/8
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 29/32
" " Fond.	£	500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4 3/8
" Ord		119/41/2
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	14 3/8
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5 1/2
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	176
Egyptian Markets		23/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	370
" Div.	Frs.	305
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	258
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 3/8
Egyptian Salt and Soda		52/10 1/2
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	742
" Fondateur	Frs.	980
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	437
" 1903 "	Frs.	516
" 1911 "	Frs.	283 1/2
United Lands	P.T.	5
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		13/16

ON 'CHANGE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

The better tone at the close of last week has again been in evidence during the present week, excepting as regards Egyptian Unified Stock, where some rather large amounts have come on the market, with the result that, although they have been fairly readily absorbed, the price has receded a point to 88. A fair business has been done in Egypt 3½ per cent. Prefs. round the current level.

In Bank shares, there have been a fair amount of transactions in Agriculturals, and the price is about unchanged at 6⅛ xd. There has also been a good demand from Egypt for Nat. Banks, which close ¼ up at 20⅜. Anglo-Egyptians have remained a firm spot.

As regards Railways, Delta Lights are fractionally firmer at 7⅜.

In Land Shares Aboukirs are unaltered at 25 xd. There has been a sustained demand for Delta Lands, helped to a certain extent by purchases for Egyptian account, and the price closes 1/3 up at 15/6. Foreign Trusts have also been enquired for, and have jumped a similar fraction to 15/6. Gharbieh Lands remained a dull spot and are 1-16th easier at 2⅜d., but no business has been possible. New Egyptians have again come into favour, and have advanced 1s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. Union Foncières, on the other hand, are 1-16 easier at 3⅜ and Sudan Plantations have gone back ⅜ to 7⅜.

Amongst Miscellaneous Shares there has been a big demand from Egypt for Alexandria Waters, with the result that the price has advanced ⅝ to 13. Salts and Sodas are fractionally firmer at 2⅜, and some buying for Egyptian account of Khedivial Mails has raised the price ¼ to 6¼.

Among the Oils, in Anglo-Egyptian B, there was a very lively market throughout the week, and the price, after rising ½ to 5 15-16, closes unchanged at 5 7-16. Roumanian Oil Shares are all rather lower.

In Greek Securities, there is no change to report except in Monopolies, which are 1½ up at 60, while the 1902, 1910 and 1914 Loans are each a point higher at 66, 64 and 85 respectively.

CONDITIONS IN BATOUM.

With reference to previous notifications on the subject of representatives of business firms proceeding to South Russia a telegram has been received from His Majesty's Consul at Batoum describing the present conditions of living in that town.

Batoum is stated to be much overcrowded with refugees from various other places, and living is very expensive. Hotel accommodation, which is the only kind available, is procurable only with difficulty. A single room costs 140 roubles per diem, and restaurant meals cost on an average 100 roubles each (100 to 140 roubles have been obtainable in Transcaucasia recently for £1). Foodstuffs are scarce, and in general business men visiting Batoum must be prepared for conditions of discomfort. Similar conditions are stated to exist elsewhere in the Caucasus.

Travellers are advised to take supplies of the following articles for personal use, as they are practically unobtainable:—Tea, coffee, cocoa, soap, candles, medicines, bed linen, blankets, pillows, needles, thread, darning wool, and stationery.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 13	Price. May 20
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1903	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	89 xd	88
Do. Pref. 5% 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5%, 1881	57	72½	72½
Do. 5%, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	58⅝	60
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	54	54
Do. 5%, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	64
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	84	85
Do. 5% Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	84⅜	83½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅜	6⅜ xd
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15½	15½
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	76	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9 11/16	9 11/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7 7/16	7 7/16
London County and Westminster	—	17	17
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅜	20⅜
National Bank of India	43	53	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7½	7⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/9	25 xd
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	12⅜	12⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜ xd	4⅜ xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/3	1/56
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/3	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2 1/16	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/-	25/6
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	7⅜	7⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3 1/16	3⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	13
Egyptian Markets Ord	1 3/16	26/-	26/-
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	⅞	2 1/16	2⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6	6½
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	⅜	5 7/16	5 13/32
Anglo-Persian	1 3/32	26/6	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	13/3	12/7½
Roumanian	1 1/16	21/3	20/-
Traian (Roumanian)	—	14/1½	13/4½

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—May 11, 12, 890,000 francs against 150,000 francs. May 13, 14, 15, 740,000 francs against 870,000 francs.

REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS IN SERBIA.

H.M. Minister at Belgrade reports that the Serbian Ministry for Foreign Affairs announce that the registration of trade marks in the new kingdom is effected by the Tribunal of Commerce of Belgrade, and this Tribunal has begun to work.

The transfer books of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, Ltd., will be closed from June 2 to June 16.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN ALL CITIES OF BULGARIA.

The Bank effects the following transactions :—

1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
2.—Receives private deposits for fixed periods or on current account. 3.—Discounts commercial effects and allows quarterly loans.
4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
6.—Buys and sells country and foreign cheques, etc. 7.—The Bank is entitled to the exclusive privilege of putting in circulation gold and silver banknotes. The telegraphic address for the Head Office: **Nationalbank**, and for the branches and the agencies: **Bank.**

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to te ms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - - -	*£85,000*

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£850,000**
RESERVE - - - - - -	**£220,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 421.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The treaty with Germany has not yet been signed, and the terms to Austria are still delayed in the delivery, while those to be presented to Turkey are evidently only in the preliminary and formative stage of discussion. Meanwhile the German efforts to arouse opinion against the terms appear to have evoked no response in any of the Allied countries, and the suggestion made in some quarters that it will be the business of the League of Nations to revise the terms of the treaty in favour of Germany is calculated to do no good to Germany and only harm to the League itself.

The preliminary difficulty with regard to the Austrian terms appears to rest on the question whether the German-Austrian provinces are to be regarded as the direct heirs of the Austrian Empire or as an entirely new State. This is, of course, a matter both of political philosophy and of practical convenience. It is hardly probable that the Hapsburg tradition of centuries has been entirely uprooted even by four years of war, and the Catholic peoples of German-Austria are naturally a Conservative race. The greater part of the Hapsburg dominions are, it is true, gone for ever, and it is fortunate that it is so, but it is by no means impossible that Vienna may yet desire to regard itself and its immediate provinces as the legitimate remainder of the old Empire, and will again make a bid for the leadership of the "German tribes." Whatever the decision of the Peace Conference on this matter, it can hardly control the future indefinitely; but the practical importance of the question depends on the financial arrangements by which the new States agree to take over and share some part of the heavy debt of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. That must in itself be a difficult and complicated problem.

No suggestion has been made that the Fiume difficulty can be regarded as settled, and the French Press continues to discuss in some detail the part that international finance is playing in the matter, hinting broadly that the German-American banks are agitating for the allocation of the port to the Yugoslavs. It is a pity that no definite reply has been made to this accusation, which is repeated with a detail of names and dates to give it greater weight; it would surely have been easy for President Wilson, who has been a doughty champion of the Yugoslavs, to have instructed some of his staff to make a semi-official reply. It may be, of course, that after the not very fortunate outcome of his appeal to Italy over the heads of the Italian Government he feels the less said the better over this controverted point.

The Greek occupation of Smyrna has, as we anticipated last week, not tended to ease the old difficulty between Greece and Italy. The latter country, which has a definite Adriatic policy that has not altogether commended itself to every delegate in Paris, has also a Levant policy, and a very definite interest in the Levant. No good purpose would be served by denying that this policy does in some respects conflict with Greek ambitions in the same quarter; and very great care will have to be taken to see that in the final settlement of claims and adjustment of ambitions the old rivalries of Byzantine and Roman policy are not exacerbated and made a cause of permanent friction in Mediterranean affairs. Unfortunately the Greek action, supported by the Allies, at Smyrna has been taken in that sense, and it will be difficult to nullify the impression already caused in Rome.

The suggestion has been made that Italy should be compensated for her practical exclusion from Asia Minor and the watering down of her claims in the Adriatic by assigning to her certain spheres of influence in Northern and Eastern Africa; that is to say, in effect, that she should receive a free hand south of Tripoli and in Somaliland and Abyssinia. The prospect does not appear to have been received with enthusiasm in Rome. Italy requires opportunities for expanding her trade as well as for colonisation, and it can hardly be contended that commercial prospects are as bright in Somaliland as in Asia Minor. Moreover, any large expansion of Italy in Africa would tend to bring her into conflict with France, whose African policy is now of primary importance to the Republic; and anything that caused friction between France and Italy would be disastrous to the future well-being of Europe. It can hardly be suggested that the Conference has been very felicitous in its dealings with this part of the general problem before it.

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The detailed proposals for the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire were, as we indicated last week, in the nature of a *ballon d'essai*, and their reception has been the very reverse of cordial. Indeed, it would be difficult to find a good word for them in the Press of any of the countries of the Entente. The idea that the United States should become the guardian of Armenia and Constantinople has been decisively discountenanced in America. The United States are ready to trade with the Levant to any extent, but they clearly dislike the idea of accepting responsibility for the government. On this point the tone of the American Press appears almost unanimous. It is agreed by all observers that President Wilson is less sure of support in his own country than before. Part of the trouble appears to arise from his action over prohibition, which is no affair of ours; part over the League of Nations, but more over the supplement which binds America to go to the aid of France in the event of emergency, and part again over the idea of America intervening permanently in the affairs of the Near East as a responsible guardian.

It is quite impossible to mistake the significance of these manifestations of opinion. With the best will in the world towards President Wilson, his people appear to be preparing to reject his theory that America should enter the European and Asiatic world as mentors, advisers, and trustees; the prevalent conception in the United States appears to be that America has enough to do to look after her own affairs, and that to accept responsibility for the future of Constantinople or France or Russia would be to ask for trouble. While the general idea of a League of Nations appears to be welcomed across the water, the revolt against the League of Nations with its mandatory powers of control appears to be definite and formidable, so far as the acceptance of mandates by the United States is concerned.

Another and not less relevant argument against the proposed complete dismemberment of the Turkish Empire has been the very powerful protest of the Indian Mohammedans. In deference to this it has been stated, with some show of unanimity, if not of authority, that Constantinople will remain at least nominally Turkish, and that the Sultan will not be deposed. This protest was so obviously well founded that it could not be disregarded, but the result has evidently been that the whole question of the future of the Turkish Empire has to be considered *de novo*, and the delay in the final ratification of peace will therefore be considerable.

While the Roumanian campaign against Hungary appears to have come to a close at least for the time being, recent events in Russia are bound to have an effect over the whole field of Balkan politics. The Bolshevist Government has been so frequently proclaimed to be tottering to its fall that we may perhaps be pardoned some scepticism at the repetition of the announcement, but it seems clear that General Koltchak's movement offers the best hope for the reconstitution of Russia that has been seen since the fatal weakness of Kerensky destroyed all hope for the fortunes of the provisional Republic. Another sign of the real strength of Koltchak appears in the wild denunciations of his progress and policy in various journals which ardently support the Bolshevist movement in all parts of the world. But until Bolshevism is crushed there can be no hope for the progress of civilisation in Russia, and consequently in the Balkans.

Another aspect of this matter to be borne in mind is the attitude of Germany. The appeals that are being made in pacifist quarters to "feed starving Germany" —appeals which so strangely ignore the far harder plight of our Allies in the Near East—are always reinforced by the threat of Bolshevism in Germany. Now by general consent of those who know the country and the people, Germany is not inclined to Bolshevism by nature; but the German Government—and by this we mean not the pale and transient shadows which flit across the stage in Berlin, but the real authorities in the Foreign Office, which is unchanged—is distinctly inclined to co-operate with the Bolshevist Government in Russia, for its own purposes

The signs continue to accumulate that Germany, having lost all hope of overseas domination in Africa and admittedly unable to conquer France or England, is now definitely turning again to an Eastern policy. For the time being the Berlin-Baghdad dream is over, but the possibility of making good the political losses of the war by incorporating German-Austria in Germany is being discussed, and the natural reaction from the discredited maritime and colonial policy of Herr Ballin is the reversion from westernism to easternism. In order to carry that policy to a successful conclusion, a dismembered and discredited Russia, such as exists at present, is essential, if Germany is to gain control in Russia; and the Koltchak movement would be fatal to German hopes of control in the East.

If she could once attain control in Russia she would infallibly attempt again the policy of penetration in the Balkans, with the disastrous results of the years before the war. The only sure way to circumvent this policy is for the Balkan States to agree among themselves, and to join with the new Slav States and Poland in friendly co-operation for the economic and political progress of the countries from Constantinople to Danzig.

An American writer is reported this week to have remarked that the League of Nations will remain an aspiration and a futility, because the peoples of Europe will not abandon their old quarrels—quarrels, we may remark, which were once credited to dynasties, but which might be more accurately referred to the peoples concerned. Whatever foundation the writer may have for his political pessimism—and it appeared to be the result of studying the rival claims of the smaller nations at the Peace Conference—it is clear that there can be no hope for the future unless these recriminations and local jealousies, which survive more strongly in the Balkans perhaps than elsewhere, are abandoned. There are said to be signs of a more accommodating spirit between the Poles and Czechs; it is perhaps not too much to hope that this excellent, if belated, example will be imitated elsewhere.

In the *Sunday Times* Mr. Crawfurd Price, whose predictions have been less inaccurate than those of most of his colleagues in Paris, suggests that it is decided that Bulgaria is to lose Thrace, and that in return she will secure the use of a Greek port in the Ægean, in accordance with the original proposition of M. Venizelos—whose policy appears to have triumphed all along the line. It is thought, too, that a section of Bulgarian territory may be placed under military occupation until she has paid her debt to Serbia and Greece, and it is believed that a rectification of her frontiers in the Vidin district—which, according to Mr. Price, "is altogether too near the Nish-Danube line"—is also contemplated.

We deal in another column with the leading features of Mr. Montagu's speech on Indian affairs, but a few of the many topics on which he touched call for separate notice. In regard to Afghanistan, we may note the explicit recognition of the fact that Bolshevist influences have contributed to the unprovoked attack made on India by the new Ameer, and our knowledge of Afghan psychology justifies the inference that a good deal of hard cash has changed hands. Whether the result was so inevitable as Mr. Montagu says is a question on which judgment may suitably be reserved; for the moment we are less interested in the causes than in the consequences, that "stern and just punishment" which is essential for the sake of future peace, and which, if we may trust the latest telegrams, is already drawing near.

Mr. Montagu had something to say about some of the inquiries called for by recent events. First, there is to be yet another Currency Commission to investigate the perplexing situation in the silver market, a situation which was certainly not contemplated when the present system of currency was framed, and we can only hope that Sir Henry Babington Smith and his colleagues may succeed in finding a way out of what looks very like an *impasse*. Next, there is to be an inquiry into the

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organisation of the Indian Army, the necessity of which no one is likely to question seriously. Thirdly, there is to be an inquiry into the recent disturbances, but this is wisely relegated to the somewhat uncertain future, and for ourselves we hope that most of the important facts will be brought out in the Courts; and that the police, who have done so well in action, will be able to place some at least of the real conspirators in the dock.

Nothing was said regarding an inquiry into the measures which have been taken for the relief of distress, but, if precedents are followed, that will come as a matter of course. The need for such an inquiry is indeed greater than usual, because last winter the Government broke with old-established principles, and we trust that some of the great famine administrators of the past will be given an opportunity of comparing the new methods with the old. Mr. Montagu justly laid stress on the enormous rise in the price of food, and in order to find a basis for future policy this phenomenon in particular requires to be very carefully examined. Was the rise wholly inevitable, or did the measures improvised last winter drive stocks into concealment, and thus superimpose an artificial scarcity on the real one which unfortunately existed? That is a question which must be pressed even when a new constitution is on the anvil: votes are great things, but in India food comes first.

There is always something piquant in references to Free Trade by Liberal members of the Coalition, but on the whole Mr. Montagu's handling of the subject was distinctly adroit. Free Trade should be achieved by a nation at its own risk, and not be imposed on it from outside"; let the educated classes of India "find their own salvation"; and, if you like, buoy yourself up with the hope that when they are given freedom of choice they will choose the Cobden road. Such utterances will be acclaimed by the vast majority of Indian politicians, and though we can detect no actual promise in Mr. Montagu's words, we think it will be generally recognised that they mark a definite stage in the development of the question. The Tariff will, of course, remain under the control of the Government of India, and will not for the present be determined by a direct popular vote.

The foundation for Mr. Montagu's hope that India will "find salvation" in fiscal matters is, of course, purely speculative. We must recognise that the teachable spirit is not very prominent among the many virtues of present-day Indian politicians, and some years must elapse before the effects of the new schools of economics can manifest themselves in public life. India's aspiration for Protection will not disappear at once, but, on the other hand, her Government moves slowly and cautiously in such matters, and for some time to come the abnormal conditions of the world's trade will afford abundant justification for the maintenance of that attitude. A Cobdenite Indian Legislature is one of the many possibilities of the future, but until we learn by experience how the new representative system works we shall have no means of estimating whether the possibility is likely to be realised.

Mr. Montagu's direct attack on the Indo-British Association has called forth an immediate protest from the leaders of that body, in which their aims are placed before the public more explicitly than in any previous utterance. The association accept the Declaration of August, 1917, and are strong advocates of reform, but they oppose the Dyarchy, and they stand in particular for communal representation to secure some protection for the lower castes. This last article was, by the way, obscured by an unfortunate misprint in the association's letter as printed in *The Times*. The word "commercial" was substituted for "communal," and a handle was thus given to those politicians who say that the association is too much under the influence of British commerce; but the intention must have been obvious to informed readers, and with this correction the programme is one for which a tolerably good case can be made out. It will doubtless be pressed strongly upon the Joint Committee when that body gets to work.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 5.

The Students.

The hope expressed in these columns that the students would respond to the notice issued by the departments concerned that the various schools would reopen on the 3rd has not been fulfilled. The students have held several meetings during the past week, and at one of the last it was decided that they should not return to their lectures until Egypt's demands had been granted. In consequence of this, on the 3rd no students presented themselves at the Schools of Law, Medicine, or Agriculture. One solitary student appeared at the Polytechnic, and there were very few pupils at the secondary schools, some of which were quite empty. Sunday, the 4th, the same story was told by the attendance sheets, and, it being evident that the students intended to defy the educational authorities, it became necessary for some more authoritative measures. Accordingly General Allenby, in his capacity of General Commanding the British Forces in Egypt, issued on Sunday afternoon an order under martial law announcing that, unless a sufficient number of students attended by the 7th inst. to justify keeping open the higher colleges, the secondary schools, etc., these would be closed until the usual date for the commencement of the new term. Also he gave notice that no student at present on the registers who did not attend on or before the 7th inst., or who, if the colleges remain open, does not continue to attend regularly until the end of the term, would be admitted to the examinations this year. This order is intended to apply not only to Government colleges and schools, but also to those private establishments which are under State supervision.

We now wait to see the effect and result of this order, which is fully justified by all the circumstances. Indeed, if it had gone so far as to shut the schools until the students themselves petitioned for their reopening, or if it had decreed that no examinations at all would be held this year, such a decision would not have been too severe. However, the students who have wilfully interrupted their studies for two months now have one more chance, and if they do not take it they will have themselves alone to blame for the further loss of precious time which the suspension for one year of all examinations constitutes.

Events at Cairo.

Cairo has been comparatively quiet during the past week. The Government officials have continued at their posts, though they seem by no means at rest in their minds, and the tramway and railway workers have returned, a settlement, as foreshadowed in my last letter, having at last been reached. Al Azhar is still the most unsatisfactory element, and it seems very difficult to bring it to heel. As pointed out before, it is the nerve centre of all the propaganda which is going on all over the country. Meetings are held there daily and nightly, and inflammatory sermons are delivered, which are not without their effect on the hearers, who comprise not only Azharites but also people from all parts. So active has this speechifying been this last week that the authorities have been compelled to arrest several of the more notorious of the speakers. This led to some excitement in Al Azhar, and attempts at demonstrations were made on two days. On the first it was frustrated, and on the second it was split up and the various portions chased through the city until they were effectively dispersed. The authorities have now posted up in Al Azhar a notice that any who take part in a demonstration will be arrested and will be dealt with by a military court. This may, to a certain extent, damp the ardour of the more hot-headed spirits of that institution—it is noteworthy that since the arrests the sermons have been less frequent and less incitative—but it is to be feared that only the shutting of the college as distinct from the Mosque and the dispersal to their villages of the students, many of whom, be it noted, have already left, will stop the fermentation and excitement

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which go on in its precincts and which have their pernicious repercussion on the country.

Military Areas.

Meanwhile in the provinces there is little to report, and the work of pacifying the country, rounding up the offenders, and ensuring a return to normal is going ahead. The work of dealing with the very numerous cases arising out of the recent disturbances is being closely attended to. Special military courts have been set up, and are now in full working order. The country has been divided into what are known as military areas, viz., the Western Delta, the Eastern Delta, the Canal, Alexandria, Cairo, Central and Upper Egypt. In each of these at least one military court has been established, and for each there is a separate Legal Adviser, chosen from the personnel of the Ministry of Justice. These appointments to date are as follows: Alexandria, Judge Sanderson; Western Delta, Judge Clapcott; Eastern Delta and Canal, Judge Kershaw; Cairo, Judge Percival; Central, Judge Hill; Upper Egypt, Judge MacBarnett. All of these have been granted the rank of lieut.-colonel. In addition, Judge Percival is Legal Adviser to the Commander-in-Chief, with Mr. G. H. Hughes, of the Native Appeal Parquet, as assistant.

The courts are empowered to deal with all cases which are too serious to be dealt with by a Summary Military Court, and in which one or more foreign subjects or foreign protected subjects are accused. In the latter event the consular authority interested is advised and is permitted to send a representative to attend the proceedings. These courts are empowered to inflict any sentence they consider advisable except where the offence is against any particular proclamation, in which event, if any punishment is specified therein, it must be inflicted.

The Question of a Cabinet.

No new Cabinet has yet been formed; and as far as one can gather, Egypt may quite possibly be administered without one for some little while to come. It is, indeed, useless to set up a Cabinet if the people show no inclination to accept its authority (as was the case with the last Rushdi Ministry). Under normal conditions the non-existence of a Council of Ministers over any period would be calculated to paralyse all State business, since the constitutional channels created for the promulgation of decisions would no longer be available. Fortunately, however, Egypt is still under the regime of martial law, which provides an alternative channel for putting into effect any urgent measures in the form of Proclamations promulgated by the Commander-in-Chief. Having this alternative course, there is no reason why Egyptians who might be patriotic enough to be prepared to take office at the present juncture should be laid open to the risk of indignities such as the Rushdi Cabinet had to submit to, and a non-repetition of which is by no means guaranteed. Moreover, a recurrence of what took place during those fifteen days could but serve to bring Ministerial office into disrepute, and it is perhaps just as well if the Egyptians are not given a Cabinet until they themselves come forward and ask for it and are prepared to support it.

New Appointments.

Following on the Proclamation issued by General Allenby in his capacity of Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Egypt, authorising the Under-Secretaries of State or Acting Under-Secretaries of State in each Ministry to exercise and perform all the powers and functions of the Ministers in administration matters, including the power of representing the Ministry before any Tribune, various appointments have been made by notice under martial law to posts which have either become vacant or have been newly created. The appointments are the following, viz.: Mr. E. M. Dowson, C.B.E., Director-General of Survey and Acting Under-Secretary of State for Finance, is confirmed in the latter post, and is succeeded at the Survey Department by Lieut.-Colonel B. F. E. Keeling, M.C., O.B.E., who is given the title of Surveyor-General instead of Director-General. Mr. R. S. Patterson, Director-General of State Accounts, is promoted to a new post of Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Finance, and is succeeded by Mr. W. B. Trelawny, Controller of the Government Press, who receives the title of Controller-General of Administration and Accounts. Colonel Cathcart Garner, C.B.E., Principal Medical Officer in Palestine, and formerly Deputy Director-General of the Public Health Administration, is appointed Director-General in succession to Sir David Semple, and Dr. Ferguson Lees is promoted to the post of Deputy Director-General of that administration.

By further Proclamation Brig.-General Sir George Macauley has been appointed Controller-General of Ways of Communication and Civil Transport in Egypt. As already announced, provision was made in the Budget for the current financial year for the creation of a Ministry of Communications, in which Sir George Macauley had accepted the post of Adviser. It has, however, not been possible to promulgate the necessary legislation, and since it is urgently necessary that "provision" should be made for the control and co-ordination of all means of transport in Egypt in order to assure the supply of food to the main centres of population, the post of Controller-General has been created, with full powers "to take such measures as may be necessary to maintain and improve all existing means of communication and to assure the carriage of goods, passengers, and mails by railway, road, or water." The Controller-General will have control of the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraph and Telephone, the Postal Administration, the Ports and Lighthouse Administration, the Harbour Works Department, inland water transport, mechanical transport, main road and bridges, and the supervision, licensing, and control of civil aerial traffic as well as a general supervision of all light railways.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 9.

A Bolshevist Ultimatum.

A few days ago M. Pherekide, the President of the Council *ad interim*, received a wireless from Rakowsky demanding the immediate evacuation of Bessarabia and Bukovina. Rakowsky, who heads the Bolshevist movement in Ukraine, signs himself "Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister for Foreign Affairs." He is of Bulgarian origin, and recently practised as a third-rate doctor in Constantza. It will be remembered that not so long ago he was giving himself the title of "President of the Roumanian Government of Odessa," and, in virtue of this, bullying and robbing Roumanian refugees. Needless to say, this "ultimatum" elicited no response, for it is nothing more than a piece of brazen impudence. Regarded seriously, it would amount to an act of high-handed imperialistic rapacity, reminiscent of late Tzarist methods, obsolete, and to be rejected as such, if on no other grounds. Bessarabia has twice been ravished under such circumstances, and Bukovina suffered a similar fate in 1777 at the hands of the Habsburg Monarchy. But, apart from such considerations, the fact remains that the Bolshevists are actually at war with Roumania, and, therefore, superadded menaces are not likely to aggravate the situation.

A Ukrainian Opinion.

In a recent interview the Ukrainian Minister in Bucharest, M. Gasenko, ridiculed Rakowsky's pretensions. "Our actual military situation," he said, "is splendid. Three parts of the whole country is in our hands. The peasants

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have taken up arms and are fighting with us against the Bolshevists. Our troops have occupied practically the whole of Kieff. A single suburb has remained unoccupied so far, and into this Rakowsky and his supporters have had to withdraw themselves."

Kuhn's Proposals.

The rapid advance of the Roumanian troops on Hungarian territory and their junction with the Czecho-Slovak forces have produced a salutary effect in Budapest, which shows itself in the less cavalier tone of the proposals of peace addressed by Bela Kuhn to the Czecho-Slovak, Roumanian, and Yugoslav Governments, and the exhibition of sentiments which, under other circumstances, might have redounded to his credit. He lays on the late Government the charge of having refused to agree to the claims put forward by these nations, invoking in its defence historical rights sanctioning the continuance of the ancient régime of oppression. "From the first moment of our coming into power we denounced this principle, declaring repeatedly, and with all solemnity, that we do not found any pretensions on the principle of territorial integrity, and we now communicate to you in mode direct our recognition, without any reserve, of all your national territorial claims." In exchange, he demands immediate cessation of hostilities, and complete abstention from interference in the internal affairs of Hungary.

A Remarkable Coincidence.

That Rakowsky's "ultimatum" should have coincided with Kuhn's request that Bolshevism should be allowed to develop itself in Hungary unhampered by foreign interference (for that is what his peace proposals amount to) is of itself suggestive. But if we associate with these circumstances the causes alleged to underlie the fall of the late Bulgarian Government, we can no longer doubt that we find ourselves in the presence of a Bolshevist plot with wide ramifications. It appears that in the late Coalition Government of Sofia Agrarians, Socialists, and Radicals had, according to a writer in the *Indépendance Roumaine*, simply set themselves the task of introducing Bolshevism into Bulgaria. Their plans were to be furthered by the convocation of a "Congress of Agrarians." The Allies, however, got wind of the affair. In consequence of this, M. Teodoroff was obliged to interdict the Congress, thereby producing a crisis which resulted in the fall of the Government.

General Berthelot.

General Berthelot quits the country once again. But how different this time the circumstances of his leave-taking! On the last occasion he left heavy hearts behind him—the hearts of a people vanquished by a pitiless fate. It was for Roumania, undoubtedly, the most melancholy episode of the war. To-day his kindly countenance smiles in parting on a land freed from the invader, on a nation that has realised its unity, on a people before whom are opening up wide horizons of material and moral prosperity. He came out at the end of 1916, after the cruel retreat, when the whole of Moldavia was in a lamentable state of chaos, and the remnants of the army completely disorganised. He came out to cast his expert glance upon the ruins, and estimate the chances of being able to raise them again into the semblance of a building. Fortunately for the country, he judged the task feasible, and there ensued a display of feverish activity on the part of his collaborators, French and Roumanian, that put new heart into the people. The results are known. Completely reorganised, and furnisned for the first time with modern weapons of war, the Army gave such an account of itself on the banks of the Siret as the Germans are not likely to forget. The workman was a master of his craft, his instruments reliable, and he used them on a material of superlative quality. Over and over again he has testified to the wonderful qualities of discipline and endurance possessed by the peasant soldier, to his uncomplaining patience, shrewd intelligence, and natural aptitude for the game of war. In his own words, "The Roumanian soldier is the best in the world." He leaves behind him a nation that has been enriched by his presence, and a debt of personal gratitude as it is the privilege of few mortals to incur.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, May 10.

Malta is settling down to its usual cosmopolitan state, and its harbours are fast approaching their normal appearance, but one or two events of more than ordinary local interest have recently occurred, notably the departure of Lord Methuen from the island, and the somewhat unexpected arrival in our midst of a great number of Russian refugees from Odessa and the South-East of Russia.

Departure of the Governor.

Before leaving the island the Governor issued an order in the following terms:—"On leaving Malta I wish to say good-bye to all my comrades. My command has been full of interest, and made easy through the unvarying support given to me. The relations which have existed between the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as the civilian population, have been of the happiest, and at times the strain has been great. Malta has never been found wanting when called upon to give a helping hand. We may not have had to share the danger and sufferings of our comrades in the front line, but we can in after life feel that in the background we have to the best of our ability done our best to aid our country in its great and successful work."

The Governor's tenure of office has been an arduous one, notably in regard to the work performed in connection with the thousands of sick and wounded who have passed through the hospitals here. Lord Methuen's work has been a labour of love, and his devotion to duty has brought him much gratitude and world-wide appreciation. Lady Methuen and her daughter, the Honourable Seymour Methuen, accompanied by Captain Ingham, have left for England on H.M.S. Diana. The name of Lady Methuen will ever be recalled with feelings of affection and gratitude not only by those whom she has so largely and liberally assisted by means of the fund (to help distressed middle-class families) which bears her name, but also by the legion of friends with whom she has been associated in the various forms of social work which have been benefited by her influence and active participation.

Russian Refugees.

With the arrival of a further batch of British and Russian refugees from Constantinople the number of British refugees is now some two hundred and fifty. They were in a destitute condition when they reached Malta. The British Red Cross and Order of St. John have come to their rescue, and have done all they could for their relief. The societies have provided clothing and other necessaries, and the refugees, accommodated as they are in comfortable military quarters, may be said to lack nothing. Every effort is being made locally to make the stay of these refugees as happy as possible, and a series of special matinées at the Royal Opera House has been arranged, to which invitations were also given to a number of patients from the local Navy and Army hospitals. The first of these matinées took place on May 9, when the Opera House was literally packed.

Naval Movements.

H.M. ships Martis, Lily, and Sir Joseph Pease, together with hospital paddlers 3 and 7, are leaving Malta for Gibraltar and England.

We understand that the battleships Benbow, Ajax, and Centurion, which are to bring up the newly reconstituted Mediterranean Battle Fleet to full strength, as provisionally decided, and which have hitherto been unable to leave for Malta owing to demobilisation, may now be expected to arrive here in June.

H.M.S. Katie arrived here from Constantinople. The American destroyers Luce and Gregory have left Malta. H.M.S. Seabank arrives here to-day from Constantinople. H.M.S. Rowan is here from Constantinople and Syria.

Japanese Visitors.

Rear-Admiral Kozo Sato, K.C.M.G., commanding the Japanese Squadron in the Mediterranean, has arrived here from Toulon in his flagship and cruiser Idzumo. Whilst away from Malta the Japanese Fleet visited Italy and France. According to previous arrangements, Admiral Sato was to have made Malta his base for months to come, a fact at which the commercial community rejoiced, but other instructions have been received, and the Japanese Squadron is to leave for Tokio, calling at the Piræus, Port Said, and other ports *en route*. It should be stated that during the whole time of their stay our gallant Allies have been on the most cordial terms with the people of this island, and their departure is the subject of general regret.

A Strike.

As we write, the students of the University have "downed tools," and the police have struck for more pay; developments in these matters will be dealt with in our next Notes.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE DESTINY OF AUSTRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I fully agree with the views expressed in your leading article under the above heading in your last issue. Austria was no less responsible for the war than Germany, for the policy of both Germany and Austria was the same, and the Austrian waging of war was perhaps still more barbarous. Yet a tendency is making itself apparent to show unmerited benevolence towards German Austria, and grant her favourable economic terms. Some of the Allies, especially the French, still cherish the vain hopes of separating the Germans into a Southern and Northern Germany, and dread the incorporation of German Austria into Germany, and, therefore, want to induce the Austrians, by granting them favourable terms, not to be so incorporated. The Austrians know this, and are making the best of it.

Moreover, there is a tendency to place the Czecho-Slovaks and the Yugoslavs, who fought side by side with the Allies, on the same footing with the Austrian Germans and Magyars as regards the reparation of war damages. Especially some of the Italian delegates and the Italian Press advocate that all the nations inhabiting the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy should pay the war costs of Italy. The Czecho-Slovaks, of course, cannot and will not agree to this, because they not only did not want the war, but from the very beginning sided with the Allies.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER BROZ.

May 24.

THE QUESTION OF DOBRUJA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Allow me as a Roumanian, and particularly as a man of science familiar with Balkan affairs, and as director of the Institute for the Study of South-East Europe, to call your attention to the following facts connected with the question of the Dobruja, quite incorrectly exposed by your correspondent "S. P." in THE NEAR EAST of April 17:—

1. The Dobruja was at one time Scythian territory, then Getan, finally Roman and Daco-Roman, half a millennium before the invasion of the Bulgars.

2. This invasion, tending towards Constantinople, has left no traces and founded nothing whatsoever in a country which was valueless to the invader.

3. The first Roumanian state-foundations, the principalities of Tatul, etc., which were under Byzantine influence, appeared here two centuries before those influenced by Western political life.

4. Later on, this region, which had remained under Byzantine influence in connection with the Imperial Black Sea Fleet, became the appanage of the Byzantine despot Dobrotici, "the son of Dobrota," whose name is common among Roumanians, while the water-ways, land and mouths of the Danube were Genoese.

5. Both as Byzantine despot and as representative of the people that had always inhabited both banks of the Danube, the Valachian Prince Mircea (1386-1418) ruled over the Dobruja together with Silistra. His predecessors brought to these parts from Vicina the first Metropolitan Primate of Valachia. All his successors up to 1610 sought to reclaim the Dobruja from the Turks, who had conquered it from the Roumanians, not from the Bulgarians.

6. The cultural and economic life of Turkish Dobruja was connected with the left Roumanian bank, the bishopric being at Braila and the chief market at Piua Petrei. The Roumanian villages have maintained themselves during the course of centuries, whereas those of the Bulgarians, who had emigrated after 1828 from the colonies organised by the Russians in Bessarabia, made their appearance less than a century ago. The shepherds of Dobruja are nearly all of them "Mocani," from Transylvania. The inhabitants of the centre along the line Tsaccea-Babadag-Rasgrad are Turco-Tartars. Greeks persisted on the coast.

7. In 1878 many Roumanians were against the acceptance of the Dobruja, but only because they were averse to receiving it at the hands of Russia, and because Southern Bessarabia, conferred by Europe in 1856, was claimed in exchange by a disloyal ally.

8. Once conferred upon us by Europe, we transformed the Dobruja, which was a desert, into a new country, and no dissatisfaction on the part of other nations assumed any general character up to the actual war. Bulgarians were always in the minority, whereas the Roumanians constituted a crushing majority in 1916. There were not 50,000 Bulgarians living in a country with a population more than six times more numerous.

I am ready to uphold any one of these points with the unassailable arguments of the historian.—I am, etc.

Bucharest, April 25. N. JORGA.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS AND REFUGEE FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Referring to the cable which I received from Mr. Khatissian, Prime Minister of the Armenian Republic at Erivan, which you published in your issue of the 23rd inst., will you kindly let me say that I shall be most thankful to receive at the undermentioned address money donations for relief of the Armenian refugees in the Caucasus? Cheques should be made payable to Mrs. Lydia Chambers, hon. treasurer of this fund. The military authorities will give every facility to us to send out relief, and I have been asked to make preparations for doing this. There must be many wealthy people here who will gladly give of their abundance to save the lives of those helpless sufferers, who are dying, as Mr. Khatissian says, "1,500 daily of starvation and disease."—I am, etc.,

EMILY J. ROBINSON
Hon. Secretary.

35a, Elsham Road, Kensington,
London, W.14, May 27.

JUBILEE OF THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

The Jubilee dinner of the Royal Colonial Institute was held on May 23 in the Connaught Rooms. The Duke of Connaught presided, and the large gathering included the Maharaja of Bikanir, the Maharaja Kumar of Bikanir, the Marquess of Crewe, Viscount Bryce, Major-General Lord Loch, Lieut.-General Sir John Monash, Lord Morris, Lord Emmott, General Sir W. Birdwood, Lieut.-General Sir A. Godley, Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, Lieut.-General Sir A. Currie, and Bishop Montgomery.

His Royal Highness, proposing the toast of the evening, said that the Institute came to birth in 1868. The original number of members was 174, but to-day the number was nearly 14,000. One of the shortcomings of the Institute was that India was not adequately represented either in name or in fact, and in order to try to remedy this a standing India Committee had been appointed.

He then referred to other necessary developments, and said that what was aimed at was a comprehensive scheme justified by their fifty years' work, worthy as a war memorial and wholly in consonance with the views of Lord Grey, whose mind was set upon some building which would be worthy of and stand for United Empire. Sir Charles Lucas responded to the toast.

Viscount Bryce proposed the toast of "United Empire," and Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada, responded.

The Maharaja of Bikanir said it was a happy augury that the Jubilee celebration of the Institute, which had done so much to promote Imperial solidarity, coincided with the full recognition of India's partnership with the Empire. Not only had India shared in the Imperial Councils of War and the Peace deliberations, but, along with the Dominions, she was to be a signatory to the Peace Treaty, and to-day she shared the responsibility of membership in the League of Nations. The mainspring of the sacrifice and devotion of the people of India had been the devotion of the people to the King-Emperor. India, he emphasised, was loyal to the King-Emperor and staunch to the British connection.

Sir Hugh Clifford responded for the Colonies and Protectorates. "The Armed Forces of the Empire" was submitted by the Marquess of Crewe.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Greece, like this country, has been, and is, suffering much at the hands of the Profiteer; and, like the Briton, the Greek is easing his feelings by telling himself and his friends of the Profiteer's funny little ways. A friend in Athens passes on some of these to me, and here is one of them—a true one, by the way. A motor draws up at a bookseller's, and an expensively dressed female, the property of a Profiteer, gets out and enters the shop. "I want some books." "Yes, madam, what kind of books?" "Well, books!" "Yes, madam, would you like poetry or prose, or ——?" "It really doesn't matter. You see, I don't read; my husband doesn't read. But we have just bought a house, and must have some books in the library. So just send me round one hundred pounds' worth of books, and see that they are nicely bound." The bookseller was asked by someone who had overheard the conversation what he meant to do. He pointed to sundry magazines, and said that he would have those bound as expensively as he could.

***

Here is another story sent me by the same correspondent—and again told at the expense of the Profiteer. In this case, the central figure was the wife of a shipowner, and she was being shown over a large and expensive house, with a view to purchase. "And here," said her guide, "is the bathroom, which you'll like to see." "All right," said Mrs. Crœsus, "I'll look at it. But God forbid that we should ever have to use it!"

***

This reminds me that it is not only the *owners* of ships who have been "making their bit" out of the war. A little while ago a Greek gentleman recognised at the Piræus a man who had been a small fisherman on one of the islands. At the time he was dressed as a ship's fireman. The gentleman greeted him, and inquired how the world was treating him. The man said that he wanted some advice. He had made some money, and now did not know what to do about it. Inquiries as to the amount he really had revealed that it was £22,000—yes, twenty-two thousand English pounds!—and that on one of his trips as a stoker to England he had been persuaded to put all the money into English loans. Now he had been told in his own country that England was going bankrupt, and he wanted to know how he could save his money! One wonders who set the bankruptcy yarn afloat, and whether it had any connection with the appreciation of Greek money.

***

In case my readers did not see *The Times* of May 22, I am setting down a stanza from a book of verse which Mr. D. A. Naik has sent to England from Bombay. *The Times* says that the book put the members of the House of Commons in a good humour for the Indian debate. That is not surprising. Here is the stanza:—

Dear Wilson's Big Ben voice, Lloyd George's watchful eye,
Worked so wondrous great, never their force would perish or die.
Unity spirit amazing grand, in Britain's blissful land,
Tho' on opposite beach, dear Asquith held a helping hand.
There my Balfour, too, Bonar Law, Curzon (Lord) as well,
Readily stood to dispel doubts as if by spell.

The lines show how, says *The Times* in quiet mirth, even in politics, distance lends enchantment to the view! The gentle truth of the comment is ridiculously obvious. Epithets of love when applied to politicians are really extremely funny. And the simple faith in the imperishability or immortality (do you catch the difference? I've missed it!) of the League of Nations is touching. Would that we all could indent for a pair of these Bombay spectacles through which to see the world! But possibly the most heart-breaking (or side-cracking) vision is that of an unholy trinity standing by to "dispel doubts as if by spell." Politicians will dispel doubts when they have ceased to create them; and that period is more distant than are the stars!

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Indian Cavalry in Palestine. May 21.

The Earl of MAYO called attention to the fine work done by the Indian Cavalry during the campaign in Palestine, and asked why no mention had been made of their services in that campaign. It was well known, he said, that the Indian Cavalry did very good work under General Allenby, but little, if any, notice had been taken of it.

Viscount PEEL, in reply, expressed surprise that the noble earl had put down the question. There was not the slightest justification for the charge that the Indian Cavalry had not received honourable mention for the work they did. The noble lord read copious extracts from the last dispatch of General Allenby, and said he could not understand how, in face of the expressions used in that dispatch, anyone could say that no mention had been made of the work done in Palestine by the Indian Cavalry. So far from no mention having been made, the dispatch was saturated through and through with praise of these gallant troops. He deeply regretted that any noble lord should suggest that inadequate mention had been given to the great services rendered by the Indian Cavalry in this most successful and dramatic campaign.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Schools in Egypt. May 22.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, asked by Captain Ormsby-Gore whether any support from public funds was given to any school in Egypt which had for its object the education of children of Englishmen engaged in the public service in Egypt; whether the only schools in Cairo before the war where a European education could be obtained by English children were State-supported German, French, and Italian schools; and whether he would examine the question with a view to assisting British parents in the Egyptian service to educate their families in Egypt, replied: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, I understand that previous to the war the only British schools in Egypt were the Victoria College in Alexandria, which owed its existence to private generosity, and a day school in Cairo. Since the war a new English school has been started in Cairo, which has over 100 pupils and has been of great assistance to British parents. His Majesty's High Commissioner reported at length in 1916 on the serious lack of educational facilities for British children in Egypt, and he was assured that the whole question would be carefully and sympathetically examined at the end of the war. It is now being so considered.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official Report.

BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR: Treatment in Turkey. ARAB NON-COMBATANTS (MURDERS BY TURKISH SOLDIERS). CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS (EGYPT). PALESTINE FORCE (SOLDIERS' WIVES). INDIA: Education Service.—Silver from United States.—Mails. (May 20.)

INDIA: Defence of Kut.—Furlough Allowances (Civil Service).—Deportation (Mr. B. J. Horniman).—Coinage.—British Goods Preference.—Passenger Accommodation. PEACE TERMS AND CELEBRATIONS: Indian Troops. ANGLO-EGYPTIAN CIVIL SERVANTS. DEMOBILISATION: Signallers in India. ALBANIA AND SERBIA. (May 21.)

TRANSVAAL (INDIANS). DRAFTS FOR EGYPT. EGYPTIAN LABOUR CORPS. INDIA: Mohmand Frontier Operations.—Re-employed Officers (Pay).—Karachi Troop Train Incident. MESOPOTAMIA (FUEL, WOOD). EGYPT: Government Officials.—Commandeered Supplies. EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS (May 22).

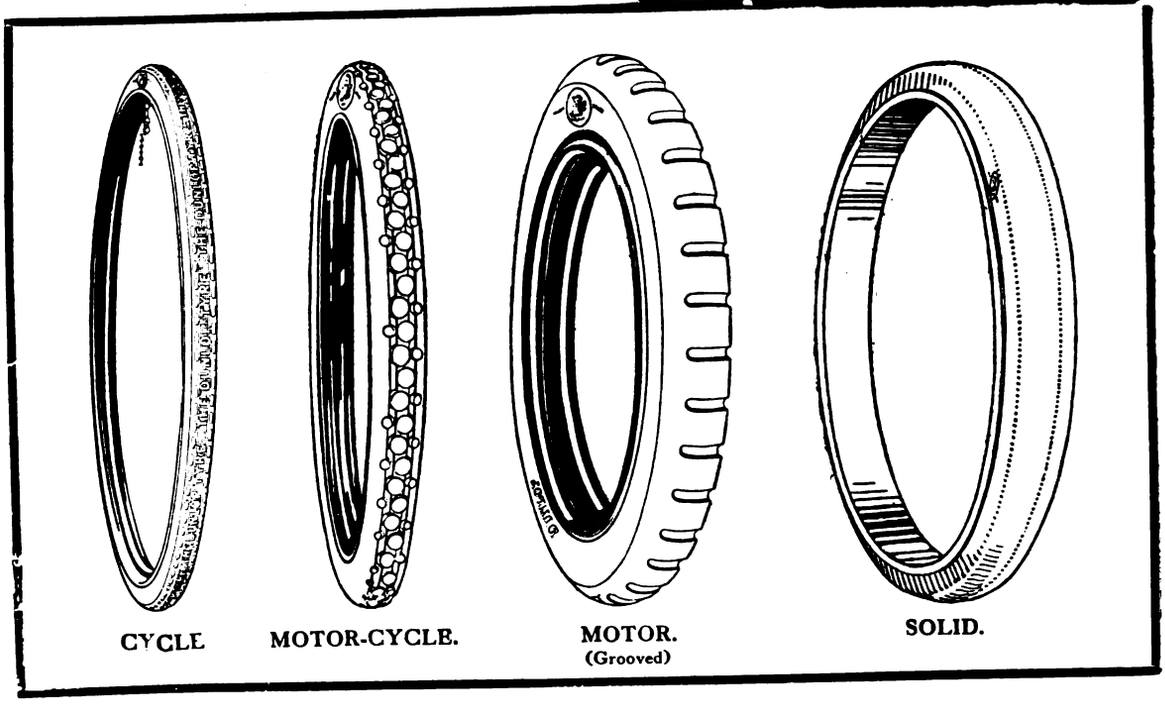
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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE BREAK-UP OF RUSSIA.

It was inevitable that a large number of books should be produced on the downfall of Russia, and various phases of the revolution. It appears also to be inevitable that many of these should add little to our knowledge. It cannot honestly be said that Mr. Hugh Brennan's "Sidelights on Russia" (David Nutt) is of much use either to the student or the popular reader; and the chapters on "The Russian Revolution," by M. Alexander Petrunkevitch, Samuel Harper, and F. A. Golder (Harvard: Cambridge University Press), come into the same category. This latter book is, however, somewhat relieved from the reproach of inadequacy by a discussion of the Yugoslav movement by Mr. Robert J. Kearner, for Yugoslav history is still sufficiently unfamiliar to most people for there to be room for an introductory essay of no great length on the subject. But more relevant to the present political problems of Eastern Europe is Mr. Frederick Moore's "The Chaos in Europe" (Putnam). The author has travelled over the ground whose destiny he discusses, and has thought about what he has seen. He makes an independent study of the position from the point of view of an impartial American—one notes, by the way, that he does not fully agree with President Wilson's policy or aims—and there is one particular chapter in which he discusses the question of the backward State, and its general relations to the rest of the world, which strikes us as particularly sound and worthy of attention. Incidentally he pays a handsome tribute to the British solution of this question by the system of a Protectorate which both secures the economic development of "the backward State" and yet regards the responsibility for its proper administration as a kind of moral trusteeship. But it would frankly be difficult, if not impossible, to institute such a system either in Russia or the Balkans, and it is recognised by all schools of political thought that those countries must attempt to work out their own salvation.

A. W. T.

SCHOLARLY COMMONPLACE.*

A few poems in this small volume were written in Gallipoli and Egypt, but they are not the author's happiest efforts. It is originality that he lacks. He has no difficulties with his technique (his technical efforts, indeed, are very creditable), and the translations from the French at the end of the book are the most satisfying things in the book. In "Spindrift" there are far too many of the clichés and the tricks of verse, and Mr. V. de S. Pinto has indulged overmuch his bent towards facile writing. But when he has learnt what to avoid, and when, in place of his present rather commonplace ideas, he has something to say, he certainly will produce a far better book than this.

THE PACIFIC.†

As can be seen from its title, "The Problem of the Pacific," has little relation to "The Near East." The book is well prepared, and views and the interpretation of facts are given with modest clarity. Mr. Fletcher especially pleads for a closer *rapprochement* between India and Australia, and suggests the introduction, under good conditions, of Indians into those Pacific islands where native labour is insufficient. "The Indian," he says, "is the hope of the Pacific," and is essential to the development of British territories in the tropics.

BOOK NOTES.

John Lane is shortly publishing "Temporary Crusaders," by Cecil Sommers. The book is made up of adventures in various theatres of war, chiefly Palestine.

Messrs. Harrap announce "Tales of Serbian Life," by Ellen Chivers Davies, and "Hindu Fairy Tales," retold by Florence Griswold. Both these books are illustrated in colour.

P. S. King and Son have published "The Silk Industry in Trade," by Ratan C. Rawlley. Among other things, the book deals with the export trade of Kashmir and Indian silks. Its price is 10s. 6d. net.

"Fishing in Egypt," by "Fluker," which Luzac and Co. have published at 2s. 6d., is a collection of articles which the writer contributed to the *Egyptian Gazette*.

Through the firm of C. Arthur Pearson, Sax Rohmer has published "The Quest of the Sacred Slipper" (2s. net), a story of Oriental adventure.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Bulgarians and Anglo-Saxondom," with Maps. By Constantine Stephanove, M.A. (Berne: Paul Haupt, Librairie Académique.)

* "Spindrift," by V. de S. Pinto. (Chapman and Hall. 5s. net.)

† "The Problem of the Pacific." By C. Brunston Fletcher. (London Heinemann. 12s. net.)

THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

The India Office issued the following on May 26:—

With reference to the statement that has appeared in the Press to the effect that the Afghan Commander-in-Chief applied for a cessation of hostilities, the facts are as follows: In telegraphing on May 15 to the Secretary of State on the military position, the Government of India incidentally mentioned the receipt of such an application, but without appearing to attach much importance to it. The Secretary of State at once telegraphed for further particulars, and asked whether the request could not be made the basis of negotiation. In reply, the Government of India telegraphed on May 18 the full text of the Commander-in-Chief's message, which was addressed to the Political Agent, Khyber. The Government of India added that this insolent message was obviously devised to gain time (an explanation to which the Afghans themselves gave currency among the frontier tribes), and that they had instructed the Political Agent, Khyber, to reply that he was not authorised to answer the message, and that if the Amir wished for peace he should address the Viceroy through the officer in command of the British forces. Meanwhile offensive preparations continue to be made by the Afghans along the whole frontier. The Amir's reply to the Viceroy's letter protesting against the Afghan proceedings has now been received. It is defiant in tone, and leaves no doubt as to Amanullah's personal complicity.

On the same date the India Office announced the following:—

Following information has been received from Government of India up to May 26, 1919: On May 22 air reconnaissance reported no movements of importance east of Jelalabad; Afghan troops on the Dakka front were reported to be having difficulty with their ration supply, and local lashkirs to be disinclined to concentrate for the same reason. Attempts to get the local tribesmen to attack Dakka are reported to have failed owing to the difficulties of supply. Amanullah is said to have visited Jelalabad, but to have returned to Kabul. The tribal gathering in Gandao, in the Mohmand country, is said to be increasing. General Nadir Khan is reported as still vacillating in Khost. Our propaganda is believed to be having a good effect in Ningrahar, and the *moral* of the Afghan troops is said to be deteriorating. Tribesmen generally are still holding aloof, though in some cases tribal lashkars are said to be with the Afghan forces. The Zakka Khel Maliks have brought in without ransom two airmen—Lieutenants Hoare and Barker—who were forced to descend in the Bazar Valley—*i.e.*, tribal territory. From Jelalabad it is reported that great confusion was caused there by the air raid of May 21. Several Government buildings were set on fire, and the town is reported as practically deserted. On May 23 the general position was unchanged, and all the frontier districts were reported quiet. Great activity as regards military preparations was reported in Kandahar on May 21.

The India Office announced on May 27 that the following further information had been received from the Government of India:—

Up to May 24 the general situation remained unchanged, and the tribal attitude good. From Chitral it was reported that some Afghans were holding a position five miles above Arnawai (forty miles south of Chitral, on Kunar River). A small Afghan force was still in Gandao (in Mohmand country). Our patrols on the Mohmand border and our aeroplanes in this area were fired on by small Afghan guns. A trustworthy report stated that no Afghan troops had left Kandahar up to May 21. On the 25th the Mohmands were reported to be behaving correctly, and the Afridis to be in a submissive mood. The latter are surrendering rifles taken away by deserters from the Khyber Rifles. The Afridis are reported to have looted a large number of rifles and artillery ammunition from Jalalabad, when it was deserted after our air raid. In the Kurram Valley a party of militia has been fired on by an Afghan picquet. The militia returned the fire, killing three of the picquet.

The following announcement was made by the India Office on May 28:—

Increased activity is reported on the Khost border. From Miramshah (in the Tochi valley, thirty miles west of Baneu) a report has been received that General Nadir Khan has sent a tribal lashkar to Zanshora, fifteen miles north-west of Miramshah, on the Afghan side of the border, and it is rumoured that General Nadir Khan intends to advance down the Kaita valley on Soirwam (eighteen miles north-west of Baneu) or towards Charkai (twelve miles north of Miramshah). In the Tochi valley the cutting of telegraph wires continues. On May 24 a tribal lashkar, near Galanai (thirteen miles north-west of Shabkadar, in the Mohmand country), believed to be composed mainly of Afghan tribesmen from Kunar, was very effectively bombed and scattered northwards. Another lashkar, estimated at 4,000, was seen moving north-west from Nahakki (eight miles N.N.W. of Galanai, in the Mohmand country). Jelalabad was again effectively bombed, and large portions of the military part of the town are reported to be burnt out. On May 24 our aeroplanes bombed the powder factory and fort of Kabul. A large explosion was observed. Up to May 24 the tribal situation on the N.W. frontier was reported to be improving day by day, and the danger of an Afridi rising appeared to be decreasing.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919.	1919.		1337.	5679.
May	May.		Ramadan.	Sivan.
30	17	Friday	1	1
31	18	Saturday.....	2	2
June				
1	19	Sunday	3	3
2	20	Monday	4	4
3	21	Tuesday	5	5
4	22	Wednesday	6	6
5	23	Thursday	7	7

The Aga Khan has returned to London from Paris.

Sir Sankaran Nair has resigned from the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania is confined to his room at Eton through illness.

The Greek General Korakas arrived at Marseilles on May 26 from the Piræus.

Capt. Raja Sir Hari Singh of Kashmir was received by His Majesty on May 24.

Prince Mahomet Djemil Eddin, of Egypt, arrived at Marseilles on May 26 from Port Said.

Mme. Bratiano, the wife of the Roumanian Prime Minister, left London on May 28 for Paris.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, returned to London on May 24 from Paris.

Lieut.-Colonel S. Marinkovitch, who was commander-in-chief of the Serbian Army in Russia, has left London for Paris.

M. Kyriakos Venizelos, son of the Greek Premier and Secretary to the Greek Legation, returned to London on May 25 from Paris.

The Government of India have selected Mr. R. Burn, C.S.I., I.C.S., for employment as the next Census Commissioner for India.

The Maharaja of Bikanir was visited on May 25 by Capt. Raja Sir Hari Singh of Kashmir.

Princess Marie of Roumania, who is staying at Ascot, was visited on May 25 by Mme. Bratiano, the wife of the Roumanian Premier.

In the Harcourt Room at the House of Commons on May 27 a wedding gift from the Independent Liberal M.P.s was presented to Princess Bibesco.

Admiral Beatty arrived at the Piræus on May 20 and visited the antiquities of Athens. He has been nominated an honorary citizen of the city of Athens.

Commander Budissawlevitch, Serbian Delegate attending the Peace Conference in Paris, has arrived in London for the purpose of studying naval matters.

Mr. A. T. Holme is to officiate as Agent in Rajputana, in place of Lieut.-Colonel J. Manners-Smith, who is proceeding home on leave preparatory to retirement.

Mr. A. N. L. Cater, I.C.S., lately first assistant to the Resident, Hyderabad, has arrived at Simla and taken over the appointment of Deputy Secretary, Foreign Department.

The marriage arranged between Major A. S. B. Roberts, I.A., Burma Commission, and Miss Nan Forbes, Oland's, Porlock, will take place at Luccombe, Somerset, on June 4.

Mr. W. Sutherland is to officiate as Postmaster-General of the United Provinces in place of Mr. L. Truninger, who has been granted one year and six months' leave, combined with furlough.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place in August, between Henry Rupert Fiennes Sullivan, Royal Irish Rifles (retired), only son of Colonel R. E. Sullivan, Indian Army, and Mrs. Sullivan, and grandson of the late H E. Sullivan, C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, and Vera, younger daughter of the Rev. C. J. Percival, late Vicar of Nassington, Northamptonshire, and Mrs. Percival, Pivington House, Pluckley, Kent.

The King has granted to R. A. Wilson, M.B.C.M., permission to wear the Serbian Order of St. Sava, Class IV., in recognition of his services to the Serbian sick and wounded under the auspices of the Serbian Relief Fund.

Brigadier-General Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Adviser on Mechanical Transport Services to the Government of India, will read a paper on "Aviation as Affecting India" at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts on June 5.

On May 22 the King inspected a party of Indian officers, non-commissioned officers, and men belonging to Divisional Ammunition Columns, Royal Horse Artillery, under the command of Capt. H. C. Clogstoun, Indian Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, of Geoffrey Dawson, of Langcliffe Hall, Settle, eldest son of the late George Robinson, of Skipton-in-Craven, and Cecilia, younger daughter of Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley, of 9, Seymour Street, W.

The engagement is announced between Brevet-Major James Mance Whittall, 6th Gurkha Rifles, elder son of James Whittall, Esq., Montagu Mansions, London, and Marion Bessie, second daughter of Capt. C. O. Liddell, J.P., and Mrs. Liddell, of Shirenewton Hall, Chepstow.

The engagement is announced between Capt. Lionel D. W. Hearsey, M.C., 2nd Bengal Lancers, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Hearsey, Kheri, Oudh, India, and Dorothy Maud, younger daughter of the late Mr. E. Herbert Nicholl and Mrs. Nicholl, of Holmbury, Upper Avenue, Eastbourne, Sussex.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant J. C. Powell, M.C., R.A., only son of Mr. J. C. Powell, Amballa Cantonment, Punjab, India, and Violet Eileen, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anning, Temple Dinsley, Branksome Park, Bournemouth, will take place at St. George's, Hanover Square, on June 25.

The marriage was celebrated on May 7, at the British Consulate, and afterwards at All Saints' Church, Cairo, between Lieut.-Commander Walter Jeremy Bright-Barton, Royal Navy, and Caroline Louise Hine-Moa, youngest daughter of the late Thomas Bowman Whytehead, J.P., of Acomb House, Acomb, Yorkshire.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Capt. Reginald F. Atkins, 67th Punjabis, third son of the late Colonel Robert Atkins, 15th Bengal Lancers, and Mrs. Atkins, 10, Florence Road, Southsea, and Flora Jean Evans, youngest daughter of Stephen W. Evans, J.P., and Mrs. Evans, of March Hill, Bagshot.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Capt. (Acting Major) M. D. Vigors, D.S.O., M.C., Croix de Guerre, 9th Hodson's Horse, Indian Army, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Vigors, of Gowran Castle, Co. Kilkenny, and Daphne Stuart, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson, of Hockley Lodge, Co. Armagh.

The marriage was celebrated on May 23, by special licence, at Bywell St. Peter's, Northumberland, by the Rev. W. M. Potts, between Donald Stuart, I.C.S., Lieut. I.A.R.O., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, of 331, Norwood Road, Herne Hill, S.E., and Kathleen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, of Stocksfield, Northumberland.

An engagement is announced between Capt. J. A. Denny, Grenadier Guards, A.D.C. to H.E. the Viceroy of India, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Denny, of Horwood House, Bucks, and 73, Grosvenor Street, W., and Eileen, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Meyrick Selby-Lowndes, of Bucks House, Netley, Hants, and Mursley Grange, Bucks.

The marriage was celebrated on May 26, at St. Anne's Church, Bagshot, by the Rev. A. H. Ford, between Capt. Reginald F. Atkins, 67th Punjabis, third son of the late Colonel Robert Atkins, 15th Bengal Lancers, and Mrs. Atkins, Southsea, and Flora Jeannie, youngest daughter of Stephen W. Evans, J.P., and Mrs. Evans, of March Hill, Bagshot.

The engagement is announced of Major Steele Haughton, Indian Medical Service, son of Samuel Haughton (late Ceylon Civil Service) and Mrs. Haughton, of 17, Clyde Road, Dublin, and grandson of the late Professor Samuel Haughton, F.T.C.D., to Marjorie Winifred Porter, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everard Porter, of The Manor House, Haddenham, Cambs. The marriage will take place in London on June 20.

The marriage was celebrated on May 19, at Holy Trinity Church, Karachi, India, by the Rev. C. Hemming, Chaplain of Karachi, between Capt. Eric James Shearer, M.C., 31st D.C.O. Lancers and General Staff, Mesopotamia, younger son of the late Brevet-Colonel Johnston Shearer, C.B., D.S.O., I.M.S., and Mrs. Shearer, and Phyllis Muriel, elder daughter of Horace Charles Mules, C.S.I., M.V.O., O.B.E., and Mrs. Mules.

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Queen Marie of Roumania expects to visit the United States in the coming autumn.

Monsignor Camassei, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, has arrived in Rome, and is expected to be created a Cardinal at the next Consistory (says the *Morning Post* correspondent there).

On May 29—the birthday of the Shah of Persia—by command of the King, the Marshal of Ceremonies called on the Persian Minister and conveyed his Majesty's congratulations and good wishes.

The marriage was celebrated on May 28, at Valetta, Malta, between Paymaster-Lieutenant E. A. Crook R.N.R., of Huddersfield, and Mary, daughter of Colonel John Lancaster, I.M.S. (retired), and Mrs. Lancaster.

The wedding of Brevet-Major E. R. P. Berryman, D.S.O., 39th Garhwal Rifles, third son of the late Rev. C. P. Berryman and Mrs. Berryman, of Delaford, Guildford, and Nell, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fielding, of Broadsground, Upton-St. Leonards, near Gloucester, will take place at Upton-St. Leonards on June 10 at half-past twelve o'clock.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Capt. Jovan K. Tanovitch, formerly director of the Serbian Press Bureau in London and Paris, has been appointed editor of the Belgrade newspaper *Politika*.

Lieut.-Colonel T. A. Hiam, R.E., has been appointed Military Director of the Anatolian-Baghdad Railway at Constantinople. Prior to the war he was in the service of the Canadian Northern Railway.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on May 25 of Henry Wood Payne, late of Bombay, in his eighty-fifth year.

The death occurred on May 25 of Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Wilbraham Twining Radcliffe, late XIV. Sikhs, aged sixty-five, son of late Capt. Charles Wilbraham Radcliffe, 7th Bengal Cavalry.

Lieut.-Colonel Thomas James Bailey, late of the Indian Army, has died at Waterford, in his seventy-sixth year. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, the Zhob Valley Expedition of 1884, and the Burmese Expedition of 1886-7. He retired in 1892.

Lieut.-Colonel Cuthbert Montagu, late of the Suffolk Regiment, died on May 23 from heart failure at the age of fifty-three. He had his first commission in 1884, and took part in the Hazara Expedition of 1888, for which he had the medal with clasp.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The offices of the Roumanian Legation in Paris have been burgled, but no diplomatic documents have been stolen.

Twenty thousand pounds have been sent to the American Yugo-slav Relief Fund by the United States Steel Corporation.

The Times reports that Enver Pasha, formerly Turkish Minister of War, has been discovered among the Tartars of Transcaucasia.

A larger share in the Government, in so far as is consistent with Imperial interests, is to be granted to residents in the Crown Colony of Malta.

At Resht, on the Caspian, where the tribes in the adjacent jungle looted the British Consulate and the Bank of Persia, the situation is still unsettled.

On May 21 a deputation representing three million unredeemed Greeks in Turkey waited on Admiral Beatty at the British Embassy, Athens.

An Abyssinian Mission, composed of high dignitaries, arrived at Rome on May 27, and was welcomed at the station by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Berne correspondent of *The Times* states that the first Swiss relief train, containing 700 tons of general goods, left Buchs on May 18 with a large military escort for Roumania.

American hospitals are sending fully-equipped hospital units to Palestine and Serbia, each mobile hospital consisting of forty to sixty motor-ambulances, with drivers, doctors, nurses, and others.

The National Council has forwarded to the Serbo-Croat-Slovene Delegation a declaration on behalf of 58,000 inhabitants of the town and district of Sebenico of their desire to cling to the union of the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Greek and Egyptian antiquities collected by the late Sir Hermann Weber, F.R.C.P., and other properties were sold on May 22 at Sotheby's. A Panathenaic amphora, black-figure period, 15 ins. high, found at Rhodes, sold for £170, and a Greek black-figure Kylix, 7¼ ins. diameter, 600-500 B.C., with a combat between Greek warriors, £175.

Since May 7 a new 1½ anna stamp has been on sale at all post offices in India. Its colour is a deep chocolate, and, like the ½ anna stamp, it bears the design of the King's head. The Post Office is issuing booklets containing sixteen stamps for sale at Rs.1.8 each.

Mr. Montagu states that operations on or beyond the Indian frontier, which, if they had occurred before 1914, would have been held eligible for the Indian General Service Medal, will be eligible for any medals that may be awarded for active service during the war.

A red-figured amphora, 16½ ins. high, Attic, about 480 B.C., was sold for £850 to Mr. Permain on May 23, at Sotheby's, among a series of Greek antiquities. The same buyer paid £260 for a black-figured hydria, 12½ ins. high, Attic, middle of the sixth century B.C.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Burma has directed the placing at the disposal of each commissioner of a division, with effect from April 1, of an annual discretionary grant of Rs.2,000 for expenditure in connection with deeds of special merit for services rendered to the State or conspicuous public aid to the police and other special work done.

KORITZA.

Koritza has figured so largely in writings on the Near East that a recent letter to *The Times* by Captain H. S. Spencer, late Political Officer, British Adriatic Mission, may be of interest. He says:—

"Having been in Koritza for a longer period than any one else in British service, may I be permitted to state that, outside the household of the Greek Bishop, I was able to find only one Greek family there? The inhabitants were Albanian by blood and language, while all the young men, both Orthodox and Moslem, were ardent—even militant—Nationalists. While I was there 1,500 of them, all Christians, had formed a regiment under Themisticles Grameni, a prominent Christian merchant, to fight against the regiment from Crete, which had advanced by orders of the Greek Government to occupy the district."

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FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1919.

GREECE AFTER THE WAR.

It would be difficult to point to a single country in the world—there is certainly none in Europe—that can view the immediate future with entire complacency. Greece is no exception to the rule. The problems that are awaiting solution are accumulating in number and complexity. Her great asset, that she can claim for her own one of the foremost statesmen of the day, is at the same time a disadvantage, in so far as the Greek people and the politicians have come to look to him not only to rescue them out of all their troubles, but also as the sole source of energy and statesmanship. In justice to M. Venizelos's colleagues it must be admitted that there has been a tendency in every State more or less to mark time during the Paris Conference and to avoid all major commitments until the terms of peace are known. The Greeks, not without some justification, may have considered that in their case the necessity for such a policy was overwhelming. Apart from the absence of M. Venizelos, there has been complete uncertainty as to the extent of the additional territory that may accrue to Greece from the victory of the Entente, and, despite the respect that may be felt for the League of Nations, all the people of the Near East have been far too accustomed in the past to battle, murder, and unrest as the normal character of international relations to believe in the possibility of the immediate translation of this part of the world into the middle of the millennium. They can hardly be blamed for the scepticism in view of the circumstance that the latter stages of the Peace Conference witnessed no little military activity on the part of Italy in districts which the bulk of the Italian nation would have some difficulty in locating on a map, and, further, that on the eve of the declaration of the peace terms, as far as they affected the Eastern Mediterranean, the Greeks themselves had to carry out movements of substantial bodies of troops with the acquiescence, if not at the instance, of the Allied Powers. Until, therefore, a limit can be set to its military programme, the Greek Government may claim some indulgence for treading warily in the domain of national politics. Here indeed is the crucial factor in any settlement of the Near East. The first essential is the inviolability of the terms that may be imposed, and the acid test of Allied statesmanship will consist in its capacity to adjust the inevitable compromise between conflicting claims to its resources for maintaining peace. For let there be no mistake, a peace that is left entirely to the devices of Greek, Serbian, Bulgarian, and Turk is going to be no peace at all. One and all must feel that the maintenance of peace between the different peoples, whether as nations, communities, or individuals, now rests in much stronger hands than their own, and that the least breach will be visited with far more effectual punishment for all concerned than mere localised reprisals. The experience of all these States in the matter of brigandage will enable them to appreciate the wisdom of such action. Until the villagers were made to realise that it did not pay to connive at lawlessness in their neighbourhood, brigandage remained rife, however dire the penalties imposed on individual brigands when caught. Similarly, until each nation understands that it will suffer corporately and severely for the least disturbance of the peace or for the violation of the sanctity of personal liberty and security, the settlement evolved in Paris will have no permanency.

The first to benefit from such a penal code would be the more peacefully inclined among the States in question: for so long as a Government can plead international preoccupations or can cover its shortcomings in domestic politics by an effective appeal to national animosities it has a plausible excuse for glossing over or neglecting the major interests of the country. Greece without doubt would have reason to be grateful for the guarantee of several decades of uninterrupted peace, and, in spite of the fervour with which national claims are upheld, the intelligence of the nation as a whole is equal to placing more store on the opportunity for peaceful development than on any considerable accession of territory before the administrative capacity of the country is sufficient to bear the additional burden. Chief among the problems with which M. Venizelos will be confronted on his return are the labour question and the general political situation. With regard to the latter it is difficult, as far as can be gathered from information that reaches the outside world from Greece, to speak with any degree of certainty. If in a country of such established political traditions as Great Britain the pendulum can start swinging so soon after the seemingly most convincing of general elections, it need not be a matter for surprise that in Greece, where politics are essentially of the personal type, the long absence of M. Venizelos should prompt the wiseacres to discover a slackening of his wonderful hold upon the people. But until the Prime Minister does return to Greece and has had time to devote his whole attention once more to internal affairs, it is impossible to say whether such a slackening is imaginary or to what extent, if any, it may prove embarrassing to M. Venizelos. It is equally impossible to anyone outside Greece, and probably difficult for the Greeks themselves, to determine whether the unfortunate events of the past few years have left any deep-seated and lasting cleavage in the nation. No doubt the political vocabulary still includes the words Venizelist, Anti-Venizelist, and Royalist, but whether they represent three parties or two parties, and what may be their respective strengths, only the future can tell. The friends of Greece—the term includes the people of Great Britain as a whole—will hope to find that the result of the war and the conditions of peace, in so far as they affect the Hellenic race, have convinced all sections of Greek thought that the wisdom of M. Venizelos's policy has been so proved beyond all challenge that there can be no justification for a condition of things approximating that of a nation divided against itself. The only possibility of any permanent bitterness remaining—and we prefer to think that it is remote—would be due to those whose policy has been conclusively discredited having been given occasion to brood over treatment which has no judicial sanction.

In the handling of Greece's economic problems the need for a high order of statesmanship is no less paramount. The attitude of labour is essentially a cause for anxiety, the more so, as up to the present the guiding principle has appeared to be in the main a desire to imitate what is understood from telegraphic summaries to be the labour attitude elsewhere rather than to approach the local aspect of the question from a logical point of view. Until the Greek Labour party, or trades unions, do this they cannot hope to arouse much sympathy. No one will contend that labour conditions and the position of the individual labourer in Greece were ideal, but behind the claims for higher wages should be a knowledge of and a recognisable desire for better conditions of life, together with a willingness to make out a more or less convincing case. So far it appears to be generally held in Greece that Greek labour has not "played the game" in any of these points; but the whole question is one that must inevitably engage the serious attention of M. Venizelos on his return, and until it has been examined from a broad point of view by both sides there is little prospect of any real improvement in the situation. Greece has reached an important stage in her economic development. A considerable amount of money has been acquired during the war, the country is ripe for an expansion of its industries, and the moment is most favourable for strengthening and widening Greece's commercial position in the Eastern Mediterranean. Future prospects, however, will be seriously overclouded if labour conditions are allowed to interfere with the normal movement of Greek trade and earn Greece a bad name abroad. At the same time those prospects depend in no small measure on the statecraft of Greek Governments. Neighbouring countries will also be anxious to make up leeway and not to be left behind in the intensified struggle for existence. Greece—it seems almost certain—will

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have two flourishing ports, Smyrna and Salonika, that have benefited in the past from their trade with a hinterland which has been under the same jurisdiction or has had no other outlet. Both these towns must suffer materially if for one reason or another that trade is entirely deflected to other ports. The point is not an unimportant one for Greece as a whole, and must sooner or later set long-sighted politicians and the *intelligenzia* of the country thinking whether a blind adherence to traditional animosities or a fresh orientation of Greek policy in the light of possible economic developments in the Near East will be the better policy.

MR. MONTAGU ON INDIA.

The occasion of Mr. Montagu's speech last week was currently described as the Indian Budget debate, but let us say at once that the current description is a misnomer; practically, nothing was said about the Budget, and the taxpayers of this country were not even invited to admire, or envy, the solidity of India's finances, a solidity which at the moment is equalled by very few of the great nations of the world. Judging by the ordinary reports, the word debate is scarcely less misleading, for, though the allotted time was occupied, the unofficial speeches have not been considered worthy of reproduction, and, in the estimation of the public, Mr. Montagu held the stage alone, a position which was perhaps not altogether uncongenial. It is pleasant to be able to record that, on the whole, he filled it worthily; some passages of his speech, indeed, show traces of qualities which a few years ago made him so intensely unpopular in Indian administrative circles; but when we read it as a whole, we find a broader, and perhaps a saner, view, and a greater readiness to recognise those hard facts which eager politicians prefer to keep as far as possible in the background. In a word, there was more of India, and less of Mr. Montagu, than we can recall in any of the speaker's previous efforts, and we are not disposed to quarrel seriously with his presentment of the existing situation.

In what light then did he exhibit the vast interests committed to his charge? Externally, he showed us a nation ranking only below the very greatest Powers, and taking an important part in the necessary reorganisation of a disordered world. That picture at least is true: India has been granted a position which a very few years ago would have been deemed incredible, but it is a position which demands from her serious and prolonged effort if she is to rise to the level of her new responsibilities, and at the present juncture we must concentrate our attention rather upon the internal condition of the country. Here the view is for the moment less attractive. We are shown a dense population, poor, ignorant, and excitable, including dangerous classes sufficiently numerous to necessitate the continuance of mild but unpopular repressive measures, and liable as a whole to be swept by sudden gusts of passion. We are told that the people are animated by "a passion for self-government," but we have the same speaker's authority for the statement that nine-tenths of them suffer from "placid, pathetic contentment" with things as they are, and we know that the truth lies somewhere between these extremes. Can such a population assert any moral claim to give laws to the rest of the world? So much at least is obvious, that India must set her own house in order before she can expect other nations to listen to her voice. On this point Mr. Montagu has no illusions, and he now recognises that, while economic and political reforms are urgently required, the maintenance of the Rule of Law must stand first on the programme; "we intend," he said, "to maintain order in India, and to safeguard it, because we believe that it is the only atmosphere in which nationality can grow uninterruptedly, surely, and swiftly"; and, while the reason offered may appear to some critics to be an inadequate statement of the case, the declaration of policy will be welcomed by all who have India's permanent interests at heart. The forces of disorder must indeed be steadily repressed, but at the same time measures must be taken to prevent their reinforcement by classes or sections suffering from real or fancied grievances, and from this point of view particular interest attaches to Mr. Montagu's observations on the state of Moslem feeling; Indian Moslems should at least recognise that they have had an energetic champion in Paris, and we trust that they will be influenced by the explicit statements regarding the Caliphate and the status of holy places and religious buildings, though until the terms of the Treaty are published there must always be room for suspicion, and also unfortunately for interested and malignant misrepresentation.

As regards the necessary economic changes, Mr. Montagu said less than we could have wished. He affirmed indeed the obvious need for scientific investigation into the widespread diseases which affect physical efficiency, and he undertook that the Industrial Commission should bear fruit; but he had nothing to say of the fundamental question of labour, which the Commission barely touched, or of those large and complex agrarian problems which lie so near the root of India's chronic poverty. On the political programme he was naturally more explicit, and he furnished a certain amount of information which came as news to most sections of the public in this country. It is noteworthy that he said much less of the franchise than of the division of functions, the two branches into which the subject falls; his attitude in this matter has indeed been read as a reflection of the current trend of political talk in India, which, as we said last week, is devoted chiefly to the question of immediate powers, but it is at least as probable that he said little of the franchise because at the moment there is little to say. Lord Southborough's Committee has discovered the beginnings of an electorate of sufficient numbers, but of very uncertain capacity, and further discussion can do little until experience shall show how the scheme actually works; the House of Commons at least is not in a position to criticise it in detail, and, if the underlying principles are accepted, the constituencies and electoral qualifications will probably emerge very much as originally designed. The actual controversy relates, as we indicated recently, to the particular method of marking off the functions to be discharged by the new popular authorities. Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu devised for this purpose the arrangement which has come to be known as the Dyarchy. Most of the provincial governments dislike this arrangement, and some of them have formulated alternatives; the Government of India adhere to the Dyarchy, and the Home Government will embody it (with some amendments) in the Bill, but the alternatives will be placed before the Joint Committee, by whom the whole question will be thrashed out. We think it is matter for regret that Mr. Montagu was unable to publish the despatches on this subject before the debate took place, so that members could have grasped the arguments against the Dyarchy as formulated by some of the ablest and most experienced men in India, but the delay in publication will serve only to increase the burden of responsibility which the Committee will have to bear. That burden is undoubtedly great, but at the same time it should not be exaggerated: the ultimate questions of principle have in substance been settled, and the immediate problem is to devise, not a theoretic-


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

KIN GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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ally perfect administrative machine, but one which can be trusted to work for a limited period without serious risk of a breakdown. Dyarchy or no Dyarchy, the new authorities must be given enough work to make the change worth having, and arrangements must be made to define their powers in such doubtful cases as may arise. That is eminently work for practical men, and while it is possible that the growing opposition to the appointment of the Joint Committee may eventually prevail, for ourselves we would prefer to see the questions now at issue decided by such a body, rather than by an overworked Cabinet, or a department of which the Minister is already committed to one particular solution.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Palestine, Great Britain, and the United States.

In its issue of May 24 *Palestine* sets out the political significance to Great Britain of a Jewish Palestine. Apart from the claims of justice, it says, the claims of interest are supremely important:—

The whole British Empire in the East hinges upon Palestine and the Suez Canal. A Jewish Palestine is the securest—we are inclined to say the only secure form—that hinge can take. All the agitation which has recently marked Egypt and the East is anti-British, and those who have directed this agitation are not likely in the future to change its character. Nor, on the other hand, is there any reasonable expectation that the agitation itself will disappear. No matter what progress is made with self-government, it will never be speedy enough to satisfy the minority which demands the entire abolition of Western and, in the first instance, British rule in the East. The masses of the population, who now and for many years to come will have no mature political understanding, will always be at the mercy of an agitation which appeals to religious passions. We do not say, and we do not believe, that this agitation need be a very serious military menace, but a political fabric cannot be built upon so unreliable a foundation. British policy must seek something more stable. That stability will be found in a Jewish Palestine, and in a Jewish Palestine only.

The article states that there are in America elements of possible opposition to Great Britain, but that if Britain acts upon her Declaration, American Jewry will not constitute one of these: rather it will be a very powerful supporter of England. The article concludes with a decided statement on the future of Anglo-American relations:—

Beyond dispute the devotion of American Jewry to Great Britain has been won by the Declaration. Beyond dispute that devotion would disappear if the Declaration were not fulfilled by Great Britain in the spirit and in the letter, and if the British Government did not use every endeavour towards the creation of a Jewish Palestine. Any action by the British Government which could be justly interpreted as wanting in fidelity or cordiality to the great Jewish ideal of a Jewish Palestine would be counted in America by American Jews as a breach of faith. It would convert American Jewry, the warmest friends of this country, into cold and sceptical critics. We are saying no more than the literal truth when we declare that on the British attitude towards a Jewish Palestine there depends the vast political issue of intimate association, distinguishable only in forms from an alliance, with America and conflict with America. We think it necessary to state this in terms too plain to be misunderstood, because it is the truth, and because no diplomatic drifting can escape from this central truth. The future of Anglo-American relations will be decided in Palestine.

Armenia and America.

In the May issue of *Asia*, the journal of the American Asiatic Association, Dr. E. G. Tabet, in an article "The Near East in Liquidation," summarises the probable futures of Turkey, Armenia, Syria, and so on. He is especially interesting on the proposed mandate to the United States for Armenia. He says:—

There is a moral element of obligation upon the United States to act for Armenia. Because the massacres have reduced the Armenian population to a minority in their own country, Armenia cannot stand alone. Her national development will be opposed, possibly prevented, by her enemies, or be subject to international exploitation. This does not mean that she will need an American army of protection. She already has a not insignificant nucleus for a national army, which may either remain such or be transformed into a gendarmerie. The need is that this force be under American command, with a few American gunboats to police the Black Sea coast. The fact that the new Armenia is under American protection would of itself be sufficient to remove all fear of encroachment by Turks and Kurds, especially if a firm hand is shown at the beginning. Turkey is now wise enough to know that the old days of plaguing the world with massacres and disorders in the security that international jealousy gave her are gone by. If the United States declines to act in Armenia, the international possibilities are significant. While France in all probability will be willing, if the United States accepts a mandatory for Armenia, to forgo her claims to territory allotted to her by the Anglo-French-Russian treaty of 1916, not included within the geographical boundaries of Northern Syria, she will naturally want to act herself in that area where she has predominant economic interests if the United States refuses. In the latter event, Britain and Italy will in all probability ask, in order to safeguard their interests against a preponderance of power in Asia Minor by their ally, that they, too, should share in a mandatory capacity over the rest of Armenian territory—that part assigned to Russia by the entente arrangement of 1916. Thus Armenia will stand to lose her separate national existence through the conflicting interests of the Powers. A United States mandatory for Armenia would solve this difficulty of international jealousy.

The Future of Turkey.

In the *Observer* of May 25 M. Philippe Millet, discussing the future of Turkey, says:—

Whatever the final solution may be, one general principle ought, however, to be enforced, which applies equally to all parts of the Near East, and which consists in respecting as much as possible the natural boundaries of each national group. The peoples we have to deal with in that part of the world are certainly far from being ripe for self-determination. The Turks themselves know it. Therefore, it is but fair and right that civilised nations should be called upon to help and educate each of them. But this does not mean that the Conference has the right to disregard the possibilities of the future and so to divide the map that when those Eastern peoples will come of age they will find themselves hopelessly cut up by some artificial boundaries. We should preserve the unity of Syria, of Mesopotamia, of Armenia just as much as that of Turkish Anatolia itself. Unless we do so, the new order of things may prove more fatal to the Near East than the old Turkish rule, which, at any rate, left the door open for all the conflicting national aspirations inside the Turkish Empire. It is to be hoped that selfish European interests will not prevent the settlement from being true to such a principle, however difficult it may be to define its application to each particular case.

BEGINNINGS OF MODERN GREECE.

At King's College, London, on May 26, Mr. John Mavrogordato commenced a series of lectures upon the history of modern Greece. His Excellency the Greek Minister presided, and opened the proceedings with a short address, in which he spoke of the ties of common interest, gratitude, and friendship that bound Greece to England.

Mr. Mavrogordato said that the force—the actual physical violence that drove the Turks out of the Morea—was in the klefts of Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia. These were largely brigands who defied all authority, Christian or Turkish, and partly bodies of Christian militia who had been recognised at some period by the Turkish authorities. It was extremely doubtful that these men had any Greek national consciousness before the outbreak of the revolution. Their patriotism was necessarily local. They were prepared to die for the traditional freedom of a native town or village, but did not concern themselves with the inherited traditions of the Hellenic race. They were conscious of being Christians, and in religious fanaticism were more than a match for their enemies. The direction and preparation of the revolution, without which it would have been no more than a series of disconnected and ineffectual explosions, lay with three classes of intellectuals. First were the Fanariots, who had accepted office under the Turkish Government, and who brought to the revolution political experience. Next were the merchants living in foreign cities, who had come in contact with the commercial and political movements of Europe; these gave money. Thirdly, and most important, were the educators. The greatest of these was Adamantios Koraes. Born at Smyrna in 1748, Koraes entered his father's house of business at Amsterdam as a young man, but afterwards studied medicine and settled in Paris, where he lived, surrounded by a circle of Hellenes and Phil-Hellenes. He produced a monumental series of editions of Greek classics and much other work tending to revive and develop the national spirit of his countrymen. He continually taught that the problems which faced the world were to be solved not by blindly imitating the ancients, but by applying principles which those ancients had discovered, but had never learned to apply for themselves. He thought the modern Greeks might succeed where their ancestors had failed, because they had certain advantages which might school them in toleration and capacity for co-operation. Of these the chief was education; he believed that education might teach them the political art of dwelling together in unity. Together with the benefits of scholastic education, Koraes coupled the use of the printing press. Another weapon to ensure the preservation of freedom was representative government. With education, representative government, ecclesiastical reform, tolerance, and goodwill, he believed that the Greeks might set an example to the rest of Europe.

Of the events which led to the intervention of England, France, and Russia, Mr. Mavrogordato said that the action of the Czar was not dictated by sympathy with Greek revolutionists, but by the fact that Russia was looking for an opportunity to extend its own rights of encroachment—encroachment spiritually in the Orthodox Church, and geographically in the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia; while the other two Powers were chiefly anxious to avoid a European conflagration. Phil-Hellenic sentiment in England and France was strong enough for it to be necessary for the governments to conciliate it, but it was not strong enough to dictate policy. The three Powers became sponsors of Greek independence. At the time there was only one court in Europe that shared to the full the Phil-Hellenic sentiment of the democrats of that period. This was the court of Bavaria. Thus it was that, after the crown of the new kingdom had been offered to Saxony and Saxe-Coburg, and had been in both cases refused, it was offered to and accepted by Otho, the second son of King Louis of Bavaria. Otho landed in Greece in February, 1833.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The formation of an American Foreign Trade Corporation, with a capital of £4,000,000, for trade and commerce with the Near East is an event of considerable importance, for it indicates very clearly the intentions of America with regard to trade enterprise in that part of the world. The development is not one which will surprise anyone who realises how thoroughly the opportunities in the Near East are understood in the United States. The Near East is in many respects the best possible field for the individual trader, but there, as elsewhere, the scope for the large company is immense, and the formation of the American corporation is probably due to the view that for the adequate development of American interests there an organisation of this character was to be desired.

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I understand that the Tobacco Products Corporation and some of the largest mercantile firms in America are behind the new enterprise, and that the preliminary organising work is already under way. The main base of the company in the Near East is to be at Constantinople, and it is proposed to have branch offices in Syria, Armenia, and the Black Sea territory. The function of these branch offices will be to distribute American goods, receiving in return local products, for the transport of which caravans and other facilities will be provided.

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During the past year excellent progress was made by the Ionian Bank, the net profits amounting to £79,865, as against £72,884 for 1917. The dividend and bonus are again 7 per cent, but £35,000 is put to reserve, as against £10,000 in 1917, £9,000 is placed to the staff pension fund, as against £3,837, making this fund £29,000, and £11,008 is carried forward, as against £9,134.

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The profits of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company for the past year show a slight decrease at £100,300, compared with £110,400, this being due to the sale of the Egyptian undertaking to the Government and the consequent decrease in receipts by way of interest and dividends. The dividend is also lower at 10 per cent., free of tax, against 15 per cent., but here again it is only a superficial reduction, as the capital ranking for dividend is now larger owing to the share bonus last year. It only remains to add that £7,600 is placed to the reserve fund, compared with £25,000 for 1917, and the carry forward is now £11,500, as against £17,200.

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Sir Charles McLeod, in advocating the exemption of Indian investments from the double income-tax before the Royal Commission on the income-tax, pointed out that this double taxation was bound to affect adversely the development of India's industries and natural resources, because her trade and commerce are largely financed by capital belonging to British subjects. This argument is incontrovertible, for Indians have still to be educated up to the point of providing capital to a sufficient extent for business undertakings. The War Loans have been of great educative value, but the leeway to be made up is very great, and as India's industrial development in the near future will in all probability still mainly depend on the provision of capital by individuals who will in the ordinary course of events be liable to the double tax, it follows that the point emphasised by Sir Charles has a very special incidence at the present time.

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At a recent meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the French zone of Morocco, a statement was made by the Director of the Public Works Services there as to the present position with regard to the construction of the works on the Tangier-Fez Railway. The line in the French zone is divided into eight sections for construction purposes, and of these he stated that work on three had already commenced, three other sections would shortly be put up for adjudication, and the two remaining sections would be constructed by private contract; and that by the end of the year work on all the sections would have commenced. The position with regard to the line in the Spanish zone is not so satisfactory, for the route to be adopted, it appears, has given rise to discussion, and instead of the direct line at first decided upon, the Government desires a deviation which would bring the line past Arzila. The effect of this change would be to add considerably to the expenditure involved.

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It seems doubtful whether the extent to which Japan is entering into competition with India is generally realised. An illuminating example of this process was given by Mr. Wadia in the course of an address before the Bombay Millowners' Association recently. Owing to rebates, Japan was able, he stated, to buy Indian cotton, to spin it, and to deliver it in China on a competitive basis, with the result that there has been a serious falling off in the Indian exports of yarn to China. The trade had been informed, said Mr. Wadia, that the decrease was due to shortage of freight, but he asked how this could be so when Japan was able to export much more than her previous requirements of cotton.

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The Indian market for motor vehicles is already fairly considerable, and the demand for motor cars of all kinds is bound to grow in the near future, a fact which makes it very desirable that British manufacturers of motor cars should make every effort to cater for the market's requirements. During the war considerable ground was lost by British exporters, and last year only 122 British motor cars were imported into India, as against 265 from America. British motor vehicles, however, are greatly preferred in India, so that the recovery of the position should not be a very difficult matter.

A circular has been issued by Mr. Herbert Allen, chairman of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company (1909), the Bibi Eibat Oil Company, the European Oilfields Corporation, and the Russian Petroleum Company, to the share and debenture holders in these companies, stating that negotiations are in progress for the formation of a company to take over and combine the undertakings of the companies in question, or alternatively of three of them. "Apart from the substantial economies which should result from unified control of the several properties, the directors are of the opinion," the circular continues, "that amalgamation would considerably strengthen the position of British oil interests at Baku, and facilitate the task of commercial 'reconstruction' with which these companies, in common with the local oil industry generally, will be confronted." It is pointed out that the negotiations are necessarily of an intricate and difficult character, and that in any event some time must elapse before they can be completed. The scheme contemplates the reduction of capitalisation, the elimination of debentures, the provision of working capital, and the purchase of plant and machinery in anticipation of the time when development and drilling operations can be resumed. Should the negotiations in question be brought to a successful conclusion full details will be furnished to share and debenture holders, and class meetings will eventually be called for the ratification of any provisional agreements which may be entered into.

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Replying to the recent representations by the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce regarding cable delays to the Near and Far East, the Postmaster-General states that the present delays are caused partly by the large amount of Government traffic, and that "steps have been taken to secure the curtailment of such messages and to obviate commercial traffic being delayed in favour of Government telegrams which are not really urgent. Certain important cables of the Eastern Telegraph Company which were interrupted have lately been repaired, but the American Pacific Cable is unfortunately interrupted, and this throws additional work on British cables to the Far East. It is expected, however, that the cable will be repaired shortly, and that the position will then be improved. There is no wireless service between this country and India. There is, however, a wireless service to Egypt, which is used to relieve as far as possible the pressure on the Eastern Company's cables, though the relief thus afforded is at present small."

COMMENTATOR.

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THE PORT OF BUSREH.

War Time Developments.

To those of us who have been out in Mesopotamia it seems surprising that people in England and elsewhere know so little about what the British Army out there has done. For, although I know that comparisons are odious, these "side-shows" of war have more to show for their labours than has the principal campaign against the Germans in France. I doubt whether even the Palestine campaign has so much constructive work to show as Mesopotamia. By the time that I got there miracles of transformation had been accomplished, and so fast was progress being made that on one occasion when I was three months away from Busreh, I felt like Rip Van Winkle on my return.

At the risk of being misleading I should explain, when writing of the Port of Busreh, that Busreh is not a port. A ship that desired to sail to Busreh should have a flat bottom of about three inches draft and long landing-boards, so that its occupants could escape the mud. Out there we seldom spoke of Busreh. Ashar—or 'Ashar as purists printed it—is the place where all the work is done. Busreh is a city some three miles up Ashar Creek, which flows into the Shatt-el-Arab (as the joint Tigris and Euphrates is called), about fifty miles north of the Persian Gulf. However, I have no desire to be superior, so we will accept the popular name of Busreh for the whole area. In point of fact, however, Ashar and Busreh are quite separate. A road (called "The Strand" since the British occupation) runs alongside the very muddy and evil-smelling Ashar Creek into Busreh proper. Busreh is, I should think, one of the most mis-spelt places on the globe. While there I saw official packages and letters addressed to Basra, Busreh, Basreh, and Bussorah.

Busreh was certainly an uninviting place from which to base a big campaign. Mesopotamia apparently always had a reputation as an inhospitable place. The Old Testament (24 Genesis, 10) tells us that when Abraham's servants went there, they made elaborate preparations before starting; and Judges (chapter 3, verse 8) tells us that when "the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel," they were "sold into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim, King of Mesopotamia." So, apparently, Mesopotamia was even then a place of punishment. That is certainly how we regarded it.

It was long after the arrival of our troops there that any real attempt was made to develop Busreh as a port. In fact, as the Royal Commission found, many of the difficulties of our Army were caused by the hopeless conditions in which ships from India had to be unloaded. I heard many graphic accounts of how transport work was done in these early days. On the arrival of a ship, it would be boarded by representatives of all the different departments; each would rush for the bills of lading and struggle with its own stores in the various holds. The consequence was countless breakages, numerous losses, and universal muddle. There were no quays, so that all ships had to be unloaded in mid-stream into barges and "mahailas," as the Arab sailing-ship is called.

When I arrived there were wharves and jetties at Busreh, on both sides of Ashar Creek, and at intervals for three miles right up to Lower Margil, where vessels as large as the "Egra" and "Ekma" class of the B. I. Company could be berthed. There were more wharves at Upper Margil, where Messrs. Lynch had their pre-war establishment. The river at Busreh has sufficient depth at all states of the tides for all ships that can cross the bar at Fao, at the top of the Gulf. Just above Garmat Ali, the modern junction between the Euphrates and the Tigris, it was discovered while I was at Busreh that this deep water continued for some miles up the Tigris, so a new port was opened at Nar Umar, and proved invaluable as a relief to Margil, especially when the railway to Kurna and Amara was completed.

A large electric light plant was erected at Busreh early in the campaign, and telephones followed. The first difficulty in developing the Busreh area was the low level of the land; the banks were no protection against the periodical floods for which the Tigris is famous. The original depôts which lined the river were raised two and three feet by the most primitive methods. Teams of donkeys, loaded by Arab boys with soil, were used and accomplished wonders. Late in 1917 a wonderful dredger appeared which sucked the muddy water from the river and poured it on to the land; the water was allowed to flow back, and it was astonishing how quickly the mud raised the level of *terra firma*. Early in 1918 a big dry-dock was opened on the north side of Ashar Creek. This dock can accommodate B. I. steamers, and has now been taken over from the Government by the new company, formed in conjunction with the B. I.

The Government has not yet announced its policy with regard to land tenure. The reduction of the garrison in Mesopotamia will enable many hospitals, and, eventually, many depôts to close down. Two large hospitals, one British and one Indian, front the river on splendid sites between Busreh and Margil, and the firms that are fortunate enough to secure them should do well. But, of course, the Government will have to give up the inland sites first, and these will be of little commercial value for us. There should be great development on the left bank of the river. Save for comparatively few buildings at Tanooma, immediately opposite the mouth of Ashar Creek, the left bank has scarcely been touched, and there is very little interruption in the long line of desert and date palms on the left bank between Amara and Mohammerah. This side of the river was considered unsafe from the wilder elements among the Arabs during the war. But if further river-side accommodation is required, the left bank will have to be brought into use.

With the development of commerce and the settling down to peace conditions, will come the need for a residential quarter, on the lines of cantonments in India. The right bank of the river between Busreh and the fine Sheikh's palace at Beit Naama (used as a convalescent hospital during the war) would provide a fine site, but Ashar Creek would be an obstacle, as it cuts off this area from the busy district to the north of the Creek. I think that private bungalows will grow up mostly between the river and Makina, to the north-west of Ashar, near to where the Officers' Club stands. That institution, which was well planned on the lines of an Indian Club, will form a convenient and suitable centre for social life. In this neighbourhood, too, will probably be the Busreh Station on the Baghdad Railway. The lines are there, but certainly when I was at Busreh it was a puzzle to find the station. When the lines are continued south to Koweit, there will probably be considerable traffic, for by unloading at Koweit the transhipment at the bar can be avoided. But that is looking a good distance into the future.

C. W. M.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

AN English firm established in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries, and wishes to represent maritime and fire insurance companies and shipping firms, and import English articles into these countries.—Apply, P. O., Box 1,344, Alexandria.

CAIRO.—Active and energetic Agents of good standing, knowing the languages and customs of the countries, with good connections with the Sudan, Palestine and Syria, desire to represent British houses wishing to develop trade in those countries.—Address, SALAMA and FRANCO, P.O.B.843, Cairo, Egypt.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academiei 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

ROUMANIAN IMPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 9.

Up to the end of March imports had been made to the value of 270 million lei. These goods have been placed on the market. A further 100 millions' worth of goods had at that time arrived in Roumanian ports. Further, up to April 9, the Roumanian "Commission d'Approvisionnement" in Paris had effected purchases for the State to the value of over 346 millions. Among these are not included flour, maize, meat, and fat imported from America. So that, excluding the latter, over 700 millions of goods have been purchased abroad. If we add probate orders effected on the basis of permits issued by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, not yet arrived, the total amounts to about one milliard. Nine-tenths of this is represented by foodstuffs and manufactured goods, the remaining fraction by materials of first necessity. Foodstuffs and clothing suffice, it is said, for a period of six months. Most of these things have been bought on credit, which partly explains the momentary depreciation of the Roumanian leu. In the future, as a result of the exportation of petrol, salt, and wood, the value of the leu will, it is hoped, be considerably raised.

JAFFA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jaffa, May 10.

A Chamber of Commerce was instituted in Jaffa some months ago, and in order that it should gain a footing without delay it was established as a purely advisory body, with no executive power. In this capacity it has done useful work, and has justified its existence, if only as the foundation and forerunner of a Chamber of Commerce on broader lines. In order that the promotion of the Chamber of Commerce at Jaffa should be thoroughly representative of trade and commerce in the district, a general meeting of all shipping and insurance agents, fruit growers, wholesale merchants, bankers, importers and exporters, was held at the Jaffa Municipality on May 8, the chairman of the meeting being H.E. the Military Governor, Major Postlethwaite.

Having expressed a hope for a return to normal conditions at Jaffa, the Military Governor introduced to the meeting Captain Williamson, of the Chamber of Commerce. Captain Williamson showed what extremely good work the late Chamber of Commerce had done, especially in regard to buying wheat and selling it on its own account, by doing which it had much lessened the market price of that article. Also it was through the efforts of the late Chamber that the petroleum question was settled. As union was power, he had requested the introduction of new members and subscribers to the new Chamber.

The Mayor of Jaffa and Messrs. Rose, Tadros, and Gluskin emphasised the necessity of introducing new members to the new Chamber, so that it might be thoroughly representative and self-supporting. It was decided to hold the election meeting on May 15, and the meeting was accordingly adjourned to that date.

ANTHRACITE IN ALGERIA.

A Reuter message from Paris, dated May 20, states that an interesting report by M. Lallonie on the coalfields in the Province of Oran was yesterday laid before the Academy of Science. In it the author described his discovery of an important layer of anthracite at a considerable depth under the local sandstone grit. If it is possible to work this seam there is every prospect that in the future a successful mining industry will develop in Algeria.

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TRADE OF THE SPANISH ZONE OF MOROCCO.

Exports From Tetuan.

In a review of the export trade of Tetuan the British Vice-Consul there points out that the most important export articles from Tetuan are hides and skins. These are divided into :—

(1) *Sheep Skins.*—The approximate weight of each skin with its wool, salted and dry, is from two to four kilos, and the quality of the wool generally soft. The majority of the consignments sold here come from the Gharb, and, when permitted by the authorities of the French Zone, they also come from the "coast" of Morocco—*i.e.*, the Atlantic side. Since the war the greater part of these skins has gone to Spain, being principally acquired by small leather dressers of Granada and Antequera. The quality is not held in much esteem owing to the careless way the skins are salted and dried in this market, which gives them a disagreeable appearance.

(2) *Hides (Cattle).*—Those weighing from 8-30 kilos each come almost entirely from the slaughter house of this town and are auctioned every day publicly and skin by skin. Those weighing from 2-8 kilos are nearly all bought in the Socos. The best quality is acquired in summer, as the hides are thicker at that time than in the winter, when they are also apt to be infested with parasites. They are exported fresh salted, with the salt removed, dry salted. The amount at present exported is very small, but, if a sure market were in view, it would be possible to collect annually about 20,000 skins. The principal importer is Spain.

(3) *Goat Skins.*—Exports from Tetuan are small in this line, as local merchants find it more convenient to sell to important firms in Tangier, which go in for the buying and export of skins on a large scale for France, Italy, and the United States, etc. The quantity which might be annually obtainable for export in this market is roughly 70,000 skins, and the quality, that usual in Morocco, weights running from 8-9 and even 10 kilogrammes per dozen, fresh salted.

Local leather dressers acquire a considerable quantity of every kind of skin or hide which appears in the market. Otherwise the quantity available for exportation would be much greater. Skins are exported in bundles, and the expenses of putting a bundle weighing 100 kilogrammes on board a vessel at Rio Martin are ptas. hassani 14.90. Cattle and sheep horns can be collected to the amount of 20,000 and 4,000 respectively per annum. The principal market for this article has been Marseilles.

Linseed.

Although but small quantities of this article are produced here in comparison with the French Zone, its quality is considerably better, and it has always commanded a higher price in the European market. The season for gathering it is in May, and it appears in the Tetuan market in June, continuing to come in in diminishing quantities up till the month of October. The amount which can be obtained here in a good year is from 800-1,000 sacks of 100 kilogrammes, while, in a middling year not more than 400 sacks can be counted on. The way in which the exporter acquires the linseed is by buying it in small quantities from the small merchants who have purchased it in the native country markets. It is bought before cleaning, which work is done by women who pass it through sieves, as no machinery exists here. The consequent loss in weight is about 4 per cent. The cost of getting a sack of 100 kilos ready and on board a ship at Rio Martin is ptas. hassani 13.05.

Before the war the greater part of the exports in this article went to Marseilles. Occasionally lots were sent to London, but this only occurred rarely, owing to freight rates, etc., being higher for that place than for Marseilles, apart from the delays occasioned by the lack of a direct service for England. Since the war, linseed has begun to go to Spain, which has taken the whole crop of this district, it having proved a convenient market since business can be effected easily owing to direct communications, even though the port of Ceuta has to be employed.

Almonds and Beeswax.

Almonds are collected in the months of July and August. The quality is better than that of the Riff almond, but the amount produced in the neighbourhood of Tetuan is so small that, as a rule, it is hardly enough for the needs of the town. Occasionally consignments come from the Riff, but that only happens when the owners have been unable to take them to Melilla, which is a more suitable outlet for them, as here an entrance duty of 10 per cent. has to be paid as well as an exportation duty on taking them out again. Plantations of almond trees have been made round the town of Tetuan and, when the district is pacified, it should be eventually possible to export a certain quantity. Cost of sack of 100 kilos f.o.b. Rio Martin, ptas. hassani, 15.70.

The beeswax exported from this town is mainly made on the spot and is absolutely pure, being considered to be the best in Morocco. The greatest amounts are collected during the months from January to June, and the amount which could be exported per annum would be from 200-250 sacks of 100 kilos, the price at present in Tetuan (March, 1919) being about 200 pesetas hassani the quintal of 51 kilos. Costs occasioned by a sack of 100 kilos f.o.b Rio Martin, 35.20 pesetas hassani. The markets for this product before the war were Hamburg, Genoa, and London principally. Since the war London has taken practically all. Latterly, however, some consignments have gone to Barcelona, part of which were in transit for Greece.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Crops in Asia Minor.

The following extracts are taken from the economic reports of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the early part of the year :—

Rodosto.

The month of March has been chiefly marked by the even temperature alternating with some beneficial rains, thanks to which germination is proceeding under the best conditions. The agricultural situation of our district, therefore, presents for the moment a most favourable aspect. This exceptional temperature has been equally favourable to the cattle, and the production of wool is good. The arrivals of American flour on the Constantinople market have put a complete stoppage to the export of this commodity from our town. With the exception of some few imports of colonial produce, the market is rather quiet. The lack of the export of flour from our district has naturally stopped any activity in the local corn trade, which is only carried on for the limited needs of the district. The receipts from this enterprise, compared with those of the preceding months, are greatly reduced.

Broussa.

The abundant rains which fell during January have been a serious obstacle to the work of sowing, of which the progress has already been impeded by the lack of labour due to the war. However, it is to be hoped that, the weather being favourable, the harvest will be a good one.

The market has been quiet. Prices have been very steady all round, specially for silk, for which the last current price reached £T14.1/2 the kilo. Business is likewise stationary. Silk crêpe alone has become active again, and has reached Ps.28/30 per piece. Transactions in this article, which during the war was exported to Bulgaria, have completely ceased. The price has fallen to Ps.15.

The winter sowings which have not had to suffer from frosts this year are good. On the other hand, those of the summer, which are by far the most important at Broussa, have been hindered by the numerous rains which fell in February, and which have been a very serious obstacle to the work of sowing. The latter, which has equally had to suffer on account of lack of manual labour, animals and machinery, has only been about 40 per cent. that of the preceding year. Cultivators will find themselves obliged to replace their corn harvest by oats, barley, maize and sesame. With regard to mulberries, a large number of trees have been cut down for fuel. Those which remain, owing to lack of manual labour, have been totally neglected. The trees which have been pruned this year are valued at one-tenth of the total of mulberry trees before the war.

In regard to the industrial situation we can only repeat what we wrote in our last report. We are hoping that with the resumption of commercial operations the burnous and towel industry will, by reason of the arrival of English spun cotton, be able partially to recover its importance. This industry before the war consumed weekly 6,000-8,000 packets of cotton thread.

Denizli.

Despite the efforts displayed by the entire rural population and the favourable climatic conditions, the autumn sowings have not been on a large scale, and the area sown with corn, compared with that of the previous year, shows a deficit of about 30 per cent., which may be accounted for, principally, by lack of labour. Thus, owing to the lack of male population in several villages, practically all the work in the fields was done by the women. Although the temperature during January has been very favourable to sowings, it would be premature to predict the yield of the next harvests.

Owing to the interruption of communications between Denizli and Condjeli export activity recently suffered a stoppage. The line was only opened up again towards the end of January, and the stock of flour and cereals stored in the sheds of the Aidin Ottoman Railway Company was then able to be shipped in part to Smyrna. The price of colonial produce remaining steady at Smyrna considerable quantities of cereals arrive from the interior by camel, and are warehoused here in order to be loaded at the earliest opportunity. Nevertheless the lack of coal and rolling stock preventing the Aidin Company from putting the necessary wagons at the disposal of the exporters, these arrivals very often remain in the sheds of the Company for some months. The purchases of cereals are ruled by the Smyrna prices with a deviation of from 2 to 3 piastres per oke.

Smyrna.

The last cereal harvest has been about 40,000,000 okes. That of raisins and figs may be valued at 6,600,000 okes. The stock of these two products of the preceding year is 4,400,000 okes. The sowings have suffered on account of the unfavourable atmospheric conditions. Unless more advantage is taken of conditions, which have been very favourable for agriculture, it is already evident that in general the yield will be 30 per cent. less than the preceding harvest. The rural population has appreciably diminished owing to the war. A large number of vineyards at Vourla, Cesmé, etc., have been completely destroyed. Imports from the interior have been insignificant through lack of communication. The stock of carpets in Smyrna is valued at about £T2,000,000.

The only industry which is now active is the corn trade. All other big industrial enterprises are now practically at a standstill owing to lack of coal, and have not published reports since the beginning of the war.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in April :—

Cotton.—The weather has been rather cold, windy, and changeable. Water supply generally sufficient, except in Beheira. Attacks of cut-worm, mole-cricket, and soreshin, are reported from most provinces, the latter being responsible for a good deal of resowing in parts of Sharqîya. Watering, resowing, thinning, and hoeing are being actively carried on. The plants seem healthy in nearly all provinces, except in Beheira and Faiyûm where sowing has been later than usual.

Wheat.—The weather has been generally favourable, though somewhat changeable. Water supply has been everywhere sufficient. Attacks of rust and smut are reported from all provinces, but they are generally slight, except in Beheira and Sharqîya, where the hindi crop suffers from the former disease to a large extent. Harvesting of the early-sown crop began towards the middle of April in Upper Egypt, and the end of the month elsewhere.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

A New Combustion Engine.

Particulars of the new internal combustion engine were disclosed this week at the Royal Society of Arts in a paper read by Captain Frank E. Acland. It is the invention of a British engineer, and it is believed that it will have very far-reaching effects on the future of industry. Its effects will undoubtedly be very appreciable in the East, where the question of fuel as a medium of motive power is a matter of vital importance to the establishment and successful development of any industry. For it appears that the new engine combines all the advantages of steam and internal combustion with the elasticity of the former and a higher fuel economy than the latter. Searching tests of the engine were made by various Governments and by scientists, and it was proved to use 25 per cent. less fuel per horse-power than any other engine yet constructed. The system has already been applied in practice to engines of small and large power using gas, petrol, or heavy oil. Engines have been constructed giving up to 500 h.p. per cylinder during the war, each engine being capable of using in its main working cylinder any form of liquid or gaseous fuel hitherto employed.

No Waste of Heat.

It makes use of the recoverable heat which passed through the surfaces of the combustion cylinder, as well as into the exhaust gases, for the evaporation of steam, which steam is expanded in the combustion cylinder itself on one side of the main piston, the combustion stroke acting on the other side. It increases thus the power of the engine, and reduces the consumption of the fuel per horse-power developed. Its primary object is not to use the waste heat for raising steam, but first to use it in improving the thermal conditions of the working cylinder, and so ensure the maximum efficiency from the fuel burnt within it, diminishing as a consequence the heat lost in that operation. One of the disadvantages of the internal combustion engine is that it cannot start itself without some external source of power, and it also cannot develop its full power except at full speed. The inventor of the new engine has solved the problem of making his internal combustion engine a "self-starter." The possibility of combining in one engine the superior thermal cycle at the high temperatures and pressures of the combustion engine with the low thermal cycle of steam to deal with its rejected heat, and to add in the same engine the superior working advantages of the steam engine, was the basis of his work.

Cheaper Than Electricity.

Sir Charles Parsons, who presided at the meeting, said that all noticed the loss of steam from the radiators of motor cars and buses. Engineers had been forced to think about the serious waste of energy, and the inventor of the new engine succeeded in utilising a greater part of the steam which came from the radiator, and had also tackled another drawback, namely, its want of elasticity, especially in locomotives. In utilising the steam he had secured a reserve of power which was able to sustain a very large overload for a short time, and which rendered the internal combustion engine much more suitable for use in the propelling of ships. A number of well-known engineers and prominent scientists who were present at the meeting, expressed the view that when fully developed the new engine would probably nullify the British Government's scheme for universal electrification. Where under that scheme the cost would be about one penny per unit, with the use of the new engine the cost should work out at about one farthing per unit.

The above particulars should be of much interest to engineers, local governments, masters of industries, and users of motive power generally throughout the East, where, owing to the high price of coal and by preference, the utilisation of internal combustion engines for all purposes is constantly increasing.

American Engineering Activity.

In view of the great American activity in the Eastern markets, commercial circles there, according to an engineer writing from the Near East, are surprised at the "apparent apathy of British manufacturers who allow such activity to proceed unopposed." On the other hand, American engineer-representatives' views are highly optimistic regarding the prospects of a brisk and well-founded trade in the very near future. They see that the history of past conflicts points absolutely to a period of reconstruction, the extent and duration of the rebuilding being always proportionate to the losses brought about in the destruction. Damaged railways and canals, destroyed bridges, twisted steelwork, ruined roads, destroyed power stations, smashed and stolen plants of industrial and agricultural machinery, will all have to be replaced; and there the American manufacturers see great opportunities. In the meantime, official United States bulletins call attention to the opportunities for expansion in the trades necessary for supplying the raw materials for the engineering structures that it is hoped to send to Europe. It is also reported that great advantage is being taken of an Act passed last year, which authorises combines of American firms for the export trade, which previously were illegal under the Anti-Trust legislation. Thus, the Consolidated Steel Corporation, with a capital of £2,000,000, the Textile Alliance Export Corporation, and the American Coal Exporters Incorporated are amongst the combines already formed; whilst another combine with a joint capital of £4.000,000 has already sent a number of efficient representatives to the Near East and the Balkan States, who can speak the local languages, in order to prepare the ground and to make the necessary business arrangements in those markets. All these combines prove the determination of American manufacturers and others to develop their foreign trade in the East.

Oil Engines at High Altitudes.

Reference was made last week in these columns to the disputes that often occur between buyers and sellers in the East over the definition of Diesel and semi-Diesel engines. More serious disputes and disappointments, however, occur over the question of the power of an oil engine. It rarely occurs to the buyer of an oil engine to state to the manufacturers at what elevation above sea-level it is going to work. Generally speaking, the elevation is not very great, but every user should know that oil engines depend as much on their supply of oxygen for power as on their supply of oil, and if the oxygen is reduced the oil will not be completely burnt. A test with the dynamometer will show that the power is diminished. At 1,000 feet above sea-level there is less oxygen in a cubic foot of air than at a sea-level, and every additional thousand feet reduces the oxygen still more. For instance, at any town or station on a hill an oil engine would do less work than at a town or station by the sea, that is to say, a few feet above sea-level, and at a greater elevation the efficiency would be still more reduced. A six-horse power oil engine was sent up once to a village situated at an elevation of 9,000 feet, and was found to be quite unequal to its rated power. This caused much dissatisfaction until it was realised that the rarified air was the cause. One pound of air at sea-level in the Near East and at 62 degrees Fahrenheit would have a volume of 13.141 cubic feet. If raised to 9,000 feet it would expand to 21.1 cubic feet, and the amount of oxygen in each cubic foot would be reduced by 37.4 per cent. It was, therefore, no matter for surprise that the engine referred to did not give satisfaction. The only remedy in that case was either to get an engine of increased power that would use a greater air supply, or to supply air of the required density to the engine at work. A rotary pump delivering air at 4½ lb. pressure per square inch would bring it up to full power. The gas-engine using cheap wood refuse is likely to find favour in places where water-power is not available, but in every case due attention must be given to the subject of altitude and air density, otherwise loss of power will be the inevitable result.

TRANSPORT CONDITIONS IN YUGO-SLAVIA.

Reuter's Agency is informed that a message has been sent by the Serbian Ministry of Commerce and Industry on behalf of the Ministry of Communications, stating that "British business men and merchants can avail themselves of the port of Salonika for all articles to be sent to the south of Serbia and all the district up to Nish, as the railway line Salonika-Nish is free for traffic. The ports of Gravosa and Ragusa can be used only for smaller transport, especially those for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dalmatia and Montenegro, and in emergency for Serbia and other parts of Yugoslavia, as Gravosa is connected with Brod by a narrow-gauge line, which is already used by military transport. The port is rather small, and not available for large transport."

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(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The recent upward movement of prices in the market has been followed by another decided advance, and to some extent business has been checked. It is held that the rise during the last week or two has been too swift for buyers to keep pace. Some reaction in raw cotton rates is now anticipated, but there is very little belief in lower values in manufactured articles in the near future. Mixed reports continue to be received relating to the progress of the Egyptian cotton crop. On the whole, however, the advices are encouraging. It is feared, however, that the marketing of supplies may be delayed. The larger demand in yarns made from Egyptian cotton has been well maintained, and some producers have sold freely at hardening rates. The inquiry in piece goods for Egypt has again been extensive. Some shippers have placed orders with manufacturers with considerable confidence, and it is quite evident that dealers abroad are determined to secure supplies, quite irrespective of price. Certain outlets of the Levant have been more active, there being freer operations for Constantinople. India has given rather less support, but trade continues to be done in light bleaching fabrics and grey staples for Bombay, Madras, and Karachi. Numerous manufacturers are now being enabled to consolidate their position, and in most kinds of goods the market is a difficult one for buyers to operate in. American yarns have been decidedly dearer on the week, with a healthy undercurrent of demand, especially for quick delivery. Cops for Holland and bundles for India continue in encouraging request.

INDIA AND DOUBLE INCOME TAX.

At the meeting on May 22 of the Royal Commission on Income-tax, under the Chairmanship of Lord Colwyn, at the Surveyors' Institution, evidence was given by Sir Charles Campbell McLeod (Chairman of the Imperial Commercial Association and of the East India section of the London Chamber of Commerce) on the subject of the imposition of double income-tax as it especially affects India. He stated that such double taxation reacted adversely upon the Indian Exchequer, and retarded the development of India's natural wealth and staple industries, because her trade and commerce were largely financed by capital belonging to British subjects, who are called upon to pay double income-tax in respect of their Indian interests. Income arising in India should be regarded, he said, as a preserve sacred to the Indian Exchequer. Where the income was that of a man who had worked in India, made his money there, and left it there for the purpose of his business, although he himself now resided in the United Kingdom, he suggested that in any case British income-tax should only be levied on such Indian income as was remitted to this country. He suggested further that there should be no British taxation levied on the profits of companies operating solely in India or the Dominions. The main object to be achieved, he submitted, was to avoid the taxpayer having to pay two income-taxes within the Empire, and that the distribution of any tax raised should be a question of negotiations between the Mother Country and the Dominions.

OVERSEAS TRADE.

In the House of Commons, on May 26, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir S. Hoare asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to state who were the members of the Committee appointed to determine the relations between the Consular and Diplomatic Services and the Department of Overseas Trade, and what were their terms of reference.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth: The Committee appointed by the War Cabinet has the following terms of reference:—"To examine the question of Government machinery for dealing with trade and commerce." The following are the names of the members of the Committee:—Viscount Cave (chairman), Sir Horace C. Munro, K.C.B., Mr. F. Dudley Docker, C.B., and Mr. Kenneth Lee.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Ionian Bank.

The report of the Ionian Bank for 1918 states that the profits, after providing for expenses of management, losses, all bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of securities, bonus for staff, rates, taxes, income-tax, and excess profits duty, both in Greece and England, amount to £79,865; £9,134 was brought forward, making £88,999. Interim dividend at 3s. per share, free of income-tax, paid September 10 last, absorbed £14,567, leaving £74,432 The directors propose a final dividend for the year at 3s. per share, free of income-tax, £14,567, also a bonus for the year at 1s. per share, free of income-tax, £4,856, to transfer to reserve fund £35,000 (making £120,000), to staff pension fund £9,000 (making £30,000), and to carry forward £11,008. The dividend and bonus will be payable on and after June 5. The operations undertaken for the provisioning of Greece have been renewed by the consortium of Greek banks for the current year on behalf of the Greek Government. Meeting, Basildon House, Moorgate Street, E.C., 4th proximo, 11 a.m.

The "Financial Times."

The report of the Financial Times, Ltd., for the year 1918 states that the profits earned by the company amounted to £29,160, and adding £32,651, the amount brought into the accounts, gives a total of £61,810. Debenture interest for the year and directors' and managing director's remuneration have been paid, and the directors now recommend payment of the preference dividend for the past six months ended December 31, making with the interim dividend already paid for the first six months 5 per cent. for the year. The directors have pleasure in recommending the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares for the year at the rate of 10 per cent., less income-tax. Adequate allowance has been made in writing off depreciation on plant and maintenance charges, and the necessary redemption of debenture stock has been effected. Messrs. G. E. Hart and H. A. Randall retire from the board in accordance with the articles of association, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Messrs. A. J. Davis and Co. offer themselves for re-election as auditors. Meeting, 72, Coleman Street, E.C., 3rd proximo, noon.

Oriental Telephone.

The report of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company for the year ended December 31 last states that the gross earnings, including dividends and interest and contributions for fees from subsidiary companies, etc., amounted to £100,321, which added to excess profits duty (refund for 1917), £1,617, and £17,196 brought forward makes £119,133. Deducting working expenses, maintenance, etc. (£55,720), interim dividends, debenture interest and redemption charges (£22,806), and expenses incurred in connection with the increase of capital and the issue of bonus shares (£654), there remains £39,953. The directors recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent. (less income-tax) for the year on the preference shares and a final dividend of 6 per cent. (free of income-tax) on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. (free of income-tax) for the year; to transfer to general reserve account £7,587, to staff pension fund £2,000, and to carry forward £11,502. The Government embargo on the supply of telephone material, both here and in India, and the difficulties of shipment have in particular proved a serious obstacle to the expansion of the service during the year. Expenditure in connection with new stations and other deferred work is likely to be heavy for some time to come. The rates of subscriptions at Madras, Rangoon, and Moulmein have been slightly raised in order to counterbalance to some extent the abnormal cost of maintenance and working. The authorised capital of the company has been increased to £400,000 by the creation of a further 100,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each, and a sum of £107,587, forming part of the company's reserve fund, capitalised and applied to paying in full for 107,587 ordinary shares which were allotted to shareholders in proportion to their holdings. As notified in last year's report, the Government of Egypt purchased the undertaking of the Telephone Company of Egypt as from January 1, 1918. The liquidation of that company is now proceeding, and, it is hoped, will be finally completed at an early date. The company on November 20 last resolved that the sum of £1 6s. per ordinary share (being part of the surplus capital assets of the company, consequent upon the sale of the Egyptian undertaking) be distributed as capital among ordinary shareholders, and the distribution was accordingly made. The Indian local companies continue to show increased revenues, and dividends have been declared by both at the same rates as for 1917, namely, 16 per cent. by the Bombay Telephone Company, and 7 per cent. by the Bengal Telephone Company. The usual rate of dividend, namely, 10 per cent., free of income-tax, has, however, been maintained. Warrants will be posted 31st instant.

Calcutta Electric Supply.

The report of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation for 1918 states that 30,431,132 units of electrical energy were sold, compared with 26,596,827 units, and the number of houses connected at December 31 last was 9,897, compared with 9,741. Profits amount to £214,095, which, with the balance brought forward and interest received, makes £261,960. After deducting interim dividend of 3½ per cent. actual, paid on the ordinary shares in November, £54,429 placed to depreciation and renewals account, an estimated sum of £32,000 in respect of excess profits duty on account of 1917 and 1918, in addition to £15,000 reserved in last year's accounts, making £47,000 in all, and other charges, there remains £111,598. The directors recommend that £4,000 be added to reserve fund, £5,000 to insurance fund, £12,500 to pension fund, and a final dividend on the ordinary shares, for the second half-year, of 6½ per cent. actual, plus a bonus of 1 per cent., which will leave £56,324 to be carried forward, after providing for directors' additional remuneration of £3,000. The reserve for depreciation and renewals, with the addition of £2,291 from dividends on investments, is increased to £275,397, and the reserve fund, with the addition of £3,522, will stand at £142,225. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £30,856, the total outlay to December 31 last being £1,398,676.

Hutti (Nizam's) Gold.

The report of the Hutti (Nizam's) Gold Mines for 1918 states that 23,100 tons of quartz were crushed, while 24,210 tons of sands and slimes were treated, yielding a total of 11,502 oz. gold of a value of £45,376. Of this £37,599 was obtained from the mill and £7,777 from sands and slimes. There is a decrease in the ore crushed of 230 tons, and in the gold obtained of 1,964 oz., as compared with 1917. The fine gold per ton crushed is equivalent to 9 dwt., comparing with 12 dwt. Total expenditure was £48,054 and receipts £47,323, leaving a loss of £731. Outlay on capital account was £550 on the sinking of main shaft. The decrease in value is largely responsible for the loss incurred, but other causes have been the very high prices of supplies and the excessively high rate of exchange, this item amounting to £4,333, as against £1,226 for 1917.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Darjeeling Company have declared a dividend of 7 per cent., less income-tax. Warrants will be posted on 2nd proximo.

The directors of the Chargola Tea Association propose to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent., less income-tax on the ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for the year ended November 30 last.

The report of the Hanipha (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Company for 1918 states that balance at profit and loss, including £5,173 brought forward, is £10,203. The directors propose a final dividend of 7½ per cent. (less income-tax), making 10 per cent. for the year: to add to reserve for coolie advances £1,000, and to carry forward (including provision for income-tax and excess profits duty) £3,203.

The report of the Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber Estates for 1918 states that the profit amounted to £106,325; £8,575 has been written off for depreciation of buildings and machinery, leaving £97,750, which with £176,781 brought forward, less excess profits duty to December 31, 1917, £95,541, makes

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available £178,990. The directors recommend a dividend of 9 per cent., less tax, which will absorb £110,250, leaving to be carried forward £68,740. This amount makes provision for the estimated excess profits duty for the year.

The report of Telbedde Ceylon Estates for 1918 states that the receipts from the sale of produce were £29,542. Expenditure in Ceylon and London, including mortgage interest, directors' fees, London charges, income-tax, etc., less transfer fees, was £25,482, profit being £4,061; £3,993 was brought in, giving £8,054. The directors have transferred to reserve account £1,000, and propose to pay a final dividend of 13 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, carrying forward £1,254.

The report of the Talawakelle Estates Company for the year ended December 31, 1918, states that the balance at credit of profit and loss account is £8,094. The directors recommend a dividend of 12 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, making 17 per cent., leaving to be carried forward £4,925.

The report of South Wanarajah Tea Estates for 1918 states that the profit, after writing off £500 for depreciation and £400 against coast advances, is £6,217; £2,038 was brought in, making £8,255. The directors recommend a final dividend of 8 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, making 12 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £1,055.

The report of the Ellawatte Ceylon Tea Estates for 1918 shows a profit for the year of £1,259; add balance brought forward, £1,503; less dividend paid on Six per Cent. Preference shares, less income-tax (£600), and interim dividend on Ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less income-tax (£750), leaving a balance of £1,412, out of which it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 4 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year, less income-tax (£1,000), and to carry forward £412.

The report of the Ouvah Ceylon Estates for 1918 shows a profit for the year of £19,108. Add balance brought forward £3,614, less interim dividend of 2½ per cent. (less income-tax) £4,000, transfer to reserve account £1,000, leaving a balance of £17,722, out of which it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 12½ per cent. for the year (less income-tax) £16,000, and to carry forward £1,722.

The report of the Spring Valley Ceylon Estates for 1918 shows a profit for the year of £15,714. Balance brought forward £8,184, less dividend paid on Six per Cent. Preference shares (less income-tax) £900 and interim dividend on Ordinary shares of 2½ per cent. (less income-tax), £2,000, leaving a balance of £20,998, out of which it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 17½ per cent. on the Ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. (less income-tax), £14,000, and to carry forward £6,998.

The Egyptian Markets, Ltd.—First 5 per cent. debenture coupons No. 41, falling due June 1, 1919, are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., 27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4, at the face value, and at the branch offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

The directors of the Colombo Electric Tramways and Lighting Company announce that the profit for 1918 amounted to £40,965. It is proposed to place to general reserve and renewal fund £19,700, pay a dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, and to carry forward £8,181.

Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea.—Transfer books will be closed from June 2 to June 14 inclusive.

Calcutta Tramways.—Transfer books of the Ordinary shares will be closed from May 30 to June 16 inclusive.

The report of Doranakande Rubber Estates to December 31 last states that profit and loss, after deduction of depreciation and income-tax, shows a credit balance of £1,587; £13,035 was brought in, making £14,622. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. and to carry forward £7,249.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

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

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

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PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

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Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

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

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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PROPOSED FEZ-CAIRO RAILWAY.

A recent report from the British Consul-General at Tripoli, published in the *Board of Trade Journal*, states that a North African railway, about the 30th parallel, from Morocco to Egypt, across Algeria, Tunis and Libya, was discussed recently in the Tripoli official newspaper *La Nuova Italia*. A memorandum by an expert in colonial railway construction treats of the question of connecting Tripoli with the rest of North Africa—an enterprise which, in his opinion, cannot long be delayed. He points out that it is not a case of competing with the railway developments of other Powers, which tend inevitably towards the most complete and perfect railway communication, but rather of the co-ordination of the proposed lines in agreement with the interest of colonial expansion and penetration in the rest of Africa. Therefore the final scheme of colonial railway systems must not be limited to the construction of detached lines connecting the emporiums of the coast with the commercial centres of the interior.

The memorandum makes the important point that the function of the Trans-Sahara line must not be subsidiary to the Cape to Cairo line, but must be independent and complete in itself. The great trans-continental railways are latitudinal in direction, as the Trans-Siberian line and the trans-continental lines of North America, and it is in this way that the Trans-African railways will be successfully developed. In the case of the French railways—and the same holds good in the case of the Italian railways in North Africa because of Italy's geographical position—their development must be in two transverse directions and for West and East Africa the two following lines are proposed :—(1) The line of the Atlantic littoral from Tangier to Dakar (eventually to be extended to Conarkry), which would have no competitor and would be the shortest route from Europe to South America. (2) The line of the Mediterranean littoral from Fez to Cairo through Algeria, Tunis, and Tripoli, already in part existing in Algeria and Egypt, to link up Palestine and Mecca.

THE PERSIAN TRADE.

The minutes of the India Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce record a suggestion which has been received from a Government Department that the merchants engaged in the Persian trade in Manchester should be formed into one organisation for the purpose of considering matters interesting to them collectively. The India Section has, therefore, proposed that the Persian merchants in Manchester should form a sub-committee of their section, and that steps should be taken to arrange a meeting at an early date. It is possible that the sub-committee will also represent merchants engaged in trade with Mesopotamia.

A British Tractor Manufacturers' Association has been formed for developing and protecting the British tractor industry, and Mr. George Wood, of Elstow Works, Bedford, has been elected chairman for the first year.

The directors of the Burma Tramways have decided to pay on July 1, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 5s., an interim dividend of £2 5s. per cent.

ON 'CHANGE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

We have had a rather quiet market this week, with few changes in prices. Telegraphic communication with Egypt has again become rather dilatory.

Egyptian Government stocks have dropped half a point, the Unified Loan to 87½, and the 3½ per cent. prefs. to 74½, owing to a cessation of buying from Egypt.

In Bank shares, Nationals have remained a firm spot, but Agriculturals are slightly weaker at 6 1-16 xd. There is a continuation of demand for Agricultural Prefs., but there has been no sellers. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have jumped ¼ to 15⅜, and Land Banks are in demand, but here also there are no sellers.

Delta Light Railway Prefs. are ⅛ lower at 7¼. As regards Land shares, Aboukirs have dropped 6d. to 24s. 6d., and Delta Lands have remained firm at 15s. 6d., but New Egyptians are slightly lower at 25s. 3d., after a fair number of transactions. Sudan Plantations, after being up to 7½, close ⅛ down at 7¼.

In Miscellaneous shares, some small transactions have been effected in Alexandria Water round £13, and there has also been some business in Salts and Sodas round the current level. In Khedivial Mails, the prefs. remain firm, but the ordinaries are a rather nominal market.

As regards Oils, there has been a big recovery in Anglo-Egyptian B., which close 9-16 higher at 5 31-32, after being up to 6 3-16. Roumanian Oils are only 3d. higher at 20s. 3d., after touching 21s. 3d., and Traian are 4½d. higher at 13s. 9d., after being up to 14s. 3d.

In Greek securities the only changes to record are an advance of 1½ points in the 1890 Loan to 74, and a rise of one point in the 1902 Loan to 67.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to March 31, 1919. (New Style, January 14 to April 13, 1919) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Mar.	1919	3,309,855	5,056,405
Do. do. do	1918	3,002,985	2,454,000
Estimated receipts for 3 months (Law of Control)		7,225,000	2,675,000
Actual do. do	1919	10,594,341	10,407,415
" " "	1918	10,592,466	8,766,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months	1919	+ 3,369,341	+ 7,732,415
	1918	+ 3,367,466	+ 6,091,000

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, issued on April 10, 1919, £50,000 Debentures, part of a series already registered.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 20	May 28
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4% Loan	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	88	87⅞
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	75	74⅛
Greek 5%, 1881	57	72½	74
Do. 5%, 1884	56	72½	72½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	60	60
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	54	54
Do. 5%, 1890	56	72½	72½
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66	67
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	85	85
Do. 5% Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	83½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅜xd	6⅛xd
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅜	15⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	66	76	77
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7⅛	7⅛
London County and Westminster	—	17	17
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	20⅜	20⅜
National Bank of India	43	53	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅞	7⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	25xd	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	3⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	3⅜	12⅜	12⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/6	15/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/6	25/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	7⅜	7⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅜	3⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	13	13
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅛	26/-	26/-
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6½	6½
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	4½	4½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Anglo-Persian	1⅜	27/-	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	12/7½	12/10½
Roumanian	1⅛	20/-	20/3
Traian (Roumanian)	—	13/4½	13/9

INDIA COUNCIL DRAFTS.

Tenders were received by the India Council for Rs.1,00,00,000 bills and telegraphic transfers on India. Applications for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 7 15-16d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 8d. will receive about 48 per cent. The total amount for which tenders were submitted was Rs.2,05,55,000. The allotment was as follows :—In deferred telegraphic transfers—Calcutta Rs.30,85,000, Bombay Rs.41,15,000, Madras Rs.15,83,000. In immediate telegraphic transfers—Calcutta Rs. 10,95,000, Bombay Rs.1,22,000.

The directors of the Bhubrighat Tea Company announce a net profit for 1918 of £3,373.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams : "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN ALL CITIES OF BULGARIA.

The Bank effects the following transactions :—

1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
2.—Receives private deposits for fixed periods or on current account. 3.—Discounts commercial effects and allows quarterly loans.
4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
6.—Buys and sells country and foreign cheques, etc. 7.—The Bank is entitled to the exclusive privilege of putting in circulation gold and silver banknotes. The telegraphic address for the Head Office: **Nationalbank**, and for the branches and the agencies: **Bank.**

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 422.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The India Office has been hustling—if the word be not derogatory to the dignity of the institution—and since we last wrote we have had two sets of despatches in addition to the text of the Reform Bill itself. The Bill is necessarily a skeleton, and for the blood and muscles we must look to the statutory rules, for whose issue it provides; the despatches, on the other hand, are clogged with detail, important indeed, but impossible to survey within reasonable limits of space, and discussion of the whole subject may be postponed until the debate on the Second Reading, when we may expect from Mr. Montagu a reasoned explanation of the decisions taken on a mass of controversial questions. For the present it is enough to say that the Bill makes it possible to set up the Dyarchy, but that many features of this novel institution remain somewhat obscure.

Let us turn meanwhile to the correspondence published in *The Times* on the attitude of Indian Moslems towards the Turkish Empire, a transition which is less abrupt than might at first sight appear. We have heard the usual two parties: the scholars and historians, who maintain that Moslems should not care what happens to the temporal power, and the men of affairs, who insist that, as a matter of practical politics, Moslems care very much indeed, and that their sentiments, however irrational, cannot be left out of account. The matter is of great importance in itself, but it is only a particular case of one of the outstanding difficulties in the way of progress in the East, the profoundly unhistorical attitude of the great majority of the population.

It is, of course, true that Orientals set great store by tradition, but in the East generally, and more particularly in India, tradition is very easily made. Practically anything that has once been written, or for that matter said, may come to be accepted as traditional truth, and then it may be defended to the death. The importance of this principle has been recognised by the Bolshevist propaganda, which we are told is arranging for a pamphlet deriving its peculiar principles from the Koran; the idea is in itself ludicrous; but there is seldom any real difficulty in twisting isolated texts so as to support accepted conclusions, and such a pamphlet might easily acquire an importance which might take accurate scholars entirely by surprise. The manufacture of tradition is, in fact, on the way to become a recognised branch of industry, and the authorities cannot afford to be blind to its potential importance.

Education is, doubtless, the only complete remedy for this, as for other disorders of the State, but education works by generations rather than by years, and India, at any rate, cannot wait till the children now at school have become old enough to influence popular opinion. In the meantime, it seems necessary to recognise frankly the force of the written or spoken word, and to take measures to secure that truth is at least as widely disseminated as lies. We have had a lesson lately from the Punjab of what can be done by spreading false statements. Will the Government of India show us the contrary process in operation, not for some special temporary purpose, but as part of the ordinary working of its machinery? Will it undertake to see that the truth is within reach of town and country, and that the inevitable lie shall not get too long a start? The question concerns almost every branch of the Administration, but just now it is of particular importance in relation to the electoral system which has to be devised out of nothing. The Southborough Committee were satisfied that the ballot could be adapted to the needs of an illiterate electorate: accepting their assurance on this point, can the system of election addresses and campaign speeches be adapted to Indian conditions with an equal prospect of success? Can the issues be so presented that an ignorant and inexperienced electorate will understand the matters which they are privileged to decide? No committee seem to have said anything as yet on this aspect of the Reforms scheme, but it is not too much to say that the success or failure of the great experiment will depend very largely on the answer which can be furnished to these questions.

With true Teutonic patience and perseverance, Count Brockdorff-Rantzau and his fellow delegates continue to produce counter-proposals and to despatch Notes on various points, among the most recent examples of their industry being a Note on the Ottoman Public Debt. What the tenor of this communication may be we do not yet know, but it is safe to say that it is not inspired by any consideration for Germany's Turkish dupes; and for the rest it is pleasing to reflect that it is likely to be dealt with by the Allies' technical experts. That Germany should be interested in the subject of Turkey's debts is natural enough in view of the very complicated financial transactions between the two countries that are understood to have taken place during the past five years—transactions even more scandalous in their one-sidedness than those of pre-war days. The average Englishman will probably consider that morally Turkey owes Germany nothing but her misfortunes. The really

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interesting thing would be to know what Turkey thinks about it.

The Peace Terms were to have been presented to the Austrian delegates last Friday, but on the previous day, when the Allied delegates met to review them, they were found to be still incomplete; and M. Bratiano protested that many points of vital importance to Roumania and Yugoslavia were left undecided. He therefore moved an adjournment; and as a result it was not until Monday that the Terms were presented to the Austrian delegation at St. Germain. Even then the Treaty was not by any means complete. In parts little more than the scaffolding had been provided. The financial clauses and the clauses relating to reparation are reserved, as are the political clauses relating to Italy and the recognition of the Serbo-Croat-Slovene State, and the military clauses. The boundaries of the new Austria also are left very much in the air in regard to the south-east. All this was no doubt inevitable in the circumstances that have been allowed to develop, but it is none the less to be regretted that so much has had to be left for future decision.

In its general outlines the Treaty is very similar to that presented for Germany's acceptance (or rejection), and in many cases the clauses of the two documents are identical. Thus, Austria recognises the British Protectorate over Egypt and the French one over Morocco in exactly the same way as Germany has to; and the arrangements regarding the property of her nationals in these countries are along just the same lines as for Germans. Similarly, she agrees to accept all arrangements which the Allied Powers make with Turkey and Bulgaria with reference to any rights, privileges, or interests claimed in those countries by her or her nationals and not dealt with elsewhere.

The clauses relating to the Danube and to communications with the Adriatic are interesting. The Danube below Ulm is to be internationalised, with portions of its affluents and dependent canals; and the League of Nations is to be charged with the supervision of the working of the arrangement. The Danube Commission will resume its powers, but only Great Britain, France, Italy and Roumania will be represented on it henceforth; while beyond the point at which the authority of the Commission ceases the river is to be under the authority of an International Commission until a definitive statute is arrived at. Hungary is deprived of her rights to carry out works at the Iron Gate, and the other riparian States are to be granted certain rights on the Austrian bank of the river. Should it be decided to construct a deep-draught Rhine-Danube canal within twenty-five years, the Treaty provides for its international character. Free access to the Adriatic is to be accorded to Austria, with freedom of transit over territories and in ports severed from the old Dual Monarchy, such freedom extending to postal and kindred services.

As far as it is possible to do so by treaty the protection of racial, religious, and linguistic minorities in the territories that change hands is to be secured by the Peace Terms. The conditions already published contain clauses specifically binding Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania to protect such minorities, and it is obvious that similar pledges must in due course be forthcoming from other countries which take over fresh territory. In this connection it is satisfactory to be able to record that Roumania has already, and voluntarily, grappled with her Jewish Question, and solved it, in a spirit of liberality that augurs well for the future. Roumanian citizenship is to be granted on formal application to Jews resident in the country, to the number, it is estimated, of about 800,000. The taking of this step has not been quite such a simple matter as might be supposed by those unacquainted with the country, and it has probably called for some little courage, even to-day. At the same time, it cannot be doubted that it is a statesmanlike measure, and one that will have good results.

Freed from the Austro-Hungarian yoke, Transylvania has had an opportunity of welcoming its new rulers, and has done so with an enthusiasm that has left no room for doubt regarding its satisfaction at the change. King Ferdinand and Queen Marie were welcomed not only by the Roumanian authorities, but also by the Hungarian notables and the Hungarian Roman Catholic clergy. They watched 200,000 peasants, dressed in national costume, march past them in procession; and King Ferdinand, in an address to the people, assured them that henceforth the whole population should enjoy equality of treatment. That being the policy of the Government, and the Roumanians of Transylvania having displayed such admirable qualities of self-restraint, it is possible to look forward with some confidence to this region enjoying in the future a liberty to which it has been too long a stranger.

The Greeks continue to occupy fresh points in the Smyrna region. On May 29 they occupied Aivalik (or Aivali), which lies opposite Mitylene and some sixty miles north of Smyrna, and Kassaba, the name of which is familiar to Englishmen in connection with the Smyrna-Kassaba Railway. They appear to have encountered very little opposition at Aivalik, and none at all at Kassaba. They have also occupied Aidin and Magnesia, the operation being effected, according to statements emanating from Greek official sources, without incident. Later reports state that "perfect order reigns in Smyrna and in all the occupied territory." Even should this be a somewhat optimistic view, the Greek authorities are undoubtedly to be congratulated upon the measures they have taken to deal with such offences against order as might be expected to occur in the circumstances. The Commander-in-Chief of their Army of Occupation has announced that he will deal rigorously and promptly with attacks by Greeks upon Turks; has established a court-martial to try such cases; and, translating words into action, has already had executed Greek soldiers and civilians found guilty by this court. Turkish bands led by ex-officers of the Sultan's army are reported to have appeared in the Smyrna hinterland, and will probably cause trouble as soon as they find themselves strong enough to do so.

A statement issued through Reuter's Agency announces that: "The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has been recognised by his Majesty's Government." As it stands, the announcement has a bare, and, it must be confessed, somewhat unsatisfying appearance, and the absence of any official congratulations on the event will probably lead many people to believe that it is premature. The circumstances are unfortunate, and the more so because there have been so many rumours about the relations of Montenegro towards the new State. If the British Government has actually accorded its recognition to the Triune Kingdom, we must conclude that the Black Mountain is satisfied, and shall accordingly congratulate the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes upon the attainment of their ambition, for which they have both worked and fought so hard.

Two incidents reported during the past week seem to indicate that the troubled region along the Turco-Persian frontier and between it and the Caspian remains at heart much as it was before the war. At Suleimania —about sixty miles east of Kerkook; and not to be confused with the town of similar name between Teheran and Kazvin—a Kurdish Agha has gained control of the town and captured some British officers and staff. It is thought that he aims at establishing himself as an independent ruler. As it has been announced in the House of Commons that "steps are being taken to deal with the situation," his ambition is unlikely to be realised. It must be borne in mind, however, that the region is a particularly wild one, and that the Kurds are experts in their own way of fighting; so that the British authorities may find the task of dealing adequately with the adventurer not quite easy. The second incident referred to may be regarded as closed already, and satisfactorily so. It consisted of an attempt by

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the leader of the Jangali tribe—which dwells in the Kazvin-Enzeli region—to make the Gilan province independent of Persia under his own governance. In this he was supported by the Bolshevists; but the Persian Government asked for, and obtained, British co-operation in dealing with him; and he has now been driven out of Gilan, and the province has been restored to the authority of the Persian Government.

If Enver, Talaat, and other criminals who formerly occupied high places in Turkey ever hoped that by lying hidden long enough they might eventually have their misdeeds forgiven, that hope must to-day be extremely exiguous. Last week Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, replying to a question put by Captain Ormsby-Gore, announced in the Commons that the Government are resolved to bring these people to account, and that provision to this effect will be made in the peace settlement with Turkey—an announcement which was greeted with cheers. Some of the smaller fry, less notorious members of the C.U.P. have been shipped off from Constantinople to Malta. The fact that British and French soldiers have been placed on guard over the Committee leaders imprisoned in Constantinople is a small indication that the Allies do not intend to take any chances with regard to these gentry. With the forty odd specimens who have been removed to Malta there went a collection of members of the "Government of South-West Transcaucasia," who were arrested by the British military authorities for attempting to organise yet another massacre of Armenians.

Egypt's new Prime Minister and his Cabinet have been honoured by being made the targets for some of the vilest abuse that has ever been poured forth even by the so-called "Nationalists" of Egypt. The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* has enabled us to judge for ourselves of the quality of the language employed by these disappointed self-seekers, who, it would seem, are eminently qualified to produce a Hymn of Hate of their own. Indeed, one of their effusions informs the world that "eyes of hate look on them" [the new Ministers], and it is only too easy to believe that hatred is the driving power behind all the recent demonstrations inspired by these people. We note that the Ministers are described, *inter alia*, as "driving off the vultures and crows," and it is impossible to refrain from adding that it appears to be bad policy for the carrion birds to show their disappointment quite so clearly. Seriously, Mohammed Said Pasha is not the man to be frightened by such foolish and unsavoury demonstrations on the part of the irreconcilables, who have shown themselves as hopelessly incapable of grasping the truth as certain of their countrymen who have been endeavouring to make mischief in London are of telling it.

Mohammed Said Pasha has announced that the object of his Ministry is the realisation as soon as possible of the legitimate and reasonable aspirations of Egypt. That is an object with which all true friends of Egypt and the Egyptians will sympathise; but before it can be achieved it will be imperative to purge the country of the evil counsellors who have led it astray so woefully of late. And though the dupes and tools may well be treated with all leniency, it will be necessary to make examples of those who are found guilty of egging them on to folly and crime. The trial now in progress at Deirut has served to show what inflammable material there is to hand for the unscrupulous agitator in the Nile Valley. It seems to show also that it is not only the Fellah—the land-working peasant—who loses his head in moments of excitement. In fact, it has not revealed the Egyptian character in a very favourable light. But we must not judge a nation by a madly excited mob, and if it is hard to find any redeeming features in the story of the Deirut butchery, the troubles in Egypt have elsewhere shown that the Egyptian is capable of loyalty and self-sacrifice. What the country requires now is a period of quiet.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 12.

The King's Accession Day.

The King's accession day, which was as usual a Government holiday, passed off without incident. There had been much talk of strikes and other similar activities, but the attempts in this direction came to nothing serious. Azharites and students made a small hostile demonstration in the Mousky Quarter in the morning, which was speedily dispersed. Students tried to intimidate shop and restaurant keepers to take down the flags and decorations which they had hoisted in honour of the day, but in only a few rare cases was any attention paid to them. Likewise an attempt to get the cab-drivers to strike again proved abortive. A few students appeared in the streets with mourning bands round their arms, but they received no encouragement, and soon disappeared. A circular with wide black edge was also issued by them containing disrespectful and even scurrilous references to the King and the British Empire (I only refer to it as showing how childishly the present agitators are acting), but apart from these incidents the day was quite uneventful.

The Students.

Wednesday, being the 7th, was the last day on which students could return in order to comply with General Allenby's Proclamation, the details of which I gave in last week's letter. No one attended in the Higher Schools, but about 20 per cent. of the pupils of the Secondary Schools returned to their classes. There is reason to believe, however, that some of the students would have followed the example of their juniors had they not been intimidated. All the Higher Colleges have now been closed until the autumn, but the Secondary and Intermediate Schools are remaining open so as not to penalise those who have complied with the order. The students now say that there was no object in their returning to the colleges, seeing that they were bound in any case to lose a year, as they could not possibly have made up for the two months they had lost so as to be able to pass the examination. That is, however merely an idle excuse, for they held a meeting the day before and definitely decided that none of them would return until such time as Egypt had been granted her independence. Whether they will adhere to this decision now that the Peace Conference has recognised the British Protectorate over Egypt is however another question.

In regard to the attitude maintained by the students, their parents are undoubtedly a great deal to blame. In some cases they have been in complete sympathy with their children. Those who have not sympathised have been quite incapable of bringing their parental influence to bear on their offspring. In either case the result has



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been equally deplorable. The students have had none of the "family" control which might have acted as a deterrent from their present misguided and futile attitude, and the contempt and disrespect for their parents which have of late years been an unfortunate feature of the younger generation of Egyptians have become accentuated as a result of the present agitation, until to-day they have got completely out of hand. If, however, the fathers only had the moral courage to stop "supplies" in the shape of the handsome allowances many of them make to their sons, most of the latter could certainly be brought to heel.

I said that the students had now got out of hand, and I would add to that that there is every reason to believe that they, together with some of the Government officials who were the ringleaders in the strike movement, and who merely returned to their posts in order to retain their pensions, are responsible for the continuation of the agitation and for the demonstrations which have taken place during the past two or three days. It is true that Azharites have also participated in these demonstrations, but my information is that many of the latter had no intention of taking any action, and that it was only as a result of inflammatory speeches delivered at Al Azhar that they were persuaded to come out and join the students.

The most important demonstration took place on the night of the 7th, when a crowd of about 2,000 came down from Al Azhar and invaded Kasr El Doubara. Their object, incredible as it may seem, was to demonstrate against the Commission of Inquiry, which it was rumoured had arrived from London, and was said to be staying at the Residency. The demonstrators received a severe lesson. The authorities had got wind of their intention, and had made all their preparations. When the demonstrators got near their goal they suddenly found that they were caught between two fires, soldiers blocking the road at both ends. The latter made short work of them. No firearms were used, only sticks, but the demonstrators got such a hammering that it is doubtful whether any of them will be able, even if they were so inclined, to come out "on active service" for some time to come. This is the sort of lesson which the students and Azharites have long been in need of, and it should go a long way towards bringing them to their senses.

The only other incident of importance has been the discovery by the police of a printing press where seditious circulars were in course of being printed. Throughout the agitation one of the features has been the mass of seditious and inflammatory literature which has been put into circulation. The police do not delude themselves into thinking that they have laid their hands on the source of issue of all this literature. There is no doubt however that this is an important find, and as the owner is a well-known Extremist Nationalist this may be the means of restricting the output, especially if an exemplary sentence is inflicted. Some of the circulars and pamphlets issued are veritable masterpieces of style and rhetoric, but the sentiments they express are violently revolutionary and anti-British. Translated into English they afford somewhat amusing reading, but there is no doubt that in the original they have largely contributed to inflaming the minds not only of the ignorant but also of the educated.

This ends the narrative of the week's events, and beyond the foregoing the life of the country has followed its normal course. As I said last week, if only the student element and Al Azhar could be brought to order we could all turn our attention to the work of reconstruction and of repairing the serious damage, moral as well as material, which the past two months have done to Egypt. Perhaps the publication of the Peace terms, containing as they do the international recognition of the British Protectorate over Egypt, may have a calming effect, but it is to be feared that only when the few ringleaders who are responsible for the persistent attitude of the students have been brought to book, or the students and Azharites have been dispersed to their villages, where under present conditions they will have little chance of a hearing, will the agitation be completely and permanently suppressed.

That beyond the fermentation still indulged in by the students the situation is otherwise well in hand, and is giving no cause for real anxiety, is proved by the fact that General Allenby has left Cairo on a short visit to Palestine.

ATHENS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 10.

The Question of Cyprus.

An article contributed by Dr. Dillon to the *Daily Telegraph* explaining why up to the present no mention of Cyprus has been made at the Peace Conference has roused considerable enthusiasm in the Greek Press. Public opinion in Greece was becoming a little uneasy at the silence observed on this point, and the article in question has dissipated many vague fears. On the other hand, Cypriotes in Greece are already becoming anxious whether in case of a cession of the Island to Greece they will lose their British nationality and the privileges appertaining thereto.

Overcrowded Hotels.

The last ten days have seen a great influx of Russian refugees into Athens and Piræus, and in consequence of this hotels are again full to overflowing. All the lesser hotels are crowded, and it is no uncommon thing for a traveller arriving here to visit a dozen or more hotels before finding a room. In order to house the poorer class of refugees the Government has decreed that any person possessing a town and country or seaside residence must decide in which he is going to live, and the other is then requisitioned. This is hard on those landlords who had richly furnished houses in town and country, and are now compelled to house people of whom they know nothing. Some of the refugees appear to be extremely well off, and wear jewellery of great value; these lodge in the best hotels; but others are in great want, and have been proved in one or two cases to live by pilfering. Travellers should be warned of the difficulties encountered here in finding accommodation.

The organisers of the exhibition arranged by the Federation of British Industries, having foreseen the difficulty just mentioned have arranged to rent two hotels for the period of the exhibition, in order to house the expected number of visitors.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 10.

The General Situation in Roumania.

M. Duca, Minister of Agriculture, dealt with the local situation at a recent meeting of the National Liberal Club. Referring to the expropriation of lands, he stated that the transfer of 2 million hectares into the hands of the peasants was actually an accomplished fact, and that a considerably larger proportion of ground had been ploughed and sown than could have been expected. The peasants have displayed extraordinary activity and obtained by their own efforts the necessary seeds, travelling on foot from one district to another and carrying sacks of maize-seed on their backs. An American vessel, which put in at Constanza a few days ago, brought 300 tons of Indian corn, which, together with 100 car-loads that have begun to come in from Transylvania, about suffice to make good the deficit in seed. The harvest promises to be excellent, "in spite of the attitude of professional pessimism which it behoves a Minister of Agriculture to adopt."

The Commissions working in Paris have purchased large quantities of clothing material and food-stuffs. Thus there have been acquired 36 million yards of cloth and different stuffs for the village populations at very reasonable prices, a fact which will tend to reduce speculation. 1,700,000 pairs of boots, sugar, rice, etc., represent further acquisitions.

A serious question is that regarding the lack of cattle. As much of the cattle stolen during the occupation was driven into Hungary, requisitions are being made by the Roumanian troops operating in the regions lying between the Demarcational Line and the river Theiss. Exactly the same requisition prices are being paid as those made by the Germans during their occupation of Roumania. An offer of 10 thousand head of cattle from Argentina has been accepted. There are further large herds of cattle in Transylvania and the parts of Hungary belonging to Roumania, more, indeed, than before the war. It is a fact that the Hungarians made no requisitions and gave very little to the Germans.

Referring to the subject of public order, M. Duca said that two elements could have contributed to compromise the same; the peasants and the working classes. At present the spirit of the peasantry is most satisfactory, and due partly to the law of expropriation, partly to the admirable good sense and patriotism of the peasant, who realises perfectly that the evils from which he suffers are direct consequences of the war, and therefore not remediable from one day to another. In the towns the agitation of the working class was essentially the outcome of two causes: misery on the one hand, and on the other Bolshevist instigation, having its source in Moscow and Budapest. As a result of the measures taken by the Government the material situation of the workmen has been much improved. Everything has been done to permit of their provisioning themselves under favourable conditions, and their pay has been increased to such a degree that a railway workman gets nearly 1,000 francs a month, "the salary of a member of the Court of Cassation." On the other hand, Bolshevist agitations have almost completely ceased, thanks to the good sense of the leaders of the workman's movement.

As regards universal suffrage and the elections, the grounds on which these have been adjourned are obvious. Bessarabia actually constitutes a military zone, and as such it is impossible to proceed with the elections in this province. It would be a mistake not to hold general elections for all the territories united to the mother-country, for the next parliament must be the expression of the entire population of Great Roumania. This is also the view of the Transylvanian ministers. It is to be hoped that the elections will be held in these conditions at the end of July, or at latest in the autumn.

Then and Now.

The thriving condition of the Dobruja was too well known to travellers up to 1916 to require description. Many people are less familiar with the picture presented by the country at the time when it passed into Roumanian hands in 1878. To those the following account, taken from a report sent by Mirza-Said-pasha to the Grand Vizier towards the end of the 'fifties, may prove of interest:—

The whole Dobruja . . . presents the characters of the steppes; water is to be found only at a depth of 60-80 metres. Vegetation is almost completely absent, and such as exists belongs to the flora of the steppes; the ground is uneven, and the hills are covered with rocks. As far as the eye can see there is not a tree visible, but what attracts attention are the innumerable herds of every kind, especially of horses—the Dobrujan horse, celebrated by the poet—goats, horned cattle and, above all, sheep of every variety.

Further, all sorts of wild animals, wolves, foxes, beavers, etc.; birds, eagles, bustard, swans, falcons, duck, etc.; numerous reptiles, especially vipers. The wind blows, so to speak, permanently, and with the greatest violence. Winter begins in October, and the north wind does not cease till March. . . .

During the summer it is the south wind that rages; though much less frequent, it blows with great violence, overthrowing the minarets. This wind is sometimes so hot that respiration becomes difficult. It is said that during the strong gales from the south grains of sand, similar to those of the African desert, have been seen to fall. And there is no summer during which this wind does not blow at least once in the Dobruja. The Roumanians call it *Saracila* (from *saracie*—indigence, misery), for it is enough for it to blow half an hour in the month of May, when the wheat is in flower, to burn and destroy the entire harvest.

The description of the climate is perhaps a little pessimistic. But after all, that is a mater of individual appreciation, and even modern officials desirous of repatriation have been known to lay immoderate stress on climatic defects.

Bulgaria and the Dobruja.

That Bulgarians should continue to formulate pretentions on the Dobruja, that they should use spurious arguments in support of such, is not astonishing to those who are familiar with their peculiar, crude mentality. That they should count on the support of that Hyde Park fraction of the British Public which is disposed to back up any cause, provided it be sufficiently cranky or exotic, and regard its vapourings as the expression of British public opinion, merely indicates an inability to view matters in their true proportions perfectly compatible with racial immaturity. That they should in silence pass over the part played by Roumania on the Bulgarian battlefields in '77 and '78, and the debt of gratitude they owe her, is again comprehensible, for *real-politik* deals not in sentiment. That they should, however, go to the extremity of actually denying these facts of history, with which every Bulgarian schoolboy is, or should be, familiar, can imply nothing short of bad faith spun out to its uttermost limits.

Many Roumanians, in the light of subsequent events, have had cause to remember "Tsar" Ferdinand's desperate appeal to King Charles, in 1913, not to inflict upon him the humiliation of allowing Roumanian troops to enter Sofia, and have at the same time recalled the old, bitter Roumanian saying, that "he whom you prevent from dying will prevent you from living."

AN INTERNATIONAL ACT OF COURTESY.

In the last days of Abdul Hamid's reign the Sheikh-ul-Islam was a certain Jemal-ed-Din Effendi, who left Turkey when the Committee of Union and Progress took all power into their own hands, and thereafter never returned. He died at Alexandria early in April, and the British authorities in Egypt were approached with a request that special facilities might be given for the conveyance of his body to Constantinople. This request was readily granted, and the body was embarked on H.M. transport Empire, with all due honours. The vessel also carried to Constantinople the wife and granddaughter of the late Sheikh, with suite—the party numbering eleven persons.

On arrival at Constantinople the body was buried with the proper ceremonies. The Sheikh's family have since expressed both to our authorities in Egypt and in Constantinople their extreme gratification that this honoured bearer of a name which has been famous for 350 years in Turkish history should have received these marks of consideration and respect from the British in both countries.

A report from Petrograd states that a fresh Bolshevist agitation, with headquarters in Odessa, aims at the formation of a Soviet Republic, to be called "The United States of the Orient," and to include Turkey, Persia, Algeria, Morocco, India, etc.

The *Busreh Times* of April 26, states:—The result of the latest census gives the total population of Busreh City as 20,752. This total is divided into 19 different race headings, the main of which are:—Arabs 10,866; Jews, 5,966; Persians 2,387; Oriental Christians, 970. The minor race headings include 145 Armenians, 125 Kurds and 83 Indians.

Reuter's Malta correspondent, writing on June 3, says:—Vice-Admiral Sir J. M. de Robeck, who has been appointed to succeed Vice-Admiral Sir A. Gough-Calthorpe as Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet, will not assume command before August or September next. It is understood that Vice-Admiral Calthorpe, who remains High Commissioner at Constantinople, will eventually become the first British Ambassador under the new régime for the Turkish capital.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The Japanese Squadron.

Admiral Sato with the Japanese Squadron has left Malta after a long and happy connection with the Island. The Japanese ships will proceed to the Piræus at the invitation of the Hellenic Government; and Admiral Sato and the senior officers will go on to Athens, where they will be received by the King of the Hellenes. After the Greek visit, Admiral Sato's squadron will visit Port Said, thence proceeding to home waters. The late Governor sent the following message to the Japanese squadron:—"When you receive your sailing orders, I trust that you may leave with many happy recollections of Malta, and you will take with you the good wishes of all in this Island. God grant our alliance, cemented in blood, may endure for many a long year to come."

The Malta Dockyard.

The economic conditions of Malta are far from good, and the chief hope for the Island lies in the Fleet. The news, therefore, of the stationing here of a great Armada, has enabled the authorities to breathe a little more freely.

The University.

The students are still on strike. The main point of contention is on account of the alteration by the Council of Government of the title of the degree in law. Up to the present the degree granted at the end of the course to the successful student was that of Doctor, but it has been proposed to grant only the Bachelorship. This would entail two more years of study; and that, added to an already long course of 7 or 8 years, makes it a serious matter for those about to leave the University and practise their profession. Public opinion is with the students. With the exception of a casual collision or so with the police things are fairly orderly.

Shipping.

The following steamers and battleships have left for the East:—H.M.S. "Sweet Briar" for Constantinople, H.M.S. "Ivy," the W.S. Destroyers "Chew," "Bukney" and "Hazelwood," H.M. ships "Senstemmon" and "Moth," P.S. 88, P.A. 5, and the trawlers "Cambrisin" and "Ben Loyal" have left Malta. Very few trawlers now remain on the station.

The cruiser "Suffolk" has just arrived here from Port Said *en route* for England. The "Suffolk" is an old friend of Malta. She came straight to the Mediterranean from the builders' hands in 1904, and spent the best of her time in these waters. In her first two commissions in the Mediterranean she was successively commanded by Captain David Beatty and Captain R. E. Wemyss, now Admiral of the Fleet Sir David Beatty, the ex-Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Fleet and Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, the present First Sea Lord of the Admiralty.

H.M.S. "Foresight" has left Malta for Gibraltar and England.

Personal.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Steele, C.M.G., R.A.M.C., has taken over the duties of the Deputy Director of Medical Services in succession to Colonel G. B. Price, C.M.G.

Great regret has been felt at the death of Commander Noel S. Tindall, R.N., which took place from heart failure following ten days' illness from broncho-pneumonia at the age of 37.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

New Laws.

As expected, the course of a quite unique session of the Legislative Council has progressed smoothly. The official and Ottoman members have been in general agreement. Consequently the last issue of the Government *Gazette*, a weighty number of more than forty pages, contains twenty-one laws to which the Acting High Commissioner has assented in the name and on behalf of his Majesty. An Appropriation Bill provides a sum of £353,057 for the service of the current year; while another sanctions a further sum of £58,950, which includes £20,000 for the railway (£11,000 for purchasing locomotives and £9,000 for rolling stock); Public Works, £26,000; and Forest, £7,700. Several Acts aim at relief for the agricultural classes, the indebtedness of which is still such an oppressive burden. Interest on loans must not exceed 12 per cent., and no interest is payable on interest due on any loan until one year after such interest has become due. Farmers, in the law, include fruit growers and graziers. Great results can hardly perhaps be hoped for for some time to come, but these Acts are a step in advance of former measures, which have done but little to meet the real difficulties of the impoverished villager. There is another Act which amends the existing laws relative to dealings between traders and farmers, always a grievance and complaint on the part of the latter. And there is yet another for the relief of insolvent farmers. Among the other enactments is one to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases. Cypriot peasants, like others of the Near East, are fast bound in the fetters of superstition, and their fatalism only too often seeks to baffle the efforts of the Medical Department.

Nicosia Race Meeting.

The Nicosia Race Meeting has been carried out with great success, the attendance being unusually large. Many visitors came up from other districts. The Acting High Commissioner and Mrs. Stevenson were present, and all three communities, British, Turkish, and Greek, were fully represented. The sporting instinct is by no means confined to the first, but is strong in all, as these meetings always prove. There was some good racing.

The Greek Community.

The Greek town community has made up its mind that the island is to go to Greece, though perhaps subject to certain conditions. Letters from the "Greek Mission" in London, of which fifty have already been received and published by the *Voice of Cyprus*, encourage the growing confidence. A letter from Paris states categorically that this decision is assured; and a letter from M. Venizelos is referred to, in which that statesman says that the obstacles, mainly naval and military, will probably be satisfactorily removed. The deputation is being well supplied with funds, a further sum of £500 having been remitted, and further support promised.

Personal.

The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, who has been granted three months' vacation leave, will be going away shortly. The Acting High Commissioner gave a reception to Sir C. and Lady Tyser.

Mr. Stanley Fisher, Puisne Judge, will fill the office of Chief Justice until further orders.

Mr. A. L. Stuart, President of the District Court of Larnaca, will act as Puisne Judge until further orders.

Canon Newham, Chief Inspector of Schools, is shortly proceeding to England on leave.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Award of Public Schools Medal.

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society it was announced that the Public Schools Gold Medal for Indian history had been won for the first time since its institution by an Indian, Mr. S. S. Bajpai, of Dulwich College, for an essay on the Emperor Shah Jahan. The subject chosen for the next competition is "The Rise and Decline of the Maratha Power."

Lord Reay, who presided, said that the competition for the medal had been lamentably small, and that a circular letter was being addressed to the public schools calling attention to the annual award and to the importance of the study of Indian history.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Persia.

In a leading article *The Times* of May 30 makes some outspoken comments on the subject of Persia. After referring to the vast change in the external situation of Persia, it says:—

The Persians are still a nation, and no one who knows the country can question their right to independence on the basis of "self-determination." And Great Britain has not the will, even if there were a way, to saddle herself with the task of governing Persia. Persia, therefore, must be prevented from perishing, and to ensure this Persia must be helped. How? First of all she must bestir herself, for now is the accepted time which with wisdom may prove the day of her salvation. She will assuredly gain nothing by disseminating, either at home or abroad, such vain dreams as have been embodied in the brochure submitted to the Peace Conference, wherein a claim is put forward for vast tracts of territory to be taken from the Russian and Turkish empires. Let her grasp firmly two central truths, one of which she should find palatable. The first is that Great Britain not only harbours no designs against her independence, but, on the contrary, is determined to maintain it. The second is that Great Britain is the only Power which has any active interest in maintaining that independence, or will do a real hand's turn to help Persia. From others she can get advice and sympathy, which cost nothing, but she will not get the strength which will enable her once again to be the truly sovereign State we wish her to be.

Anatolia.

To the *Manchester Guardian* of May 29 Sir W. M. Ramsay has contributed an extremely interesting and forcible article called "Allies and Anatolia." He says that all discussion must start from the fact that Anatolia is almost purely Moslem. Speaking of the Greek population, he says that they (the old Ionians) are not, and never have been, the same as the Greeks of Greece proper; but to their value he thus testifies:—

It has been suggested that this scattered Greek population would withdraw from the Turkish territory to that which has been allotted to them on the west. This withdrawal (which is impossible) would be a grave misfortune. The power of the Greeks in the world's history has been due largely to their instinct for colonisation. They never stayed as a nation at home, but have been settlers in non-Greek countries from the beginning, and they will continue as of old. The greatest value of the Greek lies in his settlement abroad, generally as trader, sometimes as cultivator; I have even seen a Greek shepherd in the employment of a purely Turkish village. To attempt to restrain this instinct is worse than vain; it is destructive of the future. Most of what is greatest in Greek history springs from the instinct for colonisation. It is the function of the sons of Javan to give vitality to Western Asia generally. The West Asiatic coast, with its great cities, all centres of colonisation and voyaging in ancient times, has been their basis, and thence they have spread and made themselves an influence of the highest value. How much of Greek literature and art depends on this instinct. From Homer downwards it is the Greek abroad that is the subject and the inspiration. Much of what is least valuable in ancient Greek literature is restricted to the Greek at home. At the present day they are most useful in the almost purely Moslem Anatolia. The attempt to sort out religions and settle them in different localities is wrong, and will prove fatal. The progress of history depends upon the diversity of population in each district. The failure to mix has been an evil which can be overcome, for nature is against it. What is wanted is a sensible, unifying administration which maintains peace. Beyond this the cure lies in a large amount of local self-government. Wherever this has been tried in Turkey to my knowledge it has been highly successful.

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

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Articles to Note.

"The City of Constantinople," by Frederic Harrison, in the *Fortnightly Review* (June).

"Eastern Nights—and Flights," by "Contact," in *Blackwood* (June).

"The Future of Turkey," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Contemporary Review* (June).

"The Truth about Syria," by Bravida, in the *Anglo-French Review* (No. 4).

THE BALKANS.

Lecture by Sir V. Chirol.

On May 29, at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, Sir Valentine Chirol told the long story of the Balkans from the earliest times up to the assassination at Sarajevo. He said the problem presented was not one of our own days, and did not arise out of the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire; it dated back to before the coming of the Turks, and had presented at all times certain recurring phenomena, the persistency of which had never been fully recognised.

Of ancient times the lecturer said the Greek and Roman civilisations had never penetrated far into the Balkans. The influence of Greece had been confined to the extreme south and to the coastal region, while Rome had built great military roads and garrisoned the most important strategic centres; but only in the plains of the lower Danube had she bequeathed something of her characteristics, her language and her name. This was because before she had had time to complete her work of penetration the barbarians had poured down, and there had begun the triangular duel between Greek, Serb, and Bulgar, which had continued until all were subdued by the Turk.

The lecturer described how after this event the Balkan peoples passed for centuries almost wholly out of history, though in each case there remained an enduring memory of the past, which kept the lamp of nationality steadily burning against the day of awakening. The Turkish conquerors, he said, never sought to assimilate the peoples they had subdued, and they made no sustained attempt to convert them by force to Islam. Influenced by material interests they preferred to grind their alien subjects down and plunder them unmercifully. This they could do with a Christian population, whereas Moslems would have been entitled to equality of treatment. When the Ottoman Empire showed signs of decay the hand of the ruling power became heavier and heavier within the Balkan peninsula. This increased oppression, which was itself mainly a symptom of weakness, stirred up the dormant forces of resistance; and, by the beginning of the 18th Century, in the more remote parts of the country, bands of heyducs and klephts began to take regularly to the forests and mountains, whence they sallied forth as opportunity served for purposes of plunder, or to waylay parties of Ottoman soldiers on their way back from unsuccessful wars on the ever-receding frontiers of the empire.

The lecturer then described the part played at the period by Russia, Prussia and Austria. It was the Napoleonic wars, he said, which gave the subject peoples of the Balkans their chance—a chance for which they were just ready—and to the Serbs belonged the honour of being the first to rise in open rebellion against the Turks; thereby preparing the way for the Greek war of independence. Coming to the war of 1877-78 and its results, he said that the treaty of San Stefano had extended the boundaries of the new state then created—Bulgaria—into territory not inhabited by Bulgars, but the treaty of Berlin gave them too little. Whether the earlier treaty contained more seeds of trouble than the latter was an arguable point, but it was certain that either treaty alone would have been better than the two which settled, unsettled and re-settled the Balkan question, thereby completely unsettling the minds of the Balkan peoples.

Speaking of subsequent events the lecturer told how the Bulgars had proved a sturdy, stiff-necked and democratic people, not in the least prepared to substitute the Russian yoke for the Turkish, while Prince Alexander, although the nominee of Russia, would not play the part of a Russian pro-consul. When he abdicated another ruler was found in Ferdinand; who proved himself capable of betraying in turn every cause, and of corrupting for his own purposes all the fine qualities of the young nation that blindly trusted him, and, after playing a very close diplomatic game for twenty years, finally came into line with Germany and Austria when William the Second attempted to put into operation his scheme for making Turkey a bridge-head to world domination.

Sir Valentine also described the long-drawn struggle between Austria and Serbia, with its occasional "pig wars," when the Austrian Empire brought pressure to bear on the smaller state by preventing, under one pretext or another, the export of pigs from Serbia to Austria; also the events that led up to and followed the Turkish revolution. Of the peace of Bucharest, following on the second Balkan war, he said that it aggrandised Serbia at the cost of an enduring feud with Bulgaria, and erected a formidable barrier between Austria and Salonika which the Central Powers resolved must be broken at all costs.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CYPRUS AND GREECE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—I am sorry to see that "Cypriot" continues to insist seriously in his argument against the cession of Cyprus to Greece, on the ground that my compatriots are not of Greek origin! This argument is, of course, not worthy of any further attention; but I cannot refrain from remarking that your correspondent's suggestion to the effect that the unalterable and persistent wish of a people to unite its fate with a Kingdom with which they are in no way connected constitutes an historical phenomenon well worthy of unique and hitherto unprecedented investigation and indeed scientific study.

Will you, Sir, allow me to take afresh this opportunity of inviting those Englishmen who are particularly interested in the affairs of our Island, and also to extend this invitation to our Turkish compatriots, to give us their united co-operation and support for the promotion and progress of our Island under the Greek regime, which, it is now beyond any doubt, is going to be established in Cyprus, as a sincere and tangible application of the high principles of nationality and justice?—I am, etc.,

(DR.) NIC. KL. LANITIS.

Cyprus Mission,
2, Lancaster Street, Lancaster Gate, W.2.
May 27.

THE QUESTION OF THE DOBRUJA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I never imagined that my few explanatory lines on the Dobruja would elicit a passionate and polemical reply from the "Writer" in question. My mild and inoffensive letter does not provoke such language. Though averse to combative writing I feel bound further to insist that:—

1. Article 1 of the Armistice runs: "Immediate evacuation of the territories occupied *in Greece and Serbia*. The Bulgarian administration shall continue to operate in the parts of Bulgaria actually occupied by the Allies." Hence, the Allies in allowing the Bulgarian administration in Dobruja conformed to the agreement as stipulated in the Armistice, and therefore, to assert the fact is no "phantasy."

2. It is not my purpose to defend the Bulgarians, but why should they always be branded as "treacherous"? Bulgaria's rash act in June, 1913, was, as the Report of the Carnegie Inquiry Commission testifies, provoked by the terrible persecution to which the Bulgarian population of Macedonia was exposed at the hands of her Allies.

3. The "Writer's" denial that the decadence of the Varna and Rustchuk districts is due to the loss of southern Dobruja to Roumania, is too naïve to need comment. Those districts can hardly thrive without the hinterland, the granary of north Bulgaria, which new Dobruja constituted.

4. In regard to Bulgaria's claims to the Dobruja, the "Writer" has no reason to be angry with the Bulgarian professors. Before there were any Bulgarian professors that country was recognised by all, even the Roumanians themselves, as a Bulgarian land. Professor Edward A. Freeman in speaking of Dobruja prior to the Turkish invasion says: "Presently we hear of three Bulgarias, the central state of Tirnovo, the sea-land of Dobroditus, and a north-western state at Widdin." ("Historical Geography of Europe," p. 430.)

Schiltberger, who visited the province in the fourteenth century, then under the Turks, writes: "The second Bulgaria lies opposite Wallachia. The third is found along the mouth of the Danube; its capital is Kallacerca (Kaliacra) ("Reise des Joh. Schiltberger," p. 93).

Lord Strangford as early as 1863 writing from the Balkans warned his countrymen with these words: "The entire mass of the rural and non-Mussulman population of Turkey in Europe, with the exception of Bosnia, Thessaly, Albania, the Chalcidic peninsula, and a very narrow belt of the seaboard, consists not of Greeks and Slavs but of Bulgarians." ("The Eastern shores of the Adriatic" p. 316). The following passage applies equally as well to-day: "Bulgaria refrains from Russian political work, and dances but sluggishly to the piping of Pan-Slavists, and Yugoslavists, and Danubianists" (p. 323).

Perhaps no man can speak with better authority on the subject than Dr. G. B. Washburn, for forty years President of Robert College, Constantinople. In his great book "Fifty years in Constantinople" (pp. 183, 184) speaking of the evil results of the same Treaty of Berlin, he says: "The treaty of San Stefano had created a Bulgaria essentially on the lines agreed to by the Powers at the Conference of Constantinople. The treaty of Berlin divided the Bulgarians into five sections, giving one part to Servia (Nish, Pirot, etc.), one (Dobruja) to Roumania, one to an autonomous province called East Roumelia, one to Turkey (Macedonia), and one to constitute the Principality of Bulgaria under the suzerainty of the Sultan; and it was England especially that insisted upon this, and also upon the right of Turkey to occupy and fortify the range of the Balkans all with the object of making it impossible for the Bulgarians to form a viable state, which might be friendly to Russia. The Englishmen who knew Bulgaria, all our friends, understood the folly and wickedness of this at the time. All England has learned it since. Thus far the results have been the revolution of 1885, which resulted in the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, the war with Servia, the insurrection in Macedonia and province of Adrianople, and all the massacres and unspeakable horrors of the last thirty-nine years—in Macedonia, to say nothing of what Bulgaria has suffered from the intrigues of foreign Powers ever since the treaty of Berlin. The awful massacres and persecutions from which the Armenians have suffered since 1886 have been equally the results of this treaty." And we may add the recent Balkan wars and the present world conflict, too.

No one denies that Mizcea once ruled Dobruja for twenty-five years. So did Doushan of Serbia once rule Macedonia for several scores of years, and the Cæsars England for five hundred years! Yes, Dobruja to-day is Roumanian, as Nish and Macedonia are Serbian and Greek. In the same way Alsace-Lorraine had been German since 1870. It is not so much a question of punishing "treacherous" Bulgaria as of doing one's duty and of rectifying former wrongs for which the World-Tribunal is at this hour gathered at Paris, if a new order of things is in reality to be ushered in upon this ill-starred planet.—I am, etc.,

CONSTANTINE STEPHANOVE.

19, Sonnenbergsti, 19, Berne, Switzerland,
May 21, 1919.

The Elsie Inglis Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which was sent out to serve the Yugoslav Division of the Serbian Army on the Macedonian front in February, 1918, and which took part in the Macedonian offensive of last autumn, was transferred to Sarajevo in Bosnia last December. The need for its services in that district having now ceased, it has been recalled. Before leaving for home all members of the hospital staff were presented with the Serbian Gold Medal for Meritorious Service.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A MODERN PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.*

We are all born Aristotelians or Platonists—prone to take a pragmatic view of the universe, or to see symbols of the Divine Absolute in every phase of our terrestrial existence. A European dreamer, whose pen-name is "Sri Ananda Acharya," belongs to the second category. He has given the world an "authentic" account of a pilgrimage to the Himalayas. Three travellers, yclept the Pilgrims of the Sky, the Ocean Wanderer, and the Sister of the Birch, foregather in a cave on the flanks of Mighty Gaurisankar, whence they are wafted upwards to the world of spirits, which must be an Inferno to its denizens. Swedenborg believed that married couples who have been happy together on earth melt into one angel in heaven. According to Sri Ananda Acharya, they dance and sing face to face throughout eternity; while people whose connubial existence has been stormy walk mournfully back to back. Bachelors and spinsters who believed in self-help progress with their feet in the air, and sometimes on all-fours. Men of science and bacteriologists have lighted candles sticking to every part of their bodies; their heads perpetually revolve, with a telescope and a microscope attached to either eye. A harder lot awaits successful generals and the men whom they led to victory, for they roll along ball-wise, followed by a myriad of similar spheres, on wheels constructed of Military Medals. Sri Ananda Acharya's nightmare was evidently suggested by the visions of Dante, Bunyan, and Swedenborg; but it lacks the touch of genius which makes their work immortal. It is astounding that such rhapsodies as his should see the light at an epoch which, beyond all others, calls for constructive imagination and practical achievement. F. H. S.

COLES PASHA'S REMINISCENCES.†

Coles Pasha's book of reminiscences is, as might have been expected, well stocked with facts and anecdotes that will be of unusual interest to Anglo-Egyptians, and it appears at a time when Egypt is in the public eye at home. His talks with Lord Kitchener about the coming German war (which "K" always regarded as inevitable) and his stories of encounters with mad jackals and rabid dogs in Egypt (it is alarming to note that one of the latter succeeded in biting Coles Pasha, although it had a muzzle on at the time) are of more than local interest. Anglo-Egyptians will be interested to hear of the early days of the Turf Club; of the precautions adopted to prevent the poisoning of Wardani, Butros Pasha's murderer, when in gaol awaiting execution; and of the weird and wonderful uniforms worn by the police in Baker Pasha's day—"light blue and yellow facings for the Gendarmerie, chocolate with red facings for the Cities, and a much gallooned patrol jacket with light blue trousers for the staff."

But incomparably the most important part of this little work (it contains only 200 pages) is Coles Pasha's interesting and fairly full account of his work in the Prisons Department, from his nomination as Inspector-General in 1897 to his departure from Egypt in 1913. Coles Pasha was a daring reformer, but we do not call to mind any one of his chief innovations that has not stood the test of time. Those who wish to go into the matter more fully should turn to the official reports (Coles Pasha is a great believer in annual reports), but the present pages will serve as a useful introduction, summarizing the position as the author found it and as he left it, showing how in some respects Egypt has gone even further than Europe in prison reforms, how in others much remains to be done, and how Coles Pasha would have us do it.

The book is well illustrated and well printed, but somebody ought to have gone through the Pasha's exclamation marks with a pruning knife. He uses so many of them that when he really has occasion to be exclamatory he finds it necessary to employ two.

BALKAN FANCIES.‡

The author of this slender, but none too slender, volume of verse says his book "came into being in the first instance as a wholly personal antidote against Balkan 'ennui.'" His Muse may have whiled away idle hours, and against this purpose of writing we say nothing, except to remark that the matter had best been left as it was "in the first instance." Frankly, the level of Capt. Mann's verse never rises above the indifferent.

* "The Book of the Cave Gaurisankarguha," by Sri Ananda Acharya. (London. Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1919. Price 5s. net.)

† "Recollections and Reflections." By Coles Pasha, C.M.G. (St. Catherine Press Stamford Street, S.E.)

‡ "Balkan Fancies and Other Poems." By Capt. A. J. Mann. (London. A. and C. Black. 2s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

The Oxford University Press are very shortly publishing "Local Government in Ancient India," by Dr. Radhakumud Mookerji, Professor of History in the University of Mysore.

The firm of Luzac has published at 8s., "Nuzhat al-Qutub," by Hamd-Allah Mustawfi, of Qazwin, and translated by G. Le Strange.

Messrs. Constable are publishing "The Dardanelles" by Major-General Sir C. E. Callwell. In the autumn will be published the authorised life of Sir Stanley Maude, by the same author.

Professor E. G. Browne, who has written much on Persia has in preparation "A Literary History of Persia under the Tartar Dominion." The Cambridge University Press are publishing the book.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The United Russia Societies Association Proceedings." Vol. I. (1917-1918). (London: David Nutt. Trade supplied by Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net).

"Bridget's Fairies, A Masque of Education." By Mrs. Sinclair Stevenson, M.A., Sc.D. (London: The Religious Tract Society. 4s. 6d. net).

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

THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

The following announcement was made by the India Office on May 29:—

Owing to Nadir Khan's offensive on May 26 a concentration of the small scattered garrisons in the Tochi and Gomal valleys, on the general line Thal-Idak-Murtaza, has been carried out. (Thal is roughly 60 miles W.S.W. of Kohat, at the head of a light railway line from the latter station; Idak is about 20 miles W. of Bannu, on the road leading up the Tochi Valley; and Murtaza is about 20 miles W.S.W. of Tank, at the head of a branch of the light railway which runs from Kalabagh, on the Indus, to Bannu.) Mahsud and Wazir Lashkars joined the Afghan forces, which occupied the abandoned territory. The latest news, dated Simla, May 28, reports that the main Afghan forces in Khost, under Nadir Khan, are operating against Thal, which was being shelled from the right bank of the Karram river on May 27, large concentrations of the enemy being reported within three miles of the fort. A telegram from Simla dated May 26 shows that during the air raid on Kabul on May 24 troops estimated at 5,000 to 6,000 were observed mostly moving westwards between Gandamak (28 miles south-west of Jelalabad) and Kabul. The above confirms an agent's report that by May 20 six battalions and two cavalry regiments had left Jelalabad for Gandamak, to which place stores were also being evacuated.

On June 1 the India Office made the following announcement:—

The latest information received from Simla, dated May 29-30, shows that all the Afghan attacks on our fort at Thal [Kurram Valley] have been repulsed, although it was being fired at by artillery throughout the day of May 28. The Afghans have occupied and looted the bazaar at Thal (outside the fort.) An air reconnaissance disclosed 3,000 to 3,500 enemy near Thal. Bombs were dropped on their camps with good effect. Idak post (20 miles west of Bannu, on the road up the Tochi Valley) has been unsuccessfully attacked by tribesmen. Further weak attacks by Afghans in the neighbourhood of Peiwar Kotal have been beaten off. At the capture of the Afghan fort Baldak (opposite Chaman, in Baluchistan) our troops took 169 prisoners and killed 320 of the enemy. The fort is being occupied and held by us. In the Khyber region and to the north the attitude of the tribes and the general situation remains satisfactory.

The India Office made on June 2 the following announcement:—

Further information received from the Government of India, dated May 31, shows that Thal fort has resisted all Afghan attempts to take it, although the adjacent village has been completely gutted by the enemy. An unsuccessful attempt has been made to rush our post at Sadda (30 miles from Thal up the Kurram valley), and some fighting continues near Lakka Tigga (10 miles S.W. of Sadda). The arrival of our aeroplanes at Miramshah, in Waziristan, is reported to have eased the local situation as regards the tribesmen in that neighbourhood. Our post at Manjhi, to the south of Murtaza, where the Gomal valley debouches from the mountains, was unsuccessfully attacked during the night of May 29-30.

The India Office made the following announcement on June 4:—

A full translation of the Amir's letter to the Viceroy of May 28 has now been received by telegraph from the Government of India. The Viceroy also reports that he has replied to the letter, stating the terms on which he is prepared to conclude an armistice as a preliminary to the discussion of terms of peace. In the course of his letter the Viceroy gave a reasoned statement of the causes that led to the outbreak of hostilities, and of the various acts of unprovoked aggression committed by the Afghans. He made it plain that explanations such as that given in the Amir's orders to his commanders, to the effect that the "Afghans were obliged to take defensive measures," are wholly inadmissible; and that the Afghan incursion had no justification whatever in any action on the part of the British authorities.

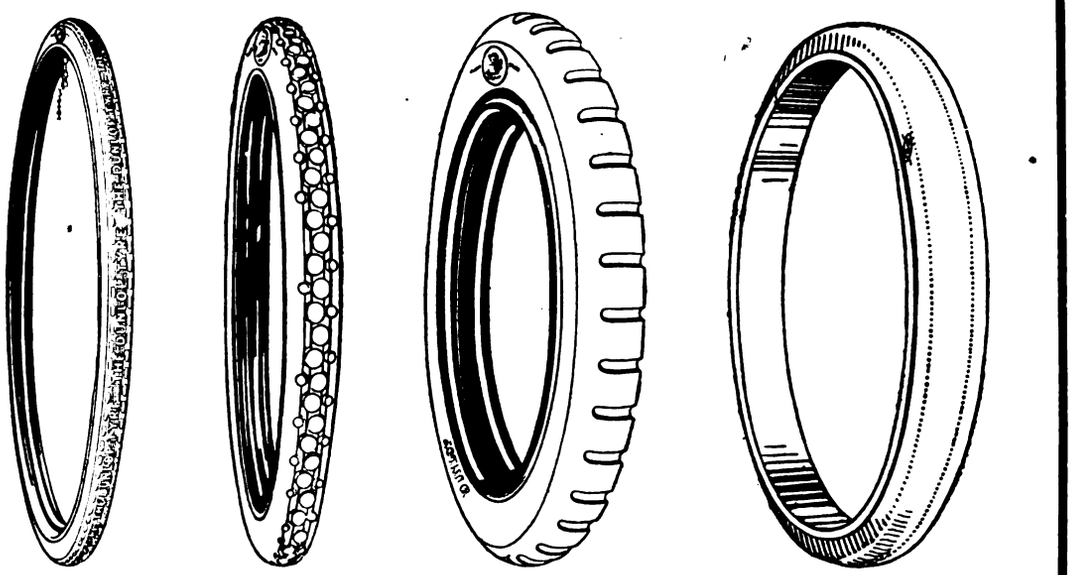
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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

The British soldier in Syria and Palestine has received much well-merited praise. Several correspondents of THE NEAR EAST have told us what a popularity he has achieved, and I have referred to the subject quite recently myself. His comrade in Greece has not been so fortunate in the matter of publicity—if fortunate, indeed, it be to achieve fame of the kind—but it is a fact that with the Greeks he has been and is a prime favourite, an easy first in the International, so to say. Here is what a correspondent writes on the subject: "Any money spent here [in Greece] by your Government on propaganda has been wasted; nothing, pictorial or otherwise, can compete with Tommy Atkins in this way." After referring to pre-war days and to certain changes of feeling that have taken place in Greece since that period, the writer goes on to say that Tommy "has been an absolute eye-opener" to the Greeks. He continues: "The climax was reached at the Salonika fire. ——, ——, and possibly —— were out for loot, or, shall we say, souvenir hunting? Tommy had no other thought than for saving lives and property; houses were cleared of their contents as best it could be done; things were labelled with the address and dumped or stored under British care; and when all was over the people were informed that their property was waiting to be claimed. They had never expected to see it again."

***

And here is another little bit about our men in Greece. In the early days of our presence in the country a regiment was to be quartered on a village, which was notified accordingly. The villagers protested, and were inclined to kick; and billeting was carried out very much against their will. After being there a month the troops were ordered elsewhere. Thereupon a deputation, headed by the mayor, waited on the C.O. to ask what they had done to cause the removal of the troops. They felt it as a slight to the village, and they wanted the troops to remain!

***

We have heard much about the ill-treatment of British prisoners of war in Turkey. What will my readers say when they learn that one of these unfortunate beings is still kept captive—and behind bars, for the curious to gaze upon? It seems incredible, no doubt. But it is a fact nevertheless, as is vouched by one of the victim's former companions. I learned of it through a letter which lately reached England. I quote: "By the way, X——, who was at Afion Kava Hissar as a prisoner, had rather a curious meeting at Alexandria. He and I drove out to the Nouzha Gardens, and in wandering round the menagerie section came across a cage bearing a label inscribed 'Syrian Wolf.' Who should be the inmate but the pet wolf belonging to the Prisoners of War Camp at Afion, which had been brought into the camp by a Turkish sentry when it was about the size of a kitten; had been trained by the officers; and had learned to follow them about and answer to its name like a dog. It had been brought out of the country by them when they were released, and had been placed in the care of the keepers of the Nouzha Gardens. It still remembers its pet name." I wish the writer had given the name. "Grey Brother" surely would be appropriate for this reversal of the Mowgli story. I am sorry the poor beast has to be kept behind bars; but I expect it is wiser.

***

All armies have their peculiar forms of discipline, and these forms very largely correspond to national temperaments. Now you all know that the Russian is an idealist who pursues his ends in ways impossible to more Western nations. This fact is illustrated by a cutting which I have taken from a recent *Pioneer*. Here is the extract:—

"General Dunsterville, according to a correspondent who heard him lecture on the subject of the British advance to Baku, tells the following story about the state of discipline amongst the Russian troops who were at one time assisting the British. The General on one occasion went to the Russian Commandant's tent to see him about something. He found the aged Commandant on the floor with a Russian subaltern clawing at his throat and kneeling on his chest. When General Dunsterville entered the subaltern got up and walked away, and the Commandant rose to his feet, saying, 'Some of these young officers of mine are rather impulsive, don't you think?' The matter was not mentioned again."

However, other places other manners. What a distance from the British subaltern, whose highest social daring is the trumping of his colonel's ace! And even then he does not always get let off with mild remarks about impulsiveness!

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Cyprus.

May 28.

Sir PHILIP MAGNUS asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government has received a telegram from the representatives of the Moslems in Cyprus, numbering about 60,000, praying that they may be permitted to continue to live under British rule; and, if so, whether, having regard to the extent and loyalty of the Mahomedan population of his Majesty's Dominions, the petition of the Moslem inhabitants of Cyprus will receive favourable consideration?

Lieut.-Colonel AMERY: The Secretary of State has received a communication in the sense indicated by the hon. Member, and has replied that the interests of his Majesty's Moslem subjects in Cyprus will receive full consideration at the hands of his Majesty's Government.

Sir P. MAGNUS: Will the inhabitants of Cyprus have an opportunity of determining for themselves whether they desire the island to be annexed to Greece or whether they prefer to remain under British rule?

Lieut.-Colonel AMERY: I must have notice of that question. I think the Government must be the judge of the situation as it arises.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE: Is it not the fact that the people by a large majority are in favour of union with Greece, and that is one of the difficulties?

Lieut.-Colonel AMERY: Yes; but it is undesirable to argue the question at this moment.

Trouble in Kurdistan.

June 2.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs where the reported outbreak in South Kurdistan had taken place; whether any British soldiers had been captured by the insurgents; and what was the alleged cause.

Mr. PRATT, Lord of the Treasury, who replied, said: The outbreak occurred at Suleimaniyeh, a town in South Kurdistan, in ex-Ottoman territory, where a Kurdish notable has obtained temporary control of the town, after an engagement with the local levies, in which the latter appear to have been worsted. The British officer and staff are prisoners, but are reported to be unharmed. Steps are being taken to extricate them and to deal with the situation. The Kurdish chief's action seems to be due to a wish to establish himself as an independent ruler.

Colonel A. HERBERT: Is my hon. friend aware that a dangerous feeling of fear and suspicion is growing up against us among populations in the East who have been perfectly loyal during the war, and that only a clear statement of a British policy will allay these suspicions?

German Missionaries in India.

Mr. PRATT, Lord of the Treasury, in answer to Sir A. Fell, said that the Secretary of State for India had no doubt that, as soon as opportunity offered, the Government of India would repatriate, in accordance with their settled policy, the few German missionaries who still remained in India, with such individual exceptions, if any, as reasons of humanity might make expedient. Those who were repatriated would not be allowed to return to India after the peace, and care would be taken that they did not return in the guise of Swiss or any other nationality. The Secretary of State was in communication with the Government of India as to the treatment of ex-enemy aliens in trade after the war. At present he was not in a position to make a statement on that subject.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official Report.

BRITISH ARMY (MEDICAL OFFICERS AT BATOUM)—DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Egypt. Troops in Salonika. (May 27.)

INDIA: Bombing by Aeroplanes.—Recent Riots (Total Civilian Casualties).—Civil Services (Selection Board).—Promoting Rebellion.—Currency Commission.—Press Criticism.—Karachi (Troop Train Incident).—Afghanistan. PEACE CONFERENCE: Turkey. EGYPT. INDIA: Retired Police Official (Pension).—Intelligence System. (May 28).

ALBANIAN GUIDES (PRISONERS): ENVER PASHA. TALAAT PASHA. BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR: Evacuation of Kut. REQUISITIONED PROPERTY, SCUTARI. ALLIED FORCES, SCUTARI. TRANSIT CAMP, PORT SAID. INDIAN ARMY (POSTING OF OFFICERS). CONSTANTINOPLE MAILS. (May 29).

ALBANIA. (May 30).

INDIA: Currency.—Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Scheme.—German Stores.—Major-General Shaw.—India Office (Lord Crewe's Committee).—Imperial Cabinet.—Government Action (Misrepresentation).—EGYPT (COMMISSION). GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL. DEMOBILISATION: Troops in the East. SOLDIERS' LEAVE (MESOPOTAMIA). INDIA: Retired Police Officers (Pensions).—Police (Civil Furlough Pay).—Army Officers (Suspended Retirements). PRICE OF GAS (MALTA).—(June 2.)

THE NEAR EAST.

The Manager of THE NEAR EAST *would be glad to be informed of any instances of difficulty being experienced in securing copies of the Paper. If any readers have friends who are not already subscribers to* THE NEAR EAST *and, in their opinion, are likely to be interested in the Paper, they are invited to send the names and addresses to the Manager, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.*

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. June	1919. May.		1337. Ramadan.	5679. Sivan.
6	24	Friday	8	8
7	25	Saturday.....	9	9
8	26	Sunday	10	10
9	27	Monday	11	11
10	28	Tuesday	12	12
11	29	Wednesday	13	13
12	30	Thursday	14	14

Prince Paul of Serbia has left London for Italy.

The Aga Khan left London on June 4 for Paris.

M. Také Jonesco and Mme. Jonesco left London on May 30 for Paris.

Prince Cantacuzene of Roumania left London on June 1 by aeroplane for Paris.

Bimbashi W. M. Richards is being posted to the Sudan Government for duty.

Sir Godfrey Fell, Military Financial Advisor, has left India for England on six months' leave.

The French Ambassador was visited on May 31 by M. Yovan M. Yovanovitch, formerly Serbian Minister in London.

Mr. J. L. Rieu has taken over the office of Commissioner of Sind from the Hon. Mr. H. S. Lawrence, C.S.I., who is going home on six months' leave.

General Hébert, Commander-in-Chief of the 3rd French Army, arrived on May 31 at Salonika on a special mission to the Greek Army Headquarters.

Rear-Admiral Gaunt, the Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, who is to go home shortly, will be succeeded by Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Tothill.

Mr. W. H. J. Wilkinson, I.C.S., who recently returned from military duty, is shortly to join the Foreign and Political Department, Simla, on special duty.

M. Ivan Mestrovitch, the Serbian sculptor, has arrived in London from Paris, and on May 29 visited M. Yovanovitch, late Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James's.

The marriage arranged between Lieut.-Colonel A. P. Browne, D.S.O., late Central India Horse, and Miss Winifred Rhodes will take place on June 19, at St. John's Church, Ryde.

The King has been pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on Mr. Justice Norman Cranstoun Macleod on appointment as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

The anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society will be held at 22, Albemarle Street, on June 11, at 4.30 p.m. The chair will be taken by the Rt. Hon. Lord Carnock, P.C., G.C.B.

The marriage was celebrated on May 29, at Penzance, between Major Arthur Montagu Brigstocke, I.D.F., Indian Civil Service (retired), and Doris Mamie, widow of the late A. E. Ross, Imperial Forest Service, Burma.

The marriage was celebrated on May 23 at All Saints' Church, Fulham, between Captain Douglas Aylward, M.C., I.A.R.O., youngest son of H. N. Aylward, of Lockerley, Hants, and Wilhelmina Hurst, daughter of Mrs. Hurst, of Preston, Lancs.

An engagement is announced between Douglas Royle Tweedie, Bimbashi, Egyptian Coastguard Service, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Tweedie, Port Said, and Ethelwyn Marjorie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Chanter, of Bloomfield, Braunton, North Devon.

The marriage was celebrated on May 29 at St. Andrew's Church, West Tarring, Sussex, between Leslie Seymour, Captain, I.A.R.O., 104th Wellesley's Rifles, son of Major H. Bell-Syer, Royal Irish Rifles, and Phyllis Mabel Charlotte, third daughter of the late Percy Wansbrough Stevens, barrister-at-law, India, and Mrs. Percy Stevens, Dunooltie, West Tarring, Sussex.

Sir Krishna Gupta, formerly of the India Council, and Sir B. C. Mitter, members of the Moderate deputation on the Indian reforms, have arrived in London, and are staying at the National Liberal Club.

The King inspected, on May 29, a party of Indian officers and non-commissioned officers belonging to the Royal Field Artillery base at Rouen, under the command of Captain H. C. Clogstoun, Indian Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France.

The European Association of India has deputed its secretary, Mr. T. E. Welby, to visit Great Britain and place its criticism of the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme of Indian reform before the British public. It is understood that Mr. Welby will arrive this month.

Miss Grace Burch Walkup, of the United States, who has sailed for Europe to work in Belgrade for the Serbian Relief Committee, intends to take 1,000 photographs of Serbian children and send the pictures to America for use in a campaign for their aid.

His Majesty King Albert of Belgium has been pleased to confer upon the Hon. Mr. Thomas Smith, of Cawnpore, the decoration of Chevalier de l'Ordie de la Couronne in recognition of his services as treasurer of the United Provinces Belgian Relief Fund and Red Cross Fund.

The marriage was celebrated on May 29 at St. Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington, by the Ven. Arthur Kitchin (uncle of the bride), between Captain J. P. W. Howden, R.A.S.C., of Durban, Natal, and Alison, younger daughter of Lieut.-Colonel T. H. Sweeny, C.M.G., I.M.S., retired.

The marriage was celebrated on May 28 at the Parish Church, Eastbourne, by the Rev. Canon Streatfield, between Frank Henry, Lieut., attached 27th Indian Cavalry, son of the late F. H. Simons, of Petworth, and Betty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Weston, of Ballybritt, Eastbourne.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in the autumn, between Commander G. H. S. La Touche, O.B.E., Royal Indian Marine, and Mrs. J. W. Consadine, widow of Major J. W. Consadine, Royal Munster Fusiliers, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Black-Law, of Kingstown, Ireland.

The marriage arranged between Rudolph John Agnew, elder son of John A. Agnew and Mrs. Agnew, 13, West Heath Avenue, Hampstead, and Pamela, daughter of the late I. D. F. Campbell and Mrs. Campbell, Rosemount, Naina Tal, U.P., India, will take place at St. Edward's Church, Golders Green, on June 12.

Serbia is to have her Emblem Day on June 12 in aid of "the Hon. Evelina Haverfield's Fund for Disabled Serbian Soldiers." There is also to be a Slava Week Ball, the last for the spring season, on June 16, at the Hyde Park Hotel, beginning at 10 o'clock in the evening. The organiser of both is Mrs. Erica Beale, Slava Week Offices, 38, Conduit Street, W.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent, writing on May 26, states:—The official *Gazette* announces:—"In the desire to conform to the commands of the Moslem religion regarding marriage, and to be guided by the holy traditions of the Prophet, his Highness the Sultan has decided to carry out his previous resolution on the subject." The marriage contract with the Sultana Nazli, a descendant of illustrious and noble houses, was exchanged on May 24 in the presence of the Sultan and the father of the bride, Abdel Rahim, Sabri Pasha, Minister of Agriculture, representing the Sultana.

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On May 31 Lord Pentland was received in audience by his Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Governor of Madras, when the King invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. Lady Pentland was invested by his Majesty with the Insignia of a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Division. Lord and Lady Pentland afterwards had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The Hon. Dewan Bahadur P. Rajagopalachariar has been appointed Vice-President of the Madras Legislative Council.

Mr. W. P. Barton, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, has been appointed to officiate as Resident, Baroda.

Mr. C. Moss King, Legal Remembrancer, and Mr. G. B. Lambert, Financial Secretary to Government, have been appointed members of the United Provinces Legislative Council.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Grimwood Mears, barrister-at-law, as Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad in succession to Sir H. E. Richards, retired.

Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Oakes, Indian Army, now on war service, has been appointed Commandant of the Travancore State Army, vice Lieut.-Colonel D. E. L. Faunce, who reverts to the British service.

OBITUARY.

Lieut.-Colonel William Joliffe Twyford, of Bronwylfa, Welshpool, a Mutiny veteran, died on June 2, aged 82.

The death occurred on May 26, at Tay Park, Broughty Ferry, N.B., of Clement Jakman Danby, late of Calcutta.

Sadighol-Molk, who was for ten years' Persian Minister at The Hague, has died in Paris. He was seventy-three years of age.

The death occurred on May 27, at Arosca, Switzerland, of Captain Donald Macintyre, 2nd Gurkhas, eldest son of the late Major-General Donald Macintyre, V.C.

Lieut.-Colonel Charles E. S. Scott died at Teignmouth on May 29, at the age of eighty-three. He served throughout the Crimean Campaign, and at the siege of Sebastopol was wounded. He had the medal with clasp, the Fifth Class of the Medjidie, and the Turkish medal.

The death took place at Allahabad, on April 22, of Mr. William Burbridge, a Mutiny veteran and the oldest translator in the Allahabad High Court.

Colonel Elliott Armstrong Bruce died at Stenhouse, Barnstaple, on May 29, at the age of 79. In the Afghan War of 1878-80 he was Executive Commissariat Officer with the Vitakri and Lower Kuram Field Forces, and five years later he accompanied the Burmese Expedition in a similar capacity.

Our Malta correspondent writes (May 20):—The Island has heard with deep regret of the death of Colonel E. C. Seaman, C.M.G., R.E., well remembered in Malta, which took place on May 10. The deceased officer had been appointed to succeed General Painter as Chief Engineer at Malta.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

From May 31 the Orient express *via* the Simplon tunnel will carry Swiss mails for Yugoslavia, Serbia, Roumania, and the Levant.

It is intended to erect a memorial to the fallen of the British Saloniki Force. The proposed site is the Grande Couroune Mountain, overlooking Lake Doiran.

Reuter's Madrid correspondent, writing on May 27, states that Spanish troops from the Larache sector, operating on the Garra and Saaza hills, engaged the enemy, who retired, leaving behind 32 killed. Native Regular troops surprised an enemy detachment between Lanizan and Bini-Haros.

"DAILY BREAD" IN THE CITY OF DAMASCUS.

From the assistant organising secretary of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund we have received an account of the bread distributions to thirty thousand of the poor and refugees in Damascus, written by one of the fund's relief workers, Mr. Victor Caldwell. He says:—

Amongst its other activities in Damascus, the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund provides for the inspection of bakeries in the city, which distribute bread on behalf of the British Government to nearly 30,000 people.

For three ordinary British citizens to be asked suddenly to superintend the issue of bread to a great number of the poor of Damascus shows that relief workers must be prepared for emergencies. Unaccustomed as we are to public bakeries, we must overcome diffidence, and carry on because the work is waiting for somebody. The foundation of the whole scheme of cheap bread distribution is the work of the Investigation Department, presided over by one of our Arabic-speaking ladies and staffed by native women. This is a patient and scientific work on lines developed by experience. A card index and a number of forms had to be started, and many interviews held with individuals and institutions to mark off boundaries and prevent overlapping. The homes of claimants are always visited, and much insight into the life behind the scenes is thus gained.

As inspectors, we frequently call at the bakeries when the people who have been passed by this careful censorship and obtained a ticket come to get their bread, and we get some impressions of them with our eyes. Their clothes tell the tale of poverty most plainly, but sometimes it is rather their faces, for there are those who have known better days and preserve some pride.

The idea of order and of waiting their turn is not familiar, and their endeavour all to be first frequently creates delay. Children often come with their cloths or paper bags to fetch the portions for the family. Their appearance, with their shining white teeth and alert faces, is prepossessing. Sometimes the small ones get crushed and cries are heard. Sometimes, too, they may lose the precious ticket, and then you may be prepared for a real copy of the "importunate widow" when the mother comes to crave a new one, which is not supposed to be granted again until after an interval.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1919.

THE TERMS TO AUSTRIA.

The terms which the Allies have imposed on Austria, so far as they have been published or presented to the enemy—and many points are still held over for further consideration—contain no surprises. Nor is it likely that they will be seriously disputed by the plenipotentiaries from Vienna. Indeed, there is relatively little at present to dispute. The financial clauses are not yet decided, and the political clauses are little more than the recognition of accomplished facts. It is in this respect that the treaty, for all its superficial likeness to the German, differs fundamentally from that which Count Brockdorff-Rantzau finds it is difficult to digest. Germany will be obliged to resign certain provinces obtained by conquest, but she still remains a great State. Austria loses nothing but what she has already lost, but what she has lost reduces her from a first to a third-rate Power. The territories which Germany loses are insignificant in comparison with those she retains, and that quite justly on the principle of nationality. In the case of Austria the position is reversed, and the territories she retains are insignificant in comparison with those she loses; and then again, on the principle of nationality, with perfect justice. Seldom has there been a greater political revolution. The old Austria was a country with a long Imperial tradition; in some sort it was the descendant of the Roman Empire; it had a policy which reached back to the Middle Ages and which looked forward to the dominance of the Balkans and the Adriatic; it had an imposing military power, and during the last few years, conformably to its growing ambitions, it had been at pains to increase its naval power. The new Austria is a country little if at all larger than was the opponent whom it challenged in 1914. It has neither army nor navy; it has no seaboard, and the ports which this new inland State will be allowed to use will be either Italian or Yugoslav. There is poetic justice in the fact that the country which did its utmost to prevent Serbia having access to the sea should now be itself a land-locked State.

Of the future of Austria we need say little, save that the natural inclination of its now purely German population will be to associate themselves more closely than before with the neighbouring Catholic country of Bavaria. Any political union is indeed forbidden by the treaty of peace, but this condition, which has excited some legitimate criticism, is likely to remain meaningless in practice, since there are many forms of close co-operation and understanding that escape the precise definition of political union, but are nevertheless to all intents and purposes the same thing. Now that Europe has definitely decided to revert from the Great Power to the Small State system, both Bavaria and the Rhinelands are free to express their common and historic dislike of Prussia. But both Bavaria and the Rhine, to say nothing of Wurtemburg and Baden, have much in common, in religion, in character, and in social life, with what remains of Austria, and the inevitable tendency will therefore be for Vienna to be regarded as the capital of the South German people, whether the headship takes concrete political form or not. It is quite certain that the small States, from their very lack of size and power, will feel that their existence is somewhat unstable, and that they will endeavour to buttress themselves by every means in their power. It may be said, of course, that the League of Nations secures them, and such is in fact the intention of that admirable conception. But old habits and instincts are deeply rooted, and the demand for an additional security is comprehensible. The world has already seen America and Britain pledge themselves to France, over and above the doubtless ample assurances of the League of Nations, and it is by no means improbable that the German States, always ready to copy a good political model, will imitate among themselves this additional covenant by some unofficial understanding.

Four new States—Hungary, Bohemia, Poland, and Yugoslavia—will be built up out of the Austro-Hungarian dominions. Of these Poland has the traditions and the prospects of becoming a first-class Power, and it is the more to be regretted that the solution of the Polish question, so far as it has been solved, is not altogether satisfactory nor impressed with the promise of permanence. Bohemia, a rich territory that is economically well-developed, has brilliant commercial prospects; its people have been fortunate in finding a President of great political weight, and the national culture in literature and music indicates the high general capacity of the Czechs. Hungary, defeated, impoverished, and in the throes of a social revolution, loses part at least of the territories which should never have belonged to the kingdom as the price of an aggressive war; but if society can be so re-established, her fertile soil should make a quick recovery possible, and an entirely fresh orientation of her policy is compelled by her present isolation and diminution of frontiers. The fourth State remains, and Serbia gains the reward for her heroic defence and sufferings for an unprovoked war in the construction of the Greater Serbia, or Yugoslavia, which will incorporate under one flag the whole Serb, Slovene, and Croat population. It would be foolish to discount the difficulties under which the new State begins its course. Hundreds of thousands of its people have been killed. Its property has been wantonly destroyed. Its existing relations with Italy, which will be its neighbour under any system of boundaries that is adopted, can hardly be called cordial by the wildest stretch of the imagination, and in proportion as it is successful and prosperous it will gain the enmity of the Germans, who perceive in it the barrier to their ambitions in the Balkans and in Asia Minor. It can but be hoped that the dangers and jealousies which surround it will give a sense of responsibility and political caution to the leaders of the Greater Serbia, which has received at last a somewhat belated recognition from the Great Powers. The new kingdom should be able to make itself secure, now that its legitimate aspirations are realised; but it will not be able to do so unless it eschews absolutely and permanently all internal friction, whether religious or political, between the various units which now make the greater whole; and we would add, as another indispensable point, that it should cultivate good relations with Italy. The Adriatic is a narrow sea, and commerce will not prosper unless the nations on either side recognise that they must have dealings in common, and that there is no real place for old feuds in a new Europe. If those feuds are allowed to continue, and friendly States are still to be deluged with the mass of propagandist literature that has been distributed to all and sundry during the past few months, the only sufferers will in the long run be the protagonists who have exhausted the sympathy of their friends, and the profits will remain with the common enemy of both, the Germans. There remains one further point to be discussed in the still incomplete terms of peace for Austria, and that is the navigation of the Danube. The whole river, which now runs through or divides six States—Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, Jugoslavia, Roumania, and Bulgaria—is to be internationalised, and administered by the League of Nations. There is no doubt that the right solution has been found in this matter—a very different solution from that which the Germans were proposing less than a year ago—and we may add that if the six States concerned show a disposition to sink their differences, within a few years the practical details of the Danube navigation will naturally fall to them, with the League of Nations as a benevolent nominal authority in the background. In this case at least the paradox is true that the more the League has to exert its authority the less successful will be the principles for which the League stands.

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EGYPT UNDER THE ROMANS.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

The Institut Archéologique Français d'Archéologie Orientale of Cairo has recently published "L'Armée Romaine d'Egypte d'Auguste à Dioclétien," a learned and interesting book by M. J. Lesquier. The story of the Roman occupation of Egypt is full of matter for us, that country's present sponsors, and from a comparison of the two occupations there are several conclusions to be drawn. The first point noticeable is the curious coincidence between the approximate number of troops retained by the Romans in Egypt and that (until the present war) considered to be proper for that purpose by the British administration. During the earlier period of Roman occupation the forces employed for the country's conquest, and to maintain it, amounted to between 22 and 23 thousand men. By the second century of our era these were reduced almost by half. From time to time, because of insurrection or invasion, this strength was hurriedly augmented; but as the attacks upon the Empire's borders became fiercer Egypt was dangerously denuded of warlike troops, so that in the later third century the Palmyra Arabs and the Sudanese Blemyes were able to invade and occupy almost all the country.

The first serious diminution in the army's numbers was caused by drafts from it being despatched to assist Corbulo in the Parthian war of A.D. 62-63. A more destructive call was that for the campaign of Vespasian and Titus in Judea, when 2,000 veterans were sent to Palestine from the two legions Dejotariana and Cyrenaica, whose permanent fortified camp adjoined Alexandria. Almost certainly these units were also accompanied by some of the auxiliary corps allotted to each of these legions, who were then the only troops of that grade in Egypt. In 116, at the period of Trajan's Parthian war a vexillation of the Cyrenaica was in Palestine, and in 119 the whole legion was transferred from Egypt for garrison duty in Arabia with headquarters at Bostra. A further and greater diminution of the force took place during the suppression of the critical Jewish revolt under Hadrian in 132-135; for as a result of these troublous times, and perhaps also of the transference of some of its cadres to the creation of a new XXII. Legion in Britain, the XXII. Dejotariana disappeared from history.

Egypt could not with any safety have been deprived of these two legions unless early in the second century another had been stationed in the country; and so we find that in about 109 A.D. records of the II. Trajana appear in the province. We also know that in 116 one of its vexillations was in Palestine with the before-mentioned detachment of the Cyrenaica, and these took part under Tiberius Claudius Quarternus in Trajan's Parthian war.

The Trajana legion doubtless brought with it the bodies of auxiliaries pertaining to it, and this explains a number of new titles for such corps, found in inscriptions in Egypt and Ethiopia, and dating from early in the second century. It appears, however, that many of the twenty-second legion's auxiliaries remained in Egypt after its departure. For the Marcomanian war the single remaining legion, II. Trajana, was withdrawn, and its absence probably produced the Egyptian revolt of about A.D. 172.

The dangerous reductions of the Roman forces proved extremely impolitic and expensive; for the small numbers remaining tempted to insurrection both the Jews and the native Egyptians. These outbreaks entailed the loss of valuable lives and treasure, and increased the impoverishment of the much over-taxed country. Equally deplorable was the effect upon the Ethiopians, who, dwelling in a sterile land, were irresistibly attracted by any prospect of a successful invasion of Egypt. The insufficiency of the forces in Egypt to insure internal order and at the same time to defend the southern border, was undoubtedly the prime cause of attacks upon the Upper Nile frontier by the Blemyes, the devastating campaigns with whom are described by Roman historians as well as illustrated by papyrus records.

The danger from Ethiopians was so great that to drive them out of the Assouan country large bodies of troops, often quite unsuited for the climate, had to be imported; but when they had been driven out the forces accumulated were again reduced for emergencies elsewhere, or for want of new recruits were permitted to dwindle away, and so the trouble recommenced. The consequences of depleting the army of Egypt, to meet urgent military necessities elsewhere, below its already inadequate normal strength must have been obvious to the higher and wiser Empire statesmen. Therefore we are compelled to consider that such a course would not have been so frequently adopted if it had been avoidable. This leads up to the lesson that the story of the Roman army in Egypt provides for us, because now that it has been so excellently told it clearly indicates that the Cæsars did not provide an adequate army for the Empire's defence. It was not only in Egypt, but also in the other provinces that the forces were insufficient. Thus, whenever a serious invasion or rising took place upon one frontier, or in a province, the garrisons of several others were denuded at a sudden summons to send help to the endangered district. For instance, Egypt's legionaries were not only called upon for campaigns in Palestine, Syria, and Arabia, but for North Italy, and even Britain. Upon the other hand, when hostilities broke out in Egypt we find inhabitants from some four-fifths of the Empire being employed there.

Now that, by means of M. Lesquier's work, we are familiar with these facts, the wonder to us must be that the Empire held together so long as it did. For, forgetting previous reverses, invaders renewed their attacks from time to time, and the continual warfare exhausted the virility of the Latin race. The obvious remedy would have been to provide an adequate army for every province, or one linked up for the defence of several contiguous provinces. We may surmise that one reason why this step was not taken was because the commander-in-chief of such an army would, if he were a great soldier, have had in his hands such a power as would enable him to make a bid for the independence of his part of the State, or even to aspire to the Imperial Purple. Therefore, with a series of such armies the Emperor would never have felt safe even in Rome itself.

A second remedy would have been the retention of a special army in Italy itself ready as a whole, or by contingents to proceed to the danger zone if it could be reached in time, or, if not, to regarrison neighbouring provinces whose garrisons had been temporarily withdrawn for the emergency.

It should be remembered that Egypt differed from almost all other parts of the Roman Empire in being a sole appanage of the Emperor. He governed it by his prefect, and senators were not allowed to visit the country. This régime prevented the people from appealing to those of Rome against their grievances. It also enabled the Emperors to ruin the country by excessive taxation. This foolish policy was the result of the disastrous practice of bribing the immense Roman proletariat by vast grants of free food, most of it obtained from Egypt by the exhausting *annona*, or tax in kind upon agricultural produce. It was entirely a matter of politics, or unwise statecraft. The result in Italy was the creation of immense hordes of ne'er-do-weels, for it drew the workers from the fields, so that the *latifundia*, or small farmers vanished, and turned artizans into loafers, who preferred idleness because they lived upon the palace doles. It thus emasculated the people and resulted in an army of alien mercenaries, and the Empire's downfall.

We learn from the *Busreh Times* of April 26, that a Civil Post Office has been opened at Kufah.

The next census of India, of which Mr. R. Burn, I.C.S., United Provinces, will take charge, will take place at the end of February or the beginning of March, 1921.

The last meeting of the United Provinces Legislative Council was held at Government House, Naini Tal, on June 2.



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THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

On June 3, His Majesty's birthday, the customary list of honours and appointments was published. Three members of the Royal Family are among the recipients of honours; the Prince of Wales and Prince Albert become Personal Aides-de-Camp to the King, and Prince Arthur of Connaught receives the brevet rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The Order of Merit is conferred upon Admiral of the Fleet Sir David Beatty and Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. The list of Indian Honours is especially interesting, and in it appear the names of General Sir C. C. Monro, Major-General Sir G. F. MacMunn, Major-General Sir H. T. Brooking, and Lieutenant-General Sir E. L. Elliot. We give below some of the honours of special interest to our readers :—

C.P. (CIVIL).

SIR FRANK FORBES ADAM, C.I.E., LL.D., D.L.
Chairman, East Lancashire T.F. Association.

C.M.G.

H. MACLEAN, Esq.
Honorary Attaché to his Majesty's Legation at Teheran.

THE STAR OF INDIA.

For services in connection with the military operations in Mesopotamia :—

K.C.S.I.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. T. BROOKING, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR G. F. MACMUNN, K.C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O.
Inspector-General of Communications.

C.S.I.

COLONEL (TEMPORARY BRIGADIER-GENERAL) A. J. H. SWINEY, C.B., C.M.G.
Indian Army.
BREVET COLONEL (TEMPORARY BRIGADIER-GENERAL) J. W. O'DOWDA, C.B., C.M.G.
Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
COLONEL (TEMPORARY BRIGADIER-GENERAL) F. G. LUCAS, C.B., D.S.O.
Indian Army.
BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. T. WILSON, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Indian Army.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AND BREVET COLONEL (TEMPORARY BRIGADIER-GENERAL) C. E. G. NORTON, A.D.C.
7th Hussars.

For meritorious services connected with the war :—

C.S.I.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL T. W. HAIG, C.M.G.
Political Department, His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Ispahan.
H. C. NORMAN, Esq., C.B.E.
Counsellor, His Britannic Majesty's Embassy, Tokio, Japan.

The King has been pleased, on the occasion of his Majesty's Birthday, to make the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India :—

G.C.S.I.

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL SIR C. C. MONRO, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., A.D.C.
Commander-in-Chief in India.
HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAO RAJA SIR RAGHUBIR SINGH BAHADUR, G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., K.C.S.I.
Bundi, Rajputana.

K.C.S.I.

G. CARMICHAEL, Esq., C.S.I.
Indian Civil Service, Member of the Council of His Excellency the Governor, Bombay.
M. E. SADLER, Esq., C.B., Hon. Litt.D.
Chairman of Calcutta University Commission.

C.S.I.

P. R. CADELL, Esq., C.I.E.
Indian Civil Service, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL M. W. DOUGLAS, C.I.E.
Indian Army, Chief Commissioner of the Andamans.
COLONEL C. MACTAGGART, C.I.E.
Indian Medical Service, Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, United Provinces.
J. P. THOMPSON, Esq.
Indian Civil Service, Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.
R. MEREDITH, Esq., C.I.E.
Chief Engineer, Telegraphs.
H. L. STEPHENSON, Esq., C.I.E.
Indian Civil Servise, Magistrate and Collector, Bengal.
MANUBHAI NANDSHANKAR MEHTA, Esq.
Minister of the Baroda State.

ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

For valuable services rendered in connection with the military operations :—

K.C.I.E.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR E. L. ELLIOTT, K.C.B., D.S.O.

C.I.E.

LIEUTENANT (TEMPORARY CAPTAIN) H. H. F. M. TYLER.
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LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. H. MADDOX
Indian Medical Service.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (TEMPORARY COLONEL) H. W. BOWEN, D.S.O.
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Indian Medical Service.
MAJOR (ACTING LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) A. V. W. HOPE.
1st Battalion, 32nd Pioneers.
MAJOR (ACTING LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) L. E. GILBERT.
Indian Medical Service.
MAJOR (ACTING LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) W. D. A. KEYS, M.D.
Indian Medical Service.
MAJOR (TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) W. M. ANDERSON, M.D.
Indian Medical Service.
MAJOR (TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) H. MURRAY.
Military Accounts Department.
CAPTAIN AND BREVET MAJOR (TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) C. DE L. CHRISTOPHER.
Supply and Transport Corps.
CAPTAIN AND BREVET MAJOR F. M. CARPENDALE.
42nd Deoli Regiment.
MAJOR (TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) A. H. C. TRENCH.
Royal Engineers.
TEMPORARY MAJOR L. F. NALDER.
Special List, attached Political Department.
CAPTAIN (TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) C. G. LLOYD.
Supply and Transport Corps.
TEMPORARY CAPTAIN R. MARRS.
Special List, attached Political Department.
LIEUTENANT (TEMPORARY COLONEL) G. EVANS.
Indian Army Reserve of Officers.
SECOND LIEUTENANT (TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL) S. H. SLATER.
Indian Army Reserve of Officers.
MR. A. M. MUHAMMAD.
Political Department.
E. BONHAM-CARTER, Esq., C.M.G.
Sudan Legal Department (Retired).
MAJOR AND BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. H. HOWELL-JONES, D.S.O., R.A.O.C.
MAJOR AND BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. E. WILSON-JOHNSTON, D.S.O.
36th Sikhs, Indian Army.
MAJOR W. S. R. MAY.
Sudan Civil Service.
TEMPORARY CAPTAIN (TEMPORARY COLONEL) W. R. DOCKRILL, R.E.
TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT (TEMPORARY MAJOR) G. M. O'ROURKE, M.B.E., R.E.
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Indian Medical Service.
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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On the strength of a reciprocity treaty British ships participate in the Greek coasting trade. At a moment when commercial treaties are being denounced on a more or less wholesale scale there is a danger that one or two of considerable importance may be overlooked, and no provision be made for their re-introduction or for the retention of their essential clauses. There can be no intention on the part of Greece to exclude British ships from her coasting trade, but a point that may be lost sight of is that the spirit of the reciprocity treaty was more important than the letter. If the movement now on foot to bring all Greek coasting lines into a single combine be carried through, and the spirit of give and take were eliminated from Anglo-Greek shipping relations, it would be possible for British steamers still to be left in the coasting trade, but to be so penalised in a hundred different ways that the privilege was of no practical use to them. Attention has only to be drawn to the subject, one would think, to prevent a state of affairs from arising which would be contrary to the real interests of the Greeks, and cannot be desired by them.

***

A very satisfactory report has just been issued by the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company. During the past year the gross revenue amounted to £512,700, an increase of £72,900, as against which the expenditure only rose by £34,300 to £217,800, the net receipts thus being £294,900, or an increase of £38,600. The disposable balance, after allowing for interest on the debentures, and for depreciation, etc., is £187,700, and from this a dividend and bonus of 16 per cent. for the year is to be paid, as against 14 per cent., and £12,700 is to be carried forward.

***

The Abyssinian Corporation, Ltd., whose prospectus appeared last week, has been formed under the most influential auspices to promote the development of British commercial interests in Abyssinia. It will be one of the chief objects of the corporation to arrange for the export to Abyssinia of British goods and for the export from Abyssinia of commodities produced in that country, and in this direction alone there should be very great scope. As regards this field of activities, it may be noted that the Corporation has obtained an option of purchasing the business of one of the leading firms in Abyssinia, with branches at Adis Abeba, Goré, Bouré, Gambela, Dirre Douah, and Khartoum, and the directors will consider the question of acquiring this and other businesses.

***

As regards the further activities of the corporation, I may mention that it is intended to apply for road, railway, and other concessions which would command the approval of the British Government. Roads and railways are essential for the opening up of what is practically an undeveloped country, and their construction will naturally stimulate trade and increase production. They will also make possible the development of the mineral resources of the country, which are believed to be very considerable, and in which direction very possibly one of the most promising fields for the corporation will be found.

***

I feel that it would be impossible to congratulate too heartily those responsible for this enterprise, which carries great promise for the development of British trade in a region which, for the most part, British traders have hitherto been content to leave to others. There are behind the corporation some of the most influential firms and individuals in the commercial life of this country, and I shall, therefore, scarcely be too optimistic if I anticipate that henceforward British interests will play a leading part in the commercial life of Abyssinia.

***

I see that it is proposed to supplement communications between Western Europe and the Near East by the construction of a series of waterways connecting the Danube with the French rivers. The project is one which naturally makes a strong appeal to France in view of that country's considerable interests in the Near East, and it is to be expected that every effort will be made in that quarter to carry the scheme through. The preliminary negotiations are evidently already well advanced, as the various governments concerned are stated to be appointing commissions to study the question. It is stated that a canal between the Upper Danube and Lake Constance will be the central link in the scheme, and that from the lake a new route will lead to the Rhine.

***

The announcement that an air mail is to be established between Greece and Italy affords a further interesting example of the way in which the authorities in the Near East intend to utilise the aeroplane for public services. Beyond question there is a great future for the aeroplane in the Near East, and I would strongly advise British aircraft manufacturers to lose no time in entering so promising a field.

***

I am glad to have news of the resumption of the activities of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States at Constantinople. The Chamber is at present administered by a council of five, pending the return of all the local British traders, and I am informed that the council has recently been successful in dealing with a number of questions affecting British trade. The scope before the Chamber in the future will be immense, for henceforward more than ever there will be need of such a body in the Levant to supplement and to support the efforts of British traders.

***

One of the greatest difficulties which confront British firms who desire to enter foreign markets, and, in particular, markets like those of the Near East, with which they may not have had much to do previously, is the question of the appointment of suitable agents and representatives. In last week's issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* attention is drawn to the fact that H.M. Trade Commissioners and Consuls "are able to afford valuable assistance to British firms who may desire information respecting agency arrangements: (*a*) by suggesting the names of firms likely to be suitable as representatives or agents in their areas, and (*b*) by answering enquiries as to local firms concerning whom information is desired." British firms seeking representatives or agents overseas, it is pointed out, should apply in the first instance to the Department of Overseas Trade, and that with the application information should be furnished on the following points:—"1. Whether the goods of the applicant have been exported to the indicated territory; and, if so, in what manner. 2. Whether the agent required is to be paid a commission, and how far financial responsibility on the orders secured is to be borne by the agent. 3. Whether the representative required is to act as buyer for his own account. 4. Whether the agent or representative required is to act in some other capacity."

***

One of the most satisfactory features of the present economic position in Greece is the accumulation of wealth as a result of the war. Estimates of the surplus over the country's normal wealth vary from £40,000,000 to £60,000,000, and this money will be available for trade and commercial developments generally. The accumulation of certain classes of goods at the Piræus, which has been discussed at length in these columns, and is the subject of a further letter this week from our Athens Correspondent, is naturally a purely passing phase, and the fact that now the demand for goods of various descriptions is very great indicates very plainly the prospects in the Greek market in the future.

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GREEK TRADE NOTES.

The Congestion in the Piræus.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 10.

The congestion of the port of Piræus continues unabated. All the quays are stacked high with various goods for which there is no room in the Customs' warehouses. This is due partly to insufficient accommodation and partly to the frequent arrival of steamers with goods. It is extremely difficult to obtain delivery of goods under six weeks from the arrival of the steamers. Consignees are now receiving goods ordered before the blockade of Greece in 1917 and during 1918, and cannot deal with this sudden influx. Even before the arrival of British and American goods the Customs' warehouses were full to overflowing with Spanish goods, of which delivery had not been taken owing to the release on the signing of the Armistice in November of hoarded goods and the consequent drop in prices. The drop in prices was also considerably influenced by the decline of the rate of the Spanish exchange. During the war, and especially during 1918, large credits had been opened in Spain through the Greek banks for the purchase of various necessities, and also by speculators. On the signing of the Armistice, when prices dropped, and the exchange also went down far below the rates at which the credits had been opened, a great many merchants preferred to lose the deposits made against the credits rather than be faced with a far heavier loss if they took delivery of the goods. The situation was made slightly easier when permission was given for the export to the Black Sea and Turkey of goods from Greece; but this was only granted after one or two steamers with British and American goods had already arrived at the Piræus. Thus, before the warehouses could be cleared of Spanish goods, British and American goods arrived and covered them. The Government has taken steps to better this state of affairs by imposing heavy storage charges on goods remaining after a certain time in the Customs' houses, by opening fifteen additional sub-offices where goods may be examined and weighed, and by making arrangements for additional warehouses. The Government also contemplates providing storage of a temporary character by roofing over the quays and two squares adjacent thereto, but it will be some little time yet before these measures can be carried into effect, and by then it is hoped the congestion will have lessened. At the moment each steamer which arrives brings less and less goods to the Piræus, the remaining space being occupied by goods for the Black Sea and Turkey. Consignees complain of the great delay in bringing their goods into the Customs house and also of wholesale pilferage, the latter being due to insufficient surveillance of goods stored outside the warehouses.

At all Greek ports, without exception, the ship delivers goods into lighters, and these are again discharged into the Customs' warehouses. To-day, owing to the delay in doing this the steamship companies are forced to charge demurrage for the lighters employed, and such expenses, added to the already high discharging expenses, have combined to burden goods with from 25 to 45 drachmas per ton. In pre-war days the discharging expenses were never higher than 6 to 8 drachmas per ton. The difference is accounted for partly by the higher wages demanded by workmen employed on discharging and partly by the difficulties outlined above. The difficulties mentioned may be overcome in the course of the next six months, but it is doubtful if wages will be reduced appreciably within that time.

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THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 10.

The country is still suffering from the effects of last year's drought, the sequel to a snowless winter and a rainless spring. I shall never forget the desolate aspect presented by an estate situated on the banks of the Pruth, where I spent a part of the summer. There was scarcely a wisp of green where in previous years you walked up to the waist in flowers and riverside vegetation, and the pastures, one of the chief sources of wealth of the district, were transformed into vast grey stretches from which the dust rose behind the ambling skeletons that had once been horses. I recall the dead and dying cattle: an ox that had lain down to a cool death in a branch of the river, and a dead horse about which a dozen huge eagles, never before seen in these parts, were perched. The poor brute that had perished from starvation must have provided a generous meal to these his uninvited guests, for they were so gorged that they allowed us to approach to within a hundred yards, when they hopped away in a cumbersome crescendo, finally raising themselves into the air with obvious difficulty. The harvest, which in 1916 had yielded sixty cartloads of wheat on this estate, this year repaid its owner with barely three, a quantity quite inadequate even as seed, so that large tracts remain uncultivated this year. This is only one instance, but it is typical.

What is lacking with regard to quantity may be compensated for, with a little luck, by the quality of the wheat, though at the best the compensation can be only partial. The outlook is decidedly bright up to now, but risks being compromised unless the present long spell of damp weather is replaced by sunshine. Fortunately, Indian corn has arrived in sufficient amount to insure a sufficient crop next autumn, so that the population need not suffer from hunger, as it did last winter.

YUGOSLAV CONSULATES.

(From a Correspondent.)

I hear that the Yugoslav Government have issued a new decree concerning the opening of many new Consulates in all important commercial and industrial towns in West Europe, and especially in Allied countries, in view of the new commercial connections and prospects of the new State. For Great Britain, London, Glasgow, and Manchester are mentioned as the consular places.

The Belgrade papers announce that the Yugoslav inland loan at 6 per cent. of 200 millions kronen has met with most encouraging support in all parts of the State.

M. M. T.

The sheep to be sent out to Serbia will consist of Cheviots, Wensleydales, and Herdwicks. The Herdwick will suit the mountains of Serbia, the Cheviot the foot hills, and the Wensleydale the rough pasture.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The strong feeling in the market has been well maintained. When business has been under consideration sellers have presented a very stiff front to buyers. Varied reports continue to come through relating to the Egyptian crop. On the whole, however, the plants seem to be doing fairly well. The larger demand continues in yarns made from Egyptian cotton. Most producers of the finer counts are very independent. There has been a substantial rise in prices during the last week or two. Buying has been chiefly for home use, the offers for export descriptions being rather poor. A large trade has been done in cloth for Egypt and the Near East generally. Prices have been paid for certain materials which were scarcely expected. The demand for the early delivery of goods is very active. A larger turnover has also taken place for European countries, especially the occupied portion of Germany. India has given fair support, but the turnover has not been very important. It seems quite impossible to satisfy China, and further contracts of an encouraging character for distant delivery have been arranged in standard makes and fancies. Manufacturers of cloth are steadily strengthening their position. In American yarns, demand has been a little quieter, but quotations have been very firmly held. Rather more business has come round in shipping descriptions for India and Holland. A serious position of affairs has arisen on the mill hours and wages question. The employers and operatives have failed to agree, and a strike is threatened on June 21. The Government is expected to intervene.

OVERSEAS TRADE DEPARTMENT.

At Whitsuntide the greater part of the Department of Overseas Trade, the head of which is Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, will be moved to 4, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1. A well-equipped inquiry office will be left at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2., the present offices, as well as one or two sections of the Department the nature of whose work necessitates the closest touch with the financial and shipping interests in the City. In addition, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland will retain a room for interviews at 73, Basinghall Street, and responsible officials of various sections of the Department will attend there also by arrangement to receive visitors and deputations.

MINING CLAIMS IN MOROCCO.

The Board of Trade call attention to the fact that the sittings of the Arbitration Commission on Mining Claims in Morocco have been resumed in Paris, and that the Commission have extended to July 15 next the period in which applicants may rectify their claims in accordance with article 3, paragraph 3, of the Dahir of January 19, 1914, as regards the French zone, and that of January 20, 1914, as regards the Spanish zone.

Thirteen thousand guineas were paid for two Persian rugs at Messrs. Christie's last week. The rugs were a pair, 13 ft. by 5 ft. 9 in., woven in silk with arabesque designs, foliage and rosette ornaments, with narrow borders of the same, the ground of gold and silk, upon which were blue and pink panels.

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THE ALEPPO MARKET.

Demand for Manchester Piece Goods.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

March 19 was a red-letter day for the cotton merchants of Aleppo, in that it heralded the arrival of the first consignment of goods from Manchester since the blockade. These goods had left England per s.s. Kaffir Prince on January 29. As may be imagined, the goods were eagerly snapped up, and in a month the entire consignment was sold out by the wholesale merchants. Prices, which before the Armistice had risen as high as ten times pre-war prices, came down with a run, and now rate at less than three times pre-war prices. As an example of prices ruling now, the following may be quoted:—White shirting, best quality, fetches 350 piastres Egyptian the piece (39 yards); Indian prints, second quality, 5 piastres Egyptian the metre; and best quality "T" cloth (Hoyle quality), 175 piastres Egyptian the piece (24 yards). These three goods are most in demand in Aleppo, and of the three the "T" cloth is the most important. After having been dyed in indigo it goes to make the blouse and pantaloons worn by nine-tenths of the "fellahs"; indeed, one may safely say that there is not a man of the labouring classes—countryman or townsman—but wears the indigo-dyed "T" cloth. Both the other goods quoted are sold almost entirely to the "fellah." When the first rush had died down, and the supply had dried up, prices rose again ten per cent. Merchants then transferred stock from Egypt to Syria. In Cairo, prices which had dropped 40 per cent. since the Armistice rose again 20 per cent., owing to the transfer of large quantities of goods to Syria. These goods are now also sold out, and the merchants are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the s.s. "Modesta" of the Prince Line, which left Manchester on April 23. It is expected that prices will remain the same even after the arrival of the second consignment. The chief complaints of the local merchants are high rail freights in this country and long delays between consignments. They would gladly welcome at least one ship per month could the shipping question admit of it. The rail journey from Beyrout to Aleppo now takes approximately eight days for goods traffic; and the cost per ton, by the time the goods reach the merchant is roughly £E6½. The rail from Beyrout to Aleppo belongs to the French Compagnie Damascus, Hama, et Prolongement, and unless these freights are substantially reduced the merchant will find it cheaper to ship via Alexandretta and employ camel transport. For the moment beggars cannot be choosers, and high freights are willingly paid for the privilege of being first in a market that has suffered a long drought. It is interesting to note that the arrival of these goods sent the rate of exchange for £100 Egyptian notes from £75 gold up to its present rate of £98 gold per £100 Egyptian paper.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in April:—

Barley.—Attacks of rust and smut have caused some slight damage in Minúfiya and Minya. Harvesting is progressing everywhere, and in the provinces of Middle and Upper Egypt threshing and winnowing have begun. A satisfactory yield is expected.

Beans. — Weather generally favourable. The damage caused by broom-rape has been slight, except in the provinces of Sharqiya and Minya, where it has been of some importance. Harvesting is almost at an end, and the crop is now being threshed and winnowed. The yield is, on the whole, below the average, except in Faiyúm.

Lentils.—Weather suitable. The crop is free from pests. Harvesting is at its end, and threshing is progressing. The yield is an average one.

Helba.—Weather favourable; no enemies have been reported. Harvesting is nearly over, and threshing is advancing in a satisfactory way.

Onions.—Weather favourable. A slight attack of mildew is reported from Beni Suef, but elsewhere the crop is free from pests. Harvesting is in progress. The yield is an average one, but its marketing has been rendered almost impossible through the lack of the usual facilities for transport, and there probably will be a considerable loss of crop.

Sugar Cane.—Weather suitable, and water supply sufficient. The new crop is still being planted, and the transport of the old crop to the factories in Minya Province has been checked owing to the suspension of traffic on the auxiliary line, which will no doubt considerably reduce the yield.

Milleet (Séfi).—Weather favourable. The land is in preparation, but water supply in several localities is not sufficiently available for sowing to be proceeded with.

INDIAN CURRENCY COMMISSION.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed a committee to advise in regard to the future of Indian currency and exchange, constituted as follows:—Sir Henry Babington Smith (chairman), Lord Chalmers, Sir Marshall F. Reid, Sir James B. Brunyate, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Sir C. Addis, Sir C. Needham, Mr. M. M. Gubbay (Controller of Currency, representing the Government of India), Sir Bernard Hunter, Mr. Dadiba Merwanji Dalal (Bombay), and Mr. Thomas McMorran (Messrs. Duncan Brothers, Calcutta). The secretaries to the committee are Messrs. C. H. Kisch and H. Denning.

The terms of reference are as follows:—"To examine the effect of the war on the Indian exchange and currency system and practice, and upon the position of the Indian note issue, and to consider whether, in the light of this experience and of possible future variations in the price of silver, modifications of system or practice may be required; to make recommendations as to such modifications, and generally as to the policy that should be pursued with a view to meeting the requirements of trade, to maintaining a satisfactory monetary circulation, and to ensuring a stable gold exchange standard."

Any communications relating to the business of the committee should be addressed to one of the secretaries at the India Office, if from persons in this country; and to the Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department, Simla, if from persons in India.

In the House of Commons, on June 2, Mr. Stewart asked the Secretary of State for India whether the terms of reference to the Indian Currency Commission debarred the Commission from considering whether the legislation of 1893, closing the Indian mints to the free coinage of silver, should be removed; and whether they would also be debarred from considering any possible scheme for stabilising the price of silver by international arrangement or otherwise, in view of the large requirements of India for silver, and of the violent fluctuations which were continually taking place in that metal.

Mr. Pratt, who replied, said that the policy of the legislation of 1893, whereby the mints were closed to the free coinage of silver and a gold standard had been established, was not within the scope of the reference to the Commission. The reference would permit the Commission to consider arrangements for stabilising the price of silver that did not involve the setting up of a bimetallic standard.

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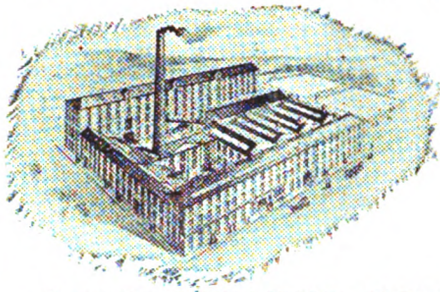
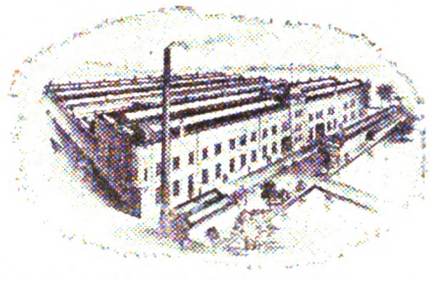
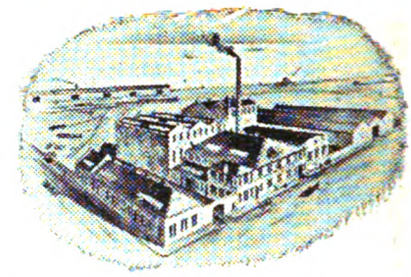
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

British Motor-Ploughs.

Self-propelled ploughs seem to have found a ready market in the Near East, and especially in Greece, where several of them have been imported from America this year. They were ordered, according to an American report, by the Greek Government, and a few more have recently been ordered by private landowners. It is very strange that no efforts, at least so far as we know, have been made by British manufacturers to introduce this small and useful implement into Greece and the large Aegean Islands, where, as is well known, British-made goods and especially machinery are highly appreciated. We understand that the price of the American is, if anything, higher than that of the British. We had occasion in previous notes to mention the efficiency and great adaptability of these little machines, but it appears many improvements have since been made; and an improved design which has recently been brought out will be of particular interest to the majority of landowners in the Near East who possess gardens with fruit-trees, etc. This machine is specially constructed for use between trees and bushes, and for the cultivation of growing crops. Its extreme overall width is 3 ft., and its height 4 ft., so that it will pass underneath the majority of boughs in an orchard. A special shield fitment for the upper portion of the machine can be added to move without injury to the unduly low branches as the machine passes along. This little motor-plough, therefore, has all the attributes for efficient work in fruit plantations and market gardens. A special arrangement of ploughs is provided, which permits four furrows to be turned between each row of bushes—two furrows to the right and two to the left. In this case, the extreme outside right and left furrows are first ploughed, the machine passing up the centre of the row. Then the plough-boards are placed back to back in the centre of the machine and the two centre furrows worked outwards, thus leaving an open furrow up the middle of the row. In this way, the tractor travels always in the centre, whereas horses would move first on one side and then on the other. Cultivation between trees is simplified by low, wide cultivators, which expand or contract as may be necessary, so that the soil right beneath the low bushes can be worked to a maximum width of 6 ft. 6 ins. at one cut. The working of potato rows, strawberry beds, etc., is facilitated by the contraction of the cultivator frames at the back. Ridging work, and the moulding-up of potatoes, can also be done by the use of two double mould-board ploughs. For extra deep work, the machine can be fitted with one large single furrow turn-wrest plough which lays the soil all one way and avoids all ridges and furrows. This plough can actually be turned in its own length. The value of such a plough to a vine owner is also obvious.

American Interest in Macedonia.

Americans are taking a remarkable interest in the cultivation of the Macedonian wheat fields by machinery. Soon after the liberation of that province from the Turks a party of American commercial travellers arrived in Salonika with a cinematograph, the latter being used every evening at any convenient café or inn that could be engaged in town or villages for the entertainment of large numbers of people who were watching, free of charge, the large moving pictures of ploughs, motor ploughs, tractors, with sowing, harvesting, or threshing machines at work. Somebody stood near the screen pointing out the various parts of the machines and explaining the operations with an occasional joke, and the assurance that any of those machines or implements could be obtained within two or five weeks time. And, it is said, many machines now in Macedonia were sold in that way. Americans consider Greece an excellent market for agricultural machinery. The United States Consul at Salonika reported that American machines should have a good future in Greece, for they had a magnificent introduction into the country. He has been visiting the plains of Eastern Macedonia which the men of the French army are cultivating to provide food for the soldiers and forage for the horses of the Army of the Orient. Seven farms, he says, have been laid out, and, in addition to barracks on each farm for housing, there is a workshop for repairing agricultural implements and machines. There is also a large central workshop where extensive repairs and alterations can be made to motors and tractors.

Near East Markets.

There was a prevailing belief that the end of the war would be followed by a very brisk revival of trade. It was supposed that, apart from the inevitable demands at home, the great destruction in Northern France and in Belgium alone would place such a heavy demand upon all classes of industries, especially engineering, that British manufacturers would be assured of an abundance of work for years to come. It is very probable that undue reliance placed upon such expectations has been responsible for the apparent disinclination of manufacturers to take energetic measures in other markets where, in the meantime, their foreign competitors have been actively engaged in establishing themselves. Now, however, it would appear that the market in Europe in the immediate future may not be nearly so extensive as was supposed. France, for instance, has placed an embargo upon all kinds of imports, except what are absolutely necessary, and it is reported that so far as industrial and agricultural machinery and implements are concerned it is probable that the prohibition will be more complete than it is with most other manufactures. Moreover, since Italy has decided to make all the machinery that she requires in her own engineering shops, it is declared that British manufacturers have no alternative but to prepare for markets where the conditions do not permit of the same restrictions being enforced. And it has been suggested that for the moment Belgium is the only market on the Continent where British makers can have a free hand! But what about the South-Eastern regions of the Continent? Roumania, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey, also Poland and the new Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia, are all very fertile and form ready and desirable markets. British makers can have a freer hand, a wider scope and more trade prospects in these Eastern regions of the Continent than in the Western. German commercial energy was principally directed "towards the East." And at the present time the principal commercial and industrial centres on the Continent of Europe, in America and even in Japan are directing their attention towards those markets.

Poland as a Market.

With the liberation of Poland a market of great importance is opened to manufacturers of all classes of modern agricultural machinery and implements; for Poland is notably an agricultural country, and it and Serbia are the only two countries in that Eastern region in which agricultural associations on co-operative lines have been established. It was not until 1900 that the first of such associations was started in Poland, but their number soon increased, and in 1917 the Warsaw Association, which is the foremost, had a trading profit of £24,000 on a turnover of £1,000,000. One of the main objects sought by these co-operative agricultural societies has been that of facilitating the more general use of machinery for the purpose of helping the large proprietors to solve the labour problem, or for promoting the interest of the small-holders, many of whom found it difficult enough to carry on their operations at a profit, and regarded as the greatest of boons the possibility of acquiring or obtaining the use of machines and implements on the most advantageous terms. In some cases the society enables a member to secure machinery at cash price on credit; in others it will itself purchase the machinery and let it out at a low rate to farmers. Before the war, from 2d. to 5d. was charged per day for a plough, from 5d. to 2s. for winnowers, and from 2s. to 2s. 6d. for drills. The societies also deal in artificial manures and seeds, buying at wholesale prices and selling retail on credit. In addition to the purchase of machinery, etc., agricultural organisation is likewise being developed in Poland in the interest of the dairy industry. Other societies have taken up the question of improving the breed of cattle. It is announced on reliable authority that the Polish requirements of agricultural machinery will amount to more than £1,000,000 per annum. This year's needs are, it appears, greater by reason of the German confiscation during the war, and also the restrictions of imports during hostilities. British firms should very seriously consider opening up business connections with these societies, who are among the most important buyers of articles connected with agriculture.

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY.

Estimated traffic receipts (by telegraph) for the week ended May 10 amount to £10,392. The number of miles open is 379.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

IONIAN BANK.

The annual meeting of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., was held at the offices, Basildon House, Moorgate Street, London, on June 4, the Chairman of the company, Mr. Falconer Larkworthy, presiding.

The notice of meeting and auditor's report having been read, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—This is the 81st year of the existence of the bank, and the fifth time we have met since the beginning of the great European war.

You will note from the report of your directors and the accounts that accompany it, that our operations during the year 1918 have continued to be of a progressive character. This progress has been accomplished whilst our business has been handicapped by conditions of a most trying character. Our difficulties may be defined as: (1) Staff conditions arising out of war conditions, and from the influenza epidemic; and (2) the lack of a satisfactory international banking system in Greece, Egypt, and in this country, greatly aggravated by domestic legislation in Greece, which, on the one hand, has paralysed the movement of our funds, and on the other has caused the formation of a number of local banks.

To deal with the staff question first. Mobilisation and the formation of these new banks have led to so great a demand for experienced clerks that this bank has been deprived practically of the whole of its experienced staff of the lower grades, and its reduced business has been carried on by ladies and apprentices at great risk of loss. It has been physically impossible to supervise and check the daily work and to carry out regular inspection of branches and agencies. Further—in regard to the joint control in Greece located in Athens—our chief officer, co-manager, and inspector, Mr. de Bilinski, whose valued services, at the request of the British Government, we shared with them, vacated his position in the bank in favour of the British Treasury in April, 1918. During the same period Mr. Moscovik, co-manager with Mr. de Bilinski, became a martyr to prolonged illness, and for a considerable portion of the year the chief control of the bank in Greece devolved upon the two sub-managers.

An inspection by our general manager for Egypt—whose services, together with those of other members of our Egyptian staff, as an emergency measure, transferred to Greece—has been made.

Outlook in Greece.

The principal features which call for comment in connection with the commercial movement of Greece during the year under review are, as may be imagined, all more or less intimately connected with the special situation produced by the war; consequently they may not be of a lasting nature, but they are worthy of a few remarks. During the past year we have witnessed the establishment of a number of new banks. It may be thought that these would increase competition to your disadvantage, but your directors are of the opinion that there is ample room in Greece for new banks, provided they are administered in a sound and prudent manner with a view to increasing the international and domestic banking facilities. There is a great future in front of Greece, and the development of Old Greece and the new territories, especially the improvement of the means of communication both by rail and road, should offer attractive prospects for financiers and capitalists and provide remunerative business for all. In this connection your directors have taken the necessary preliminary steps, and are only awaiting the result of the Peace Conference to take definite measures to obtain for your Institution its proper share of the banking transactions in the new territories.

Owing to the restriction by the Greek Government of the export of funds abroad, speculation in securities, particularly industrial shares, has been very rife. Also goods have been purchased far in advance of the actual requirements of the country, and a vast accumulation of goods has resulted at the Piræus and elsewhere. These events have given rise to two mild crises. With such a big fall in prices of securities and goods, we are afraid that some of our customers may suffer, but any losses that might fall on the bank are amply provided for. It is estimated that the war profits of Greece amount to about Drs. 1,000,000,000, part of which is deposited with British banks. All this money is awaiting investment for the development of the country. Money has been comparatively cheap throughout the year, being offered freely at between 5 to 6 per cent. per annum in the chief towns.

In my address last year I have referred to the losses sustained by Greek shipping owing to the piratical acts of our enemies, but I should like to add a few words. The losses of Greek tonnage have reached 54½ per cent. of their total shipping in June, 1914. The shortage of tonnage which has resulted has already begun to be acutely felt in Greece, and although the large deposits which shipowners keep abroad, representing the insured value of lost ships, will no doubt soon be placed on the market for the purchase of new tonnage, it will be a long while before new ships can be obtained to fill this gap. As an economic feature it is worthy of note that the present Greek tonnage is insufficient to carry Greek cargoes; consequently the foreign earning power of the Greek mercantile marine—which in the years before the war was a feature in Greek finance—will now disappear, although it is hoped only temporarily. The large revictualling operations to which I referred last year for account of the Greek Government have, as you will notice in the balance-sheet, been decreased to smaller proportions. This is of course due to the conclusion of the war and the relaxing of Government restrictions, and naturally this account will tend to disappear.

The Athens Exhibition.

A large exhibition of British goods at the Zappeion is now being arranged, and British manufacturers are being urged to support the exhibition to their utmost with a view to keeping between the two countries trade which in the past was in the hands of Germany and Austria. It is interesting to record here that in the year 1911-12 the trade between Greece and the United Kingdom represented one-quarter of the total foreign trade of Greece. But during the war the imports from America have increased to very large figures; in fact, during the two years 1916 and 1917 Greece imported from America goods to the value of Drs. 345,000,000, against Drs. 67,000,000 from the United Kingdom.

The action of the British Government, to which I referred when addressing you last year, in arranging to purchase the whole of the cotton crop at fixed prices, and on fixed types, has naturally affected considerably the bank's business in Egypt. Our business with exporters, as anticipated, has been reduced to quite small dimensions, but I am pleased to report that there has been no diminution in our up-country operations, which, as you are aware, form the backbone of our transactions. The crop for 1917-18 reached nearly 6¼ million cantars, and of the total arrivals in Alexandria during the year 1918 the bank handled 623,000 cantars, or 11½ per cent. Thus, notwithstanding the decline of the exporters' business, the figures remain very satisfactory. The acreage under cotton has been further restricted, and the crop for the current season is expected to reach 5,000,000 cantars only.

Having regard to the circumstances to which I have already referred, there has been keen cutting of rates by competitors, but your directors feel confident that with the return to normal conditions the bank's organisation in Egypt—which they claim is better than that of any other similar institution—will attract ever-increasing business. The Government arrangements did not work so easily as was anticipated, and although the Cotton Control Commission was supposed to take delivery of cotton immediately on its arrival at Alexandria, and, in fact, had requisitioned our Shoonahs in order to provide a portion of the storage room, there were considerable delays, which necessitated the bank obtaining additional storage accommodation. Notwithstanding these somewhat adverse factors, you will be pleased to learn that the profits of your business in Egypt have been greater than ever before, and that the whole business has been carried through without loss. An agency of the bank was opened at Cairo late in the year. At the first opportunity, as soon as the questions of staff can be satisfactorily settled, this will be turned into a branch of the bank, and your directors are confident that this new departure will result in appreciable benefit to the bank's operations.

What is true of Greece in regard to Macedonia and Asia Minor is true of Egypt in relation to her extended surroundings. Her commerce and wealth during the war have greatly increased, and her possibilities of inward development and of outward trade extension under the new conditions are immense.

With stable transport facilities in view, and with the accomplishment of the various irrigation schemes, forming an integral part of the future irrigation programme of the Nile Valley, including the scheme in connection with the Blue and White Nile, we have the promise that enormous tracts of country that have blossomed as a rose in the past will once more blossom and prove themselves fertile beyond conception, and will become one of, if not the greatest of, the productive granaries of the world.

I have already alluded to the difficulties in regard to staff under which the bank's business has been carried on, but before closing my remarks I take this opportunity again to record our appreciation of, and thanks for, the services which have been untiringly rendered to the bank by the Advisory Committee at Athens, the Corfu Local Board, and the staff at home and abroad.

Balance Sheet.

In presenting the figures to the shareholders we are very pleased to report that once again the exceptional profits shown are due to a normal increase of resources and to the discriminating care always exercised by the bank in avoiding unprofitable and risky business. The issued capital continues to stand at £485,580, or 97,116 shares of £5 each, fully paid. The question of increasing the capital of the bank continues to occupy the attention of your directors, but so far the general national conditions have not permitted the issue. The raising of new capital for home enterprises is now permitted by the Treasury, but not for companies transacting business abroad. If you adopt the report now presented, the reserve fund will be increased from £85,000 to £120,000. The limit of the bank's note circulation under its convention with the Greek Government is £280,000, and the amount outstanding £227,169. As you are aware, the bank's right of issue expires on May 25-28, 1920. Deposits and current accounts show a further increase of £491,092, and now stand at £6,427,197. Other accounts show a reduction during the year from £2,739,391 to £2,340,321. On the assets side your directors would again draw attention to the strong position of the bank in regard to available cash. Cash in hand, notes of other banks, money at call in London and with the National Bank of Greece amount to £1,540,854; investments, exclusive of the £76,900 bonds of the Greek Government Two and a-Half per Cent. Guaranteed loan held by the bank and deposited with the Bank of England under the Greek law of 1898, £1,441,040; and the bills receivable, £682,395, or a total of £3,664,290. The above are all of a liquid character and are equivalent to over 70 per cent. on the demand liabilities of the bank, totalling £5,193,643. You will observe from the figures the absolute strength of the bank in regard to its cash resources and its ability to meet any requirements which may be made by its customers on the resumption of more normal trading conditions.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted; the dividend and bonus recommended were declared; and the retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the Advisory Committee at Athens, the Local Board at Corfu, and the officers at home and abroad concluded the proceedings.

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THE "FINANCIAL TIMES."

The ordinary general meeting of the Financial Times, Ltd., was held on June 2, at 72, Coleman Street, E.C. Mr. William Graham (the Chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. H. A. Randall, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I presume you will take the report and accounts as read. This is the fourth occasion on which I have presided at the annual general meeting of the company, and at each meeting you have had to consider accounts for a period during which the country has been at war. The conditions therefore have been of a wholly abnormal character, and the business has been conducted under great difficulties and with the existence of many hampering conditions. During the year 1918 the war conditions were more accentuated than during any previous year. The staff of the company had become still more attenuated, and the labour therefore thrown on those who remained was all the more severe. The paper condition during 1918 was one of the greatest possible difficulty, and it made the limiting of the size of the *Financial Times* and the economy of space in the paper as produced a matter of vital importance and necessity, but we have successfully lived through the long period of war, and I think the shareholders should have every reason to be satisfied with the results which have been achieved.

The company at no time in its history has been in so sound a financial condition. In normal years the *Financial Times* has provided a large contribution towards the profits of the company. The war of necessity affected that paper very seriously. Financial operations were practically at a standstill, but in spite of the very adverse conditions prevailing a profit was made last year by that branch of the business, and in the conditions now prevailing the *Financial Times* is contributing handsomely towards the current profits of the undertaking. The *Financial Times* to-day stands pre-eminent among financial papers. The sale during the war was well maintained, and since the conclusion of the Armistice has largely increased, and there is no doubt that it substantially exceeds that of any other financial paper at present published.

The other properties of the company were carried on with great success during last year. The company's printing business—St. Clements Press—had a record year. In addition to the large business that it conducts in printing newspapers and periodicals, it operates an important general printing business. The general business has been considerably increased and developed. The *Drapers' Record and Men's Wear* were both carried on with great success during last year. They occupy a pre-eminent position as the organs of the drapery and textile trades. To prophesy is no part of my duty, but it is right that you should know that the progress of the company's business in all branches so far this year is such as to justify the hope that we shall be able to place before you, as a result of this year's working, a thoroughly satisfactory profit and loss account.

I now turn to the directors' report and balance-sheet. The profit for the year 1918, after making all proper reserves, is shown to be the substantial sum of £29,159 12s. 11d. The usual amount has been placed to the staff pensions fund, and the necessary redemption of Debenture stock has been effected. The amount standing in the accounts as "Work in hand, stock, etc.," is very much larger than usual. This is due to the greatly increased cost of paper it was necessary for us to accumulate during the war period, to the larger amount of stock necessary to meet the requirements of the increased printing business, and also, of course, to the increased cost of all materials. It is proposed to carry £15,000 to the general reserve, which will bring that item up to £75,000, and to pay a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum upon the Ordinary shares, carrying forward a balance of £31,585. If you will contrast the position of the company as at December 31, 1914, with the position of the company as at December 31, 1918, you will note that at the former period the accounts showed a reserve fund of £50,000 and profits available for distribution of £52,000, whereas at December 31, 1918, the accounts show a reserve fund of £60,000 and profits available for distribution of £61,810 7s. 6d.—an improvement effected in the surplus assets of the company of approximately £20,000. Before sitting down I should like to add my appreciation of the unstinted efforts of all members of the company's staff during the trying years we have passed through, for which I think the shareholders have every reason to be grateful. I beg to move the adoption of the directors' report and accounts, and after Mr. Hart has seconded the motion I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions which shareholders may desire to put.

Mr. G. E. Hart, who seconded the resolution, said that it was very remarkable that during the difficult years of war the company had been able to maintain so excellent a position. This was due to the fact that a lean year in one department was equalised by the success of other departments.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The chairman next moved the re-election of Mr. H. A. Randall as a director of the company, and remarked that that gentleman had given his life service to the company. He had its welfare very warmly at heart, and was of the greatest possible assistance.

Mr. Thos. F. Willerson seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Randall thanked the shareholders for his re-election, and stated that in view of the fact that the company had been able to hold its own through practically barren years, the shareholders need have no fear of the continued prosperity of the Financial Times in normal times.

The chairman also proposed the re-election of Mr. G. E. Hart, the other retiring director. Mr. Hart, he said, had been for very many years a servant and officer of the company, and among printers his name was a household word.

Mr. Willerson seconded the motion, which also passed unanimously.

Mr. Hart expressed his gratitude to the proposer and seconder for the flattering remarks which they had made, and stated that his one idea throughout the whole of his life had been to place the company on a high pinnacle, and it would be his earnest endeavour in the future to maintain the position which the printing works had attained in the printing world.

On the motion of Mr. Howard Bridgewater, seconded by Mr. E. F. Donne, Messrs. A. J. Davis and Co. were reappointed auditors for the current year.

Mr. Howard Bridgewater proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, remarking that they were all very much encouraged by the prospects which the chairman had foreshadowed.

Mr. Donne seconded the vote, which was unanimously accorded, and the chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Algerian Oilfields.

The directors of the Algerian Oilfields, Ltd., have received a letter from the company's technologist, Mr. C. B. Rosenplaenter, in which he writes:—"M. Ména (manager of the Tiliouanet Company) realises as well as I do the importance of deepening wells No. 12 and the well on 2,149, and as we have found an impervious layer of marl below the sandstone formation, followed by a gritty marl full of oil gas, the certainty of the existence of a lower oil-bearing stratum is obvious.

"No. 12 well, in which the water will be shut off at 170 metres with the 14 in casing, offers the best prospects, as it can be continued with 10 in. and 9 in. casing, and the next oil stratum would be reached at 100 metres lesser depth than in 2,149 well. The upper oil-bearing formation dips at an angle at 70 degrees. Messrs. Ména, Bordeaux, Dalloni and I are all in agreement on the geology of the M'sila field."

The North Caucasian Oil Issue.

The share register of the North Caucasian Oil Fields will be made up at the close of business to-day for the purpose of preparing a list of shareholders entitled to subscribe for 268,800 Ordinary shares at par, for the issue of which Treasury consent has now been given. Notice will be sent to registered shareholders in due course of the exact number of new shares for which they are entitled to apply, being in the proportion of one new ordinary share for every five Ordinary shares held. Holders of share warrants to bearer must deposit their share warrants with Barclays Bank, 54, Lombard Street, E.C.3; Messrs. Benard and Jarislowsky, 19, Rue Scribe, Paris; or Messrs, Hendrik Braat and Co., Singel 338, Amsterdam, and they will be entitled to receive allotment letters for one new share for every five held. The new shares will in due course be registered and may, after December 1, 1919, be exchanged, if so desired, for bearer warrants upon payment of the usual stamp duty and fee. Forms of application for allotment letter, which can be obtained from either of the above bankers, must be duly signed and deposited there with either the share warrants or an approved certificate from bankers stating that such warrants are deposited with them, and giving full particulars of same, together with name and address of the owner, not later than July 5, 1919, or the right to an allotment will be forfeited. Payment for the shares may be made either in one payment of 10s. per share on or before July 5, 1919, or 5s. per share on or before July 5, 1919, and 5s. per share on or before July 31, 1919. The new shares will rank pari passu with the existing Ordinary shares. Applications cannot be considered in respect of fractions of five shares.

Anglo-American Nile.

The report of the Anglo-American Nile Company for the year ended March 31 last states that the total reserves with the proposed additions amount to £E32,336, equal to 25 per cent. of the capital of the company. After providing for depreciation and maintenance, there remains a profit on the year's working of £E22,004. The directors propose a dividend of 5 per cent.; to add to reserve £E1,560, to directors' fees £E1,404, leaving £E12,642; £E4,288 was brought in, making £E16,930. The 7 per cent. supplementary dividend absorbed £E8,955, leaving to be carried forward £E7,974. At an extraordinary general meeting held on May 8 it was decided to change the name of the company to the Anglo-American Nile and Tourist Company.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

The directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company announce that the revenue accounts for the half-year having been passed by the Government, they propose to recommend to the half-yearly meeting to be held this month that a dividend of 35s. be declared out of surplus profit for the year ended March 31, to be paid to proprietors of the Three per cent. stock in addition to the guaranteed interest, making a total distribution of £3 5s. for the half-year, less income-tax.

Delhi Electric Tramways and Lighting.

The report of the Delhi Electric Tramways and Lighting Company for 1918 states that the gross receipts were:—From tramway undertaking, £14,828; electric supply, £28,736, an increase in each case of approximately 11 per cent. on the previous year. The combined net revenue was £18,010, as compared with £15,119. The profit, after charging general expenditure in London and Delhi and Debenture interest, and after providing £6,000 for depreciation of plant and equipment and a reserve of £1,500 for taxation in India, was £6,767. The balance brought forward was £1,508, making £8,275. The directors recommend writing off part of preliminary expenses, £1,000; payment of a dividend upon the Preferred shares at the rate of 6 per cent., £6,000, leaving to be carried forward £1,275. Additions to plant amount to £1,137. The provision of further plant, equipment and mains to meet the growing demands is receiving consideration. The amount provided out of the profits to meet depreciation has been increased to £6,000, making the total to date £21,000.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

United Egyptian Lands (Limited).—Scheme of reconstruction has now been completed, and the whole of the capital of the Egyptian Consolidated Lands (the new company) has been allotted.

The Bank of England announce the numbers of 448 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates which have been drawn for redemption on July 1 next, when interest thereon will cease.

Eighty-five debentures of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company Five per Cent. Second Mortgage Debentures, the numbers of which are announced, have been drawn for redemption on July 1.

The directors of the Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon announce a dividend on the preference shares for the half-year ending June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable June 30, less tax at 6s. in £.

The directors of the British Indian Tea Company have declared a final dividend of 9 per cent., less income-tax, making 12 per cent. for the year ended April 30 last, payable on and after June 28.

The directors of the Assam Company announce a final dividend of 7½ per cent. and bonus of 10 per cent., or £3 10s. per share, less tax, payable on July 1, making 25 per cent. for the year.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia announce an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 20 last at 3s. per share, free of income-tax, payable on and after 18th proximo. The transfer books were closed on June 3 until June 17, the latter day included.

The directors of the Balijan Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 14 per cent., less income-tax, on account of 1918, making 20 per cent. per annum.

Bengal Nagpur Railway.—Register of members for ordinary stock and four per cent. debenture stock have been closed from June 5 to June 30, inclusive.

The report of the Panawal Tea Company for the year ended December 31 last states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss, including balance brought forward, is £3,227; a claim for the refund of excess profits duty has been made for £2,465, making £5,692. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less income-tax, making 30 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £618.

Jaipur Tea.—Ordinary general meeting will be held at the registered office, 14, St. Mary Axe, E.C.3, on June 13, at 2.30 p.m. Transfer register will be closed from June 7 to June 13, inclusive.

The report of the Ceylon Tea Plantations Company states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss, including balance brought forward, and after providing for 1917 excess profits tax, general expenses, directors' fees, etc., is £142,167. Dividends on the seven per cent. preference shares were paid for 1918, amounting to £6,580. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares was paid, amounting to £18.800. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares (making 35 per cent.), £47,000; to income-tax account, £8,000; to pay to the staff pension fund, £2,000; and to carry forward £59,787.

The report of the Bandarapola Ceylon Company states that, after deducting all charges, the net profit amounts to £3,813; £3,072 was brought forward, giving £6,885. The directors propose a final dividend of 6 per cent. (making 10 per cent. for the year), less tax at 5s. 9d. in £; to write off estates account for depreciation of buildings and machinery, £1,000, and to carry forward £885.

The report of Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rubber Estates states that the balance at credit of profit and loss, after writing off depreciation from machinery and buildings, payment of preference dividend, and transferring £300 to income-tax reserve, is £6,473. The directors propose to carry to reserve £1,000, pay a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and carry forward £1,366.

South Indian Railway.—The transfer books for ordinary and debenture stock will be closed from June 16 to June 30, inclusive, for the preparation of half-yearly warrants.

The directors of the Bengal Coal Company, of Calcutta, announce a profit of Rs. 18,60,000 for the half-year ended April 30. After setting aside Rs. 1,25,000 for depreciation, Rs. 4,10,000 for mines development, and paying a dividend at the rate of 60 per cent. per annum, the balance to carry forward is about Rs. 1,50,000.

The report of the Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates states that the amount brought forward was £4,710, which, added to £13,600 refunded in respect of excess profits duty paid, makes £18,310, from which has to be deducted the net loss for the year (after providing £1,500 for income-tax) of £2,724, leaving £15,586. The directors recommend the payment (less tax) of a dividend of 5 per cent., and to carry forward £6,836, subject to a claim for refund of balance of excess profits duty paid.

The report of the Gingia Tea Company for 1918 states that revenue account shows a profit of £3,323. Adding the balance brought in, £3,327, gives a total of £6,651, from which has to be deducted income-tax, £1,385; excess profits duty, 1917, £337; garden managers' commission, £166; and adjustment from season 1917, £106, leaving a balance for disposal of £4,657, out of which are proposed interim dividend at 5 per cent., less tax (already paid), £883, and a final dividend at 5 per cent., less tax (making 10 per cent. for the year), £884, leaving to be carried forward £2,890.

NEW COMPANIES.

Mediterranean Cargo Steamers, Ltd

A private company with the above title was registered on May 24 with a capital of £250,000 in £100 shares. Its objects are to acquire any ships, vessels or craft, to use the same for any trade or business and for towage, salvage, conveyance of passengers, produce, etc. First directors to be appointed by subscribers. Registered office, 20, Abchurch Lane, E.C.

CANADIAN WHEAT FOR GREECE.

Questioned in the House of Commons, says a Reuter message from Ottawa dated May 28, the Finance Minister (Sir Thomas White) stated that the Government had negotiated with the British Government the sale of twelve or thirteen million bushels of wheat for Greece. They would have preferred to sell flour, but the British Government desired wheat, the price of which would be the Canadian price at the head of the Great Lakes plus the cost of transport to Montreal.

ON 'CHANGE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

We have had a very quiet week, which is not surprising in view of the imminence of the large new British war loan and the Whitsuntide holiday. Telegraphic communication with Egypt still remains very bad. Government stocks are about half a point down at 87 for Unified and 74 for the 3½ per cent. Pref.

In Bank shares, Nationals are ¼ lower at 20⅜, but very few shares are offering. Agriculturals have receded a further 1-16 to 6. There is a demand for Agricultural Prefs., but there are no sellers. Anglo-Egyptian Banks and Land Banks have both remained firm spots.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ⅛ lower at 7⅜.

Amongst Land shares, there is a further small decline of 6d. in Aboukir to 24s., and Delta Land are 9d. lower at 14s. 9d. New Egyptians are also somewhat weaker at 25s. Sudan Plantations, after a fair number of transactions, finished ¼ down at 7.

In Miscellaneous shares, Egyptian Markets are 1s. easier at 25s., and in the Oil department the feature has been the renewed firmness of Anglo-Egyptian B., which are closing at the top with a rise of 5-16 to 6 9-32.

In Greek securities, the 1881, 1884, and Larissas loans are nominally 1 to 2½ points lower at 71, 70, and 73 respectively. On the other hand, the 1914 issue has further appreciated a point to 86.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated May 24:—

Weather seasonable. Crop prospects good.

Bombay: Good broach, Rs. 479, May. Revival local piecegoods market, owing to satisfactory Afghanistan news now checked by rise in exchange. Manchester goods, present price 30 to 40 per cent. below highest limits previously touched, and sale prospects improved by rise in exchange. Calcutta Jute market unchanged, crop conditions good. Sackings steadier. Hessians firmer owing to increased demands for early deliveries, but exchange position prevented forward trading.

CABLE DELAYS.

At a meeting held on June 3 the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce decided to ask the members of Parliament for Manchester and Salford to raise the question of cable delays to the Near and Far East in the House of Commons if a reassuring announcement was not received during the next few days. Mr. Edwin Stockton, president of the Chamber, stated that quotations of prices and offers of business had for some time been quite unavailing in consequence of the delays.

M. Vasile Stefan, Under-Secretary of the Roumanian Ministry for Industries and Commerce, and M. Teodoresco, representative of the Roumanian Food Supply Mission, has left London for Paris.

The first report on the condition of the cotton crop of this year's growth, issued on June 2 by the Washington Agricultural Bureau, states that the average condition on May 25 was 75.6, against 82.3 at the same date last year, and 79.3 the ten-year average.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 28	June 4
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84¼	84¼
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87½	87
Do. Pref. 5 % 1890	88	74½	74
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72½	71
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72½	70
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60	60
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	54	54
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	74	73
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	85	86
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	83½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 xnd	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅝	15⅝
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	80/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	77	77
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9⅛	9⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅞	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7 1/16	7 1/16
London County and Westminster	—	17	17
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅝	20⅝
National Bank of India	43	53	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7½	7⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	69	67
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/6	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	12¾	12¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝xd	4⅝xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consolidated	3/11	—	2/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/6	14/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/3	25/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	7½	7
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	13	13
Egyptian Markets Ord	1 1/16	26/-	25/-
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	2⅜	2⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6½	6½
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	¾	5 3/16	6 9/32
Anglo-Persian	1 3/32	27/-	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	12/10½	—
Roumanian	1 1/16	20/3	20/-
Traian (Roumanian)	—	13/9	13/6

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MAY 16.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.		20⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.		112
" " Div.	Frs.		162
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.		12 13/32
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E		12
" priv.	L.E.		4 9/32
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.		193
Bons de Panama	Frs.		162
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.		98
" Priv.	Frs.		106
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.		101
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.		3½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£		1 13/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£		1 13/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.		2 1/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.		6½
Bonded Stores	L.E.		12⅝
Unifiée	L.E.		89½
Privilégiée			76½
Land Bank of Egypt	£		7 1/16
Nungovich Hotels	£		7 1/32
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£		6⅜
" " Fond.	£		500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£		4⅛
" Ord			135
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£		14⅞
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£		5½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.		7⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.		110
" Jouissance	Frs.		177½
Egyptian Markets			22/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.		365exd
" Div.	Frs.		270exd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.		306
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£		5 3/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda			51/7½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.		736
" Fondateur	Frs.		980
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.		439exo
" 1903 "	Frs.		315
" 1911 "	Frs.		283½
United Lands	P.T.		5
Assoc. Cotton Ginners			13/16

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

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

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

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

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

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £2,400,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

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

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

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

Head Office: ATHENS.

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

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

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

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

GREECE.

Area (1914), 25,128 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 24·30 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: PIRÆUS, SYRA.

CAPITAL - Drs. 10,000,000.

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

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

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

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

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

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

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

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

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

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

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

Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 423.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near East has been comparatively quiet during the past week, and perhaps the announcement that Turkey has been invited to send peace delegates to Paris is the most important item of news regarding that part of the world. The Turks themselves, always inclined to optimism in such matters, are reported to be hopeful that their representatives will be allowed to put the Turkish case before the Peace Conference. The hope probably rests upon the slenderest foundations, if on any foundations at all; but the fact that such a privilege has not been accorded to Germany or Austria is not in itself sufficient to make it utterly impossible for it to be accorded to Turkey. For while Germany has been proved to have been much more knave than fool, and Austria-Hungary at least as much knave as fool, Turkey—as a nation—has undoubtedly been fool rather than knave; though, as regards the Committee of Union and Progress, and especially its leaders, the reverse is distinctly the case. Turkey will have to pay for its folly: that is certain. But it seems to be generally recognised that in the interests of justice, the decent portion of its population will have to be helped on to its feet again in one way or another by Europe and America, and if that be so, a heart to heart talk at the Conference might serve to clear the ground of many misunderstandings. The moment appears to be a favourable one for an attempt of the kind to be made; several factors that helped to complicate the problem needlessly in the past having been eliminated by the war.

We have no desire to see Turkey spared any punishment that may justly be due to her, but we do desire —and there is evidence that a considerable body of opinion in this country desires—that she shall be treated fairly, not vindictively. The Turks have shown themselves unfit to rule, and in the future they should not be allowed to rule, over other races; but it would be fatal to lose sight of the fact that not every race is capable of ruling over the Turks. Again, the Turks, or the heterogeneous crowd of adventurers who passed themselves off as "Turks," are cordially hated by most of the people over whom they formerly exercised authority, and it may be admitted that they gave only too good reasons for such hatred. But this secular hatred should not on any account be allowed to play a part in deciding what terms are to be granted to the Turks at the Peace Conference, or what their fate is to be in the future. Let it be recognised at once that Turkey has not always had perfect justice from Europe in the past, that on one occasion at least in quite recent years an honest attempt on her part to set her house in order was deliberately thwarted by the Russian veto upon the loan to her by Great Britain of the Advisers for whom she asked. In the interests of justice and of the future peace of the world—no longer only of Europe, be it noted—America, France, Italy, and Great Britain should make a determined effort without delay to solve the Turkish Question on the lines indicated, and should sternly resist and repress all attempts to "pay off old scores."

In this matter Great Britain and France cannot afford to ignore the sentiments of their own Moslem subjects; sentiments regarding the character of which there can be no doubt. The unrest in the Moslem world is very largely, if not chiefly, due to the activities of those Turco-German agents, to whom reference was made in these columns a few weeks ago; but these gentry could never have achieved such success if fears regarding the future of Turkey and its Sultan had not been at work as well. To the detached observer it may seem inexplicable that such fears should exist in India or in Egypt; for if the Indian or Egyptian Moslem would only pause to ask himself what benefit he had ever received from Stamboul, and then reflect upon the solid advantages bestowed on him by British rule he would surely turn a deaf ear to the Turkish tempter. The Indian Government, for example, lately completed special arrangements for pilgrims desiring to make the *Hajj*, who, as a result, will be able to carry out that sacred obligation in safety and at a cost not greater than before the war. There is a lesson that ought not to be thrown away—especially if *hajjis* who made the pilgrimage in the old days would tell the present generation of the conditions that, under Turkish rule, used to make it so much more arduous and dangerous than it need ever have been.

The attitude of Indian Moslems towards the Turkish question was defined further last week in a letter signed by the Aga Khan and Syed Ameer Ali, names which undoubtedly carry weight in a matter of the kind. The writers urge that "the Turkish Sovereign, as the Khalif of the vast Sunni congregation, should be left in absolute possession of Constantinople, Thrace, and Asia Minor, stretching from the North of Syria proper along the Ægean coast to the Black Sea." That settlement, together with "the maintenance of the Ottoman Sovereign's spiritual suzerainty" in the countries detached from his temporal sway, would in their judgment

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rally Indian Moslems to the support of the new constitution, from which they may otherwise "stand aloof in sullen bitterness"; and if the matter had to be settled by India alone, we have no doubt that some such arrangement would result. The Conference at Paris have, however, to hear many voices besides that of India, and without attempting to forecast the eventual decision, we may express the hope that the Indian leaders will be wise enough to discourage a political strike, should that decision be not entirely favourable to their claims.

A week ago we were told by the correspondents in Paris that at last there really was a prospect of the problem presented by Italy's claims being solved. Up to the moment of writing, however, no announcement of the accomplished fact has been forthcoming. The delay is regrettable inasmuch as it must surely tend to a further exacerbation of feelings; but if only it were possible to believe that its prolongation was due to a determination to clear the ground not only of the Fiume difficulty but also of the Dodecanese injustice and the unhappy bargain over southern Asia Minor, we should be prepared to wait even longer for a solution that might give some promise of peace. On the other hand, if the wrong that has been done in the matter of the Dodecanese and Asia Minor is to be made worse by further action along the same lines, in order to provide compensation for disappointments in the Adriatic, then it would surely be well to let us know the worst at once. A decision of a palpably unfair kind, announced after such a long period of discussion and bargaining, would inevitably exasperate decent feeling throughout the civilised world.

In spite of the advent of Ramadan, which is always a trying time, Egypt appears to be approaching a condition more nearly balanced. There have been one or two attempts at demonstrations, but they have evoked little or no enthusiasm, and though the agitators continue industriously to disseminate poisonous literature, their activities in other fields appear to have been curtailed. The spirit of lawlessness, which was so thoroughly aroused during the recent events, still makes itself felt in frequent instances of intimidation by the strikers along the Canal, but these are devoid of any political significance. The Cabinet is no better liked by the Nationalists now than it was when it first took office; but it refuses to be daunted by abuse and threats, and Mohammed Said Pasha shows that he has no intention of being driven from office by such tactics, by readjusting his Cabinet. Ziwer Pasha it is announced, is to be replaced as Minister of Education by Talat Pasha; and will become Minister of Communications.

In the House of Commons last week Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, replying to a question, stated that a mission consisting of an American military officer and a British diplomatist recently proceeded to Montenegro "in order to obtain information with regard to conditions prevailing in that country." The Government of Montenegro, Mr. Harmsworth added, were not consulted as to the appointment of this mission, and "have made no protest on the subject." This makes the confusion that already existed regarding Montenegro worse confused than ever. For there are certainly in existence in this country copies (or translations) of a Note sent to the delegates of the Great Powers at the Peace Conference, which contains an extremely vigorous protest against the despatch of the mission, "both from the point of view of the principle and the way it is carried out." The Note, which is dated from Neuilly-sur-Seine, May 23, and signed by M. Plamenatz, King Nicholas's Foreign Minister, protests that the mission will be unable to collect trustworthy evidence owing—to put it briefly—to the pressure that will be brought to bear by the Serbians, who are now in military occupation of the country. The sooner this mystery regarding the status of Montenegro—and of King Nicholas—is cleared up the better it will be for all concerned.

The second reading debate on the Government of India Bill may justly be described as adequate but not inspiring. Speeches were made by the small band of members who know something about the subject; they said what they were expected to say, and when they had finished the Bill was read without any suggestion of opposition so far as its underlying principles are concerned. The next step is the Joint Committee, where, as Mr. Montagu said, the various alternatives to the Dyarchy will be considered in detail, and if they are rejected the Dyarchy itself will be put into its final shape; then, to quote the same speaker, "India will have something better to do than fiercely and impotently to criticise those who are at present the agents of Parliament." The gospel of constructive work is always alluring, and though achievement may fall short of aspiration, there can be very few people in this country who regret that, whatever form the Bill may finally take, India is to be given an opportunity of showing what she can do.

Labour members took less part in the debate than had been expected. Colonel Wedgwood, of course, spoke as a recruit to the Independent Labour Party, but the permanence of this *avatar* is open to question, and, apart from him, there was only Mr. Spoor, who comes from Bishop Auckland, and whose contribution was not particularly noteworthy. The intimate relations known to subsist between the Indian Extremists and some of the Labour leaders in this country suggested the possibility of a more effective demonstration on this occasion, but possibly tactical considerations came into play; at any rate, there was no sign of that uncompromising opposition to the official proposals which was so conspicuous last year among Indian Extremists, and we presume that effort will be concentrated on "democratising" the Bill during its discussion in the Joint Committee.

Mr. Montagu had nothing to say about the risk of overloading the Governor under the Dyarchy, as now designed, but other speakers were less reticent, and Captain Ormsby-Gore said bluntly that under the Bill eight supermen would be required. We notice that the attention of the Government of India has been directed to this question, and in their despatch on the Reforms Scheme they lay stress on the need for securing the best talent which the services can furnish, and the highest qualities and ripest experience obtainable in appointments made from home. They go on, however, to pile fresh burdens on the unfortunate Governors' backs, and we hope the Joint Committee will give particular attention to this aspect of the scheme. No one expects the new arrangements to be perfect, but at the same time all possible care should be taken to avoid overstraining such an essential portion of the mechanism.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu offered some striking predictions in the course of his lecture last week on the future of aviation in India, predictions which the speaker's past record shows must be taken into serious consideration. Of special interest is the suggestion that the Northern plains from Peshawar to Calcutta may one day become one of the world's greatest airways, carrying the traffic between Europe on the one hand and Australia and the Far East on the other. India's history has been dominated for so long by her secular seclusion between mountains and seas that a change of this kind must almost certainly have momentous results, and we should expect to see a gradual widening of her outlook, and a decline in that curious provincialism which characterises so many of her activities at the present time. We wish the change could come quickly, but there are still obstacles in the way. Lord Montagu mentioned only a few of them—and the most that can be hoped is that the new factor will co-operate with the other forces now at work to mould that future India which will be so much better than the India of the past.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 19.

The General Situation.

Beyond the labour strikes in the canal zone, which are certainly serious, and a small demonstration in Alexandria on the night of "Nusf Shaaban," there is nothing of interest to report. The work of pacification has made considerable progress, and the country generally is, in fact, rapidly returning to normal, as is emphasised by the removal of cereals and other important articles of first necessity from the tariff, and the almost complete re-establishment of the train service in Lower Egypt, where all restrictions on travelling have been removed. In Upper Egypt, although the repair work is not yet advanced enough to permit of normal traffic, a more or less regular service is being run, and the various crops are being brought down, much to the relief of the local population and of the towns. Cairo itself, the seat of all the trouble, has been remarkably quiet. Preaching still goes on at Al Azhar, and excited students still periodically run about the Muski trying to get the shopkeepers to shut, but the activities of the clique which is responsible for the continuation of the agitation have not been translated into hostile acts of any description on the part of their followers.

The absence of any information as to the progress of the Zaghlul Mission has gradually tended to set up a state of depression mongst the adherents of the movement, which has become accentuated by the publication of the Peace terms and the official recognition by the Conference of the Protectorate. The leading spirits, who for the most part comprise Azharites and students, with one or two of the more uncompromising lawyers and officials, have tried their best to discredit the news and to revive the flagging spirits of their followers, but their efforts have met with little or no success. They are indeed finding that their influence has considerably weakened, and that their arguments and inflammatory speeches no longer meet with the same response from their auditors as they did a month ago.

To sum up, the situation has generally assumed a much healthier aspect, which inspires one with hope for the future. We must, of course, expect to find for some considerable time an atmosphere of restlessness everywhere—that is only natural after the acute nervous crisis through which all communities have passed during the past two and half months—and there may be a recrudescence of excitement during Ramadan and on such occasions as the publication of the Turkish Peace terms and the return of the "delegates" from Europe. Generally speaking, however, everything points to the storm having spent itself, and to its being merely a question of time for the general effervescence to die down altogether; and especially will this be so if we pursue to the end the same firm policy as has characterised our actions in the provinces, and more recently in Cairo.

The Co-operative Movement.

A great deal of curiosity and even anxiety is being expressed as to the attitude adopted by the co-operative societies during the recent events. I am credibly informed that not only were many of them used as channels of propaganda by the agitators, but that their profits were voted as a subscription to the funds of the movement. If this information is correct, it serves to confirm only too well the fears expressed when the movement first started that the existence of these societies in the manner in which they were created would constitute a great and constant danger, since in the event of political trouble they might become a very important weapon in the hands of the agitators.

The co-operative movement started in Egypt in 1910, since which date some fifty societies have been formed in various part of Egypt. These have had a varying existence: fourteen had an exceedingly short life and died a natural death; fifteen, after passing through many vicissitudes, disappeared; and fifteen are still working. In many of them the principles of co-operation are, however, as yet not clearly understood. Many of them appear to be actuated more by the desire of profit on transactions than by the wish to be of mutual benefit to their members, and pay more attention to the distribution of a high dividend to their members than to the building up of a reserve fund, which would enable them to become to a great extent independent of outside financial assistance, and be able to extend their co-operative activities over a large area. One or two in addition to assisting their members are, however, doing useful municipal work in the village.

As mentioned previously in this correspondence a draft law for the control of co-operative societies was submitted to and approved with certain amendments by the Legislative Assembly, but its promulgation was suspended owing to the outbreak of war. Whilst it is to be hoped that as soon as normal conditions set in once more some official action will be taken so as to extend as much as possible the co-operative movement which has proved so beneficial in other countries, and which in view of local conditions and the characteristics of the people is peculiarly applicable to Egypt, at the same time it would be highly inadvisable in the light of recent events to allow anything approaching the same liberty of action as has in the past been enjoyed by the co-operative societies. The more the movement becomes extended the greater will be the danger of its being turned at some time or other to political purposes, and the lesson to be gained from the past three months clearly is that such a movement should only be permitted to exist under the strictest control from Cairo, and that that control should be entirely in the hands of the representatives of the Protecting Power which is responsible for, and as has now been proved is alone able to guarantee, public security in the country.

MESOPOTAMIAN GEOGRAPHY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

At the School of Oriental Studies, on June 4, Mr. R. Campbell Thompson commenced a series of lectures on Mesopotamia. He said it was divided into three belts—a mountainous belt in the north, a middle belt where wheat could be produced under irrigation, and a southern belt where the date palm grew. The climate was subject to extremes. At Baghdad, in the hot season, the temperature might rise to 124° F., but in winter it sometimes dropped to 14° F. He had seen snow lie for over a week, and, in April last year, while excavating, he had been pelted with hail stones two inches wide. The chief port was Busreh, on a tidal river, with a bar, so that ships had to wait for the tide to rise before they could get over. The chief products of the country were dates, corn, vegetables and wonderful fruit, especially oranges and melons. In the date producing region there were not many timber trees, but north of Baghdad nearly every village had its copse of poplars to provide rafters.

Turning to the archæological side the lecturer told the story of archæological investigation and discovery in Mesopotamia, producing some interesting objects resulting from his own excavations. Among these were some small clay tablets, dating from about the time of Nebuchadnezzar, which, upon being deciphered, proved to be private letters. He read translations from some of these. One which had not previously been published was from Zirya to Zirukin and began: "My Lord. Daily I pray to the Lady of Erech and Nanâ for the life of my lord. In the matter of the work of my lord, let my lord remain quite satisfied." Another letter contained the following sentences: "By the Gods I have had no news of you for long. I am delighted to hear of the addition to our family. Now things are going very badly with me, so please send me some money."

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ATHENS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 22.

The Occupation of Smyrna.

Satisfaction at the realisation of heartfelt hope has been deep and sincere. Rumours that some such step was in contemplation had been current for a full week before the Government made the official announcement on May 14 that permission had been given for a landing to be made in Smyrna, and that the Greek troops would actually land on May 15. Enthusiasm was great—not the fanatical and provocative enthusiasm to which Athens had become accustomed in the days of Tino, but rather the outward sign of the deep satisfaction felt that the legitimate aspirations of Greece were at last nearing consummation. Demonstrations were the order of the day, and a long procession with the garrison band at its head paraded the streets. Crowds collected before the Municipality, and after the Mayor had spoken a few words, drowned in tumults of applause, the demonstrators proceeded to the British, American, French, and Italian Legations, sending in deputations to the Ministers to thank the Allies for the goodwill they were showing to Greece. In the evening the streets were illuminated, and bands of students celebrated the occasion by patriotic songs till a late hour of the night. Further detachments of troops and gendarmes are being despatched to maintain order in the occupied town and environs. News is daily awaited of the occupation of Vourlah and Aïdin, which had originally not been occupied. A commissioner, M. Stergiadis, has been appointed, and has already arrived in Smyrna to take over the Administration from the Military Governor, Colonel Fafiriou, who was in command of the division which made the first landing.

It is hoped that the occupation of Smyrna is only the forerunner of the full realisation of Greece's aims, and that permission will shortly be accorded by the Peace Conference to the occupation of Thrace and the Dodecanese and the cession of Cyprus to Greece. In fact, telegrams from Paris give good ground for hopes that this will shortly be the case. If these hopes materialise then indeed will Greece's cup be full, as although the most hot-headed and enthusiastic patriots still aspire to "The City," all thinking Greeks realise that for the present, at any rate, it is impossible that this should be given them, in view of the supreme importance to Russian affairs that Constantinople exercises.

The Arraignment of the Skouloudis Government

The High Court of Justice appointed by the Chamber and composed of Judges from the Court of Cassation and Appeal with members of the Chamber as prosecuting counsels met on May 21 for the first time. The chief of the latter is M. G. Kafantaris, Minister for Agriculture. The accused are MM. S. Skouloudis, S. Dragoumis, D. Rallis, J. Jiannakitsas, M. Hatzakos, A. Michelidakis, and D. Gounaris. The latter was found to be absent, but the Court decided that he shall be judged and sentence be pronounced even in his absence. The counsel for the defence took exception to the composition of the Court as being contrary to the Articles of the Constitution owing to the presence of a Minister therein, and one of the accused desired the erasure from the list of counsel for the prosecution of a member thereof owing to the alleged personal enmity existing between them. Discussions on these points took up the whole of the first day of session, but the objections were finally overruled after a speech by M. Kafantaris. The great age of the accused (M. Skouloudis is eighty-one years of age, M. Rallis is seventy-six, M. Dragoumis is seventy-eight, M. Jiannakitas is sixty-one, M. Michelidakis is seventy-five, and M. Hatzakos is fifty-eight), and the high positions the first three have held (M. Skouloudis was Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Cabinet, M. Rallis has been four times Prime Minister, and served as Minister eight times in the course of his life, and M. Dragoumis has been Prime Minister and held various portfolios at various times), make this trial of the highest interest apart from the charge, which is that of high treason. The upshot of the trial is awaited in Greece with great interest.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, May 25.

The University.

There is a deadlock as far as the University "strike" is concerned, as the Senate will not unbend and the students will not return. Life in Malta has been uneventful of late, and the doings of the students have afforded quite a touch of colour to our usually drab life. There has been much good-humoured fun, especially from the younger "bloods," but collisions with the police have arisen, and four of the students have been brought before the local Court and remanded for throwing eggs at one of the representatives of the Council of Government. All round there is general unrest and the contagion has affected the police; and it is rumoured that the Civil Service clerks are about to agitate for better pay and shorter hours.

Local Aspirations.

Small islands generally have their continuous political squabbles, and Malta is no exception. For years gone by there has been a constant struggle on the part of the two extreme parties to obtain a greater share of self-government at the hands of the Colonial Office. The war has given further support to the idea, and some time ago as a result of a mass meeting a petition was sent to the Home Government. Dr. F. Sciberras, President of the National Assembly, has received information to the effect that the new Governor has been instructed to make inquiries with a view to granting to the people of these islands a larger share in the Government consistently with Imperial interests.

Shipping.

The Tribune destroyer is being re-commissioned at Portsmouth for further service with the Sixth (Mediterranean) Destroyer Flotilla. The following vessels have arrived:—The transport Vita from Port Said, H.M.S. Lynn from Bizerta, the s.s. Cagliari, with 235 passengers on board, from Benghasi *en route* to Syracuse, the French torpedo boat destroyer Epien from Bizerta *en route* to Benghasi, and the Italian gunboat Feridono from Tripoli bound for Naples. The following vessels have left the island:—H.M.S. Asphodel for Alexandria and Port Said. and H.M.S. Craigie for Mudros, the cruiser Suffolk, which has resumed her voyage on her way home to be paid off, the Partridge II. from Mudros and Constantinople, the Heroic from Marseilles, the Ceanothus from Syracuse, and the troop transport Indarra from Port Said.

The new Pasteur Institute in Ceylon, during the twelve months ended April 25, treated 408 persons, including sixteen Europeans.

La Libre Parole announces that an Arab mission, consisting of General Nourry Pasha, two colonels, four commandants, eight captains, sixteen well-known Arabs, fifteen soldiers, and ten servants, has arrived at Marseilles and has proceeded to Paris.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Athletic Sports.

The Pan-Cypriot Athletic Sports have been celebrated by the Greek community with much enthusiasm at Nicosia. They are held in turn in the larger towns. The programme of events and entries was a good one, and included a five miles race. Among the spectators were the Chief Secretary, the King's Advocate, Archdeacon Beresford Potter, the Greek Acting Archbishop, and the Hellenic Consul. Speeches were made at the close. Having regard to the contests themselves, and the simple wreaths which were the only prizes and sufficient honour, it was no exaggeration, said the Bishop of Papho, to compare the meeting to its great Olympian prototype, the ideals aimed at being the same now as of old. Away to the south-west rises the Cyprian Olympus, which crowns Mount Troodos, and was also a seat of the gods, where Aphrodite had her many temples; and Adonis hunted in this very plain.

Cyprus and Egypt.

News of a better outlook in Egypt has given great satisfaction, as considerable anxiety had been felt on account of previous gloomy reports. It is felt that the situation should be kept well in hand under the firm rule of General Allenby. Prices "have reached their zenith," says a correspondent, "and far exceed those ruling at Athens." Better communications are hoped for. The close connection always maintained with the large Cypriot fraternity in Egypt was being strengthened by the increasing migration of families to the Cyprus hills in the hot season.

The Festival of Venus.

The annual Festival of Venus, commonly called the *Kataklysmos*, or Deluge, is to be celebrated with great rejoicings this year in the coast towns. There is to be an Agricultural Show at Larnaca, as well as aquatic sports, poetical contests, concerts, theatricals, and other amusements. This great anniversary, which no doubt had its origin in remote antiquity, is perhaps the most picturesque of all Cypriot gatherings. Thousands of villagers flock to the ports and join the townsfolk. The correct thing is to go for a short sail. Near the piers and jetties are fleets of boats, most of which carry a few musicians. The air is filled with lively strains and loud tom-tomming. Turkish ladies sit in bright groups of many colours along the sea front, and Greeks chat at open-air cafés over cool drinks. A kind of fair is held in the streets, and the long series of summer festivals is ushered in.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turkey.

In a leading article the *Globe* of June 3 discusses the future of Turkey. It shows how different the Turk is from men of surrounding nationalities. It says:—

The Turkish theory of life is not ours. He makes no roads, builds no bridges, has not the least desire to be carried swiftly from place to place, is not at all attracted by "progress," and has, it is to be feared, the faintest possible confidence in the wisdom of democracy. But he is on the whole a decent fellow, cursed with a very bad Government, and his natural disposition now, whatever it may have been years ago, is to live and let live if only people will leave him alone. We agree that he cannot be left to rule in Constantinople. That city was once the pivot on which both East and West swung like double stars in the orbit of their mutual attraction, and it might be so again. Its site is in every way the finest in the world, and under efficient government the old metropolis of the Eastern Empire could become one of the richest, as it is already one of the most beautiful, cities on earth.

"A North Caucasus Republic."

The Ekaterinodar correspondent of *The Times* had in the issue of June 5 an illuminating despatch on the North Caucasus. Commenting on the proposal of an artificial North Caucasus Republic, he says:—

Here we have a group of small hill tribes, the Daghestanis Tchetchen, Kabardines, Ossetes or Asetin, Ingouske, Koumik, Tcherkess or Circassians, and others, many of them divided against one another, and some among themselves. There is no traditional or historical foundation for the combination, and apparently no nucleus for cohesion. In Daghestan alone there are eighteen different tribes, each speaking a different tongue not understood by the others. The movement does not spring from the masses of the people, who are indifferent to it, even if they have heard of its existence. These mountaineers are attractive, manly folk, pleasing to the eye; they are happily innocent of being 'politically minded.'

The history of the various tribes during the war is then traced, and the correspondent proceeds:—

Paris is not likely to listen seriously to the claims of the North Caucasus Republic, but as a bait for European sentiment the scheme is being invested with the glamour of Caucasian irredentism. It is claimed that the Circassian nation who made an armed retreat in 1864, emigrating to Turkey and elsewhere, never renounced their rights and are only waiting for the establishment of the new Cis-Caucasian Republic to flock back to their national land. To support this view of the republic it has been described as a Pan-Circassian Federation. One hears the title "Circassian" applied to it as synonymous with "mountaineer," as if these hill tribes were sprung from a common Circassian stock. As a matter of fact, the Tcherkess alone are Circassians, if one excepts the nobility of the Kabardine. The other heterogeneous tribes are the remnants of distinct races who have been left behind in the Caucasus during migration.

It will be seen from the map that the southern frontier claimed by the republic is drawn from the mouth of the River Samur on the Caspian to a point a few miles beyond Tuapse on the Black Sea. The line follows the natural barriers of the Caucasus with two important deviations to the south of the range. The first of these is the district of Zakataki, claimed both by the Georgians and Azerbaijan Republics. The claim of the North Caucasus Republic is on racial grounds. The inhabitants of the district are mostly Lezguines, a Mahomedan tribe, allied to the Daghestanis, who prefer the Daghestan connexion. The Georgian and Azerbaijan claims are geographical. The other disputed territory in the south is the Sukhum district, on the Black Sea Coast, inhabited by the Abkhazis. Here again, Georgian claim is geographical, and that of the Cis-Caucasians ethnical. Sukhum was occupied by the Georgians in June, 1918, and annexed by them, with the help of German troops, in July. The small Abkhazi force, which was ill-armed and ill-equipped, fled into the hills. The Georgians still occupy the province, in which one hears rumours of an Abkhazi rising. The Abkhazis, it seems, would be better off under the Cis-Caucasia connexion, however chaotic. But it will be gathered that the establishment of independent republics, whether in Trans- or Cis-Caucasia, is not a responsibility to be undertaken with a light heart.

Arabia.

In the current issue of *Flying*, C. Thompson Walker writes on "Red Sea Service," a service the history of which is little known. He shows what the British fleet and seaplanes did to depress the Turks on the Arabian coast; and concludes with a paragraph on the gratitude of the Arabs towards the British.

Before we left Loheiya Said Mustafa came aboard and through his interpreter thanked us all for the valuable assistance we had rendered to his troops, which had resulted in the capitulation of hostile villages and ensured the final surrender of the besieged Turks. He concluded this speech with the quaintly poetical words, "As a man is without a soul, so should I be without seaplanes."

Mustafa, who is brother to the Kings of the Idrissi and Senussi Arabs, was educated at Cairo, and is possessed of considerable statesmanship, political influence, and diplomacy. I believe we had his influence largely to thank for the friendly conduct during the war of the formerly hostile Senussi. As evidence of his modernity he boasts a Ford car, although Loheiya and the surrounding district are roadless and quite unfit for motoring.

We left Loheiya with great regret for many reasons. It was disappointing to leave our task uncompleted, and we were sorry to lose the powerful fascination that a little-known race and country held for us. We had spent many halcyon days at Loheiya, days abounding with interest, full of absolute freedom from the trammels of convention and civilisation, days of pleasantly relaxed discipline, hours of dreamy lotus-eating under a cloudless sky, a sun always bright, afloat on a sea whose azure depths revealed a landscape more beautiful and strange than that around us. After bidding good-bye to our friends on the *Fox*, *Clio*, and *Odin* we steamed slowly up the coast until we reached the village of Midi, where resided, in hermit-like seclusion, the King of the Idrissi. We anchored to take in a supply of sheep, fowls, eggs, tomatoes, aubergines, and bananas, sent to the ship by the generous monarch, and carried out one more flight, this time for the peaceful purpose of dropping a letter to the King, setting forth our thanks and good wishes. The letter in its weighted carrier was seen to fall in the courtyard of the royal palace.

And so, after introducing into that mediæval atmosphere a glimpse of the twentieth century, we left Loheiya. Some months afterwards the C.O. of the contingent and the Senior Observer Officer each received a curved steel dagger, with a massive enriched silver hilt and scabbard, and ornate belt, accompanied by the *printed visiting card* of Said Mustafa, with his compliments and thanks.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have the honour and advantage of studying in the pages of THE NEAR EAST the sentiments and opinion of those who, being themselves Greek, claim Rhodes and Cyprus as appanages of the Greek realm. I note the confidence—the wish being doubtless father to the thought—with which Dr. Nic. Kl. Lanitis assures us that "the Greek régime is, *beyond any doubt* (the italics are mine), going to be established in Cyprus." More than four months ago I listened to Sir W. M. Ramsay, lecturing before the Central Asian Society, throw doubts upon Greek statements made in support of Greek claims to territorial acquisition, and in the *Manchester Guardian* of May 29 I see the same great authority dwelling upon the Greek genius for colonising and settling among *alien* peoples, and maintaining that what is wanted for the Greek, even amid a largely Moslem population, is "a sensible unifying administration which maintains peace" and "a large amount of local self-government." Now, that is precisely what the Greek in Cyprus gets under British Government. I am not going to say much here which I might say—for your space and even my time have value—but I think it necessary to point out that the confidence of Dr. Lanitis is mere assumption. There are the strongest possible reasons why Cyprus should be retained by Britain as a base in the Levant.

When, a month or two ago, I pointed out in your columns that Hospitaller associations with Rhodes must not be overlooked, I succeeded in extracting from your Greek correspondents such ebullitions as may be regarded as a complete exposition of their hand. It was an instance of the value of the reconnaissance or *ballon d'essai*. All those who set value on Hospitaller edifices and traditions know now that, if the Greeks get Rhodes, those edifices and traditions will meet with no respect. The Italian Government has given full proof of its interest in Rhodian remains, and some reflection of that interest has at last penetrated to St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell. Facts also have been submitted to the Peace Conference. I feel therefore that the confidence which seems to prevail in some quarters that Cyprus and Rhodes are already practically "Greek" is an illusion. The wish with me is certainly father to the thought, but there is some good solid backing behind the wish. In the uncertain future of Constantinople and the unsettled state of Egypt and the Levant, the hands of Britain and, indeed, of the Western Allies need to be strengthened in the Mediterranean from end to end.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE, Lt.-Col.,
June 8. Hon. Sec., Central Asian Society.

THE PROBLEM OF INDIAN LABOUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Archdeacon Potter's letter may be divided into two sections. The first portion deals with Indian labour pure and simple, and the conclusion he arrives at is open to question. The second portion brings up a new problem. Unrest there undoubtedly is. To quote the Archdeacon: "An opportunity is now open to provide a cure." He advocates handing over German East Africa as an outlet for surplus Indian labour and as a field for native Indian energy. I agree most heartily with him on this point, and hope he may be able to do something which will bring the problem nearer solution.

It has always seemed to me that migration of this kind within the Empire would be best obtained by the assignation of certain countries to certain peoples. Forbidding an Indian to enter a certain country, or heavily penalising him for doing so, only creates friction. There is, however, no hardship in determining and announcing that if he does go there he cannot purchase land or become a citizen—cannot obtain the franchise or acquire any share in the government of the country.

The League of Nations having given a mandate to Great Britain as regards German East Africa, let Archdeacon Potter's wish be fulfilled, and that immense territory be made an Indian reserve.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, May 15. G. L. H.

THE BALKANS.

Lecture by Sir V. Chirol.

On June 5 at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W., Sir Valentine Chirol, in the course of his second lecture on the Balkans, said that when war broke out, among the causes that contributed to the difficulties of the Allied Powers was the fact that the Germanic powers had already prepared and had at their immediate disposal not only an admirable intelligence department in every Balkan State, but the whole machinery for a most effective propaganda. In every large Balkan centre, in every market place, in the cafés, the schools, the press, even in the Government offices and the leading hotels they had their interested friends who spied, intrigued and agitated according to programme; whereas the Allies had neither the information, the organisation nor the ready-made agents for such a propaganda. Moreover, towards the end of 1914 it became generally known that Great Britain and France had acquiesced in Russia's claim to Constantinople and the Straits. But Roumania dreaded the idea of the Straits passing under Russian control, while, in Sofia and Athens, the definite installation of Russia at Constantinople meant a final blow at ambitions which both Bulgars and Greeks had long cherished; and German diplomacy was not slow to point out to the neutral states of the Balkans the folly of throwing in their lot with the Entente Powers, whose defeat would involve their smaller allies in a common disaster, and whose victory would merely fasten on their necks the formidable yoke of Russian domination. The terms on which Italy was induced to ally herself with the Entente were even more prejudicial to a diplomacy, the purpose of which was to keep the peace between Bulgaria and Serbia, for when the tenor of those terms leaked out, and it appeared to the Serbs that the Adriatic was to be handed over to Italian domination, it was natural they should feel less inclined than ever to hand over to Bulgaria a slice of Macedonian territory, and thereby cut themselves off from Greece and access to the Ægean.

How little the gravity of the situation in the Balkans was realised in London in the summer of 1915 was shown, said the lecturer, by an interview which he had in September of that year with Lord Kitchener, who assured him that the Germans had shot their bolt in Russia, that Austria had her hands full on the Italian front, and that, with the approach of winter, no new developments were probable in the Balkans. Yet within the next three weeks Serbia had been attacked on three fronts and overwhelmed. A year later Roumania at last came in, but only to suffer almost as grievous a fate as Serbia; largely owing to the cruel inadequacy of the military supplies promised to her but not rendered by Russia. The treaties of Brest-Litovsk and of Bucharest were the high-water mark of German military supremacy in eastern and south-eastern Europe, and demonstrated the economic and political servitude in which German military supremacy would have involved the world.

Of present difficulties, Sir Valentine Chirol said that in regions where races and nationalities were so strangely intermingled without achieving fusion, it would be impossible to draw boundaries that would not be open to objection on ethnical, economic or other grounds. Still less could we hope for the cheerful acceptance of those boundaries. In some cases, the best remedy might be found in the migration across the new boundary lines of those sections of the population that could not reconcile themselves to the new allegiance; and, in the relatively primitive conditions in which the Balkan peoples lived, migration would not constitute the hardship that it would to others in a more advanced stage of social development.

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Controller of Munitions, Bombay.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Montenegro. June 5.

Mr. R. MCNEILL asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether an international mission had recently been sent to Montenegro; if so, would he say of what persons the mission was composed, by whose authority was it sent, what were its instructions, and was the Royal Government of Montenegro consulted as to the despatch of the mission; and had any protest been received by the delegates of the Allied Powers in Paris from the Montenegrin Government with regard to the mission?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: A mission, consisting of a United States military officer on behalf of the United States Government and of a distinguished British diplomatist on behalf of His Majesty's Government, recently proceeded to Montenegro in order to obtain information with regard to conditions prevailing in that country. The Government of Montenegro were not consulted as to the appointment of this mission, and have made no protest on the subject.

Mr. MCNEILL: Why were the Montenegrin Government not consulted, seeing that they were a sovereign and Allied State, and that it would be in accordance with the usual procedure?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: I would be glad if my hon. friend would give me notice of that question.

Mr. MCNEILL asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government had officially recognised the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; and whether such recognition had safeguarded the right of the Montenegrin people to determine for themselves whether or not they should be included in such Kingdom, and under what conditions as to the retention or otherwise of their own monarchy in the event of their desiring to be so included?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part is a matter for the consideration of the Peace Conference in Paris.

Mr. MCNEILL: Can my hon. friend not give any information as to the terms upon which the recognition has taken place, as asked in the second part of the question?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: I could not without notice.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official Report.

DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Egypt.—Volunteers in India.—Troops in Mesopotamia. INDIA: Afghanistan Operations (Aeroplanes).—Textile Mills, Bombay. (June 3.)

AFGHAN TOWNS (Bombing). ROYAL NAVY: Dardanelles (Dispatches). EGYPT.—ABYSSINIAN CORPORATION, LIMITED. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL.—TELEGRAPHISTS IN EGYPT.—INDIA: Currency Committee.—SUEZ CANAL COMPANY (Strike). (June 4.)

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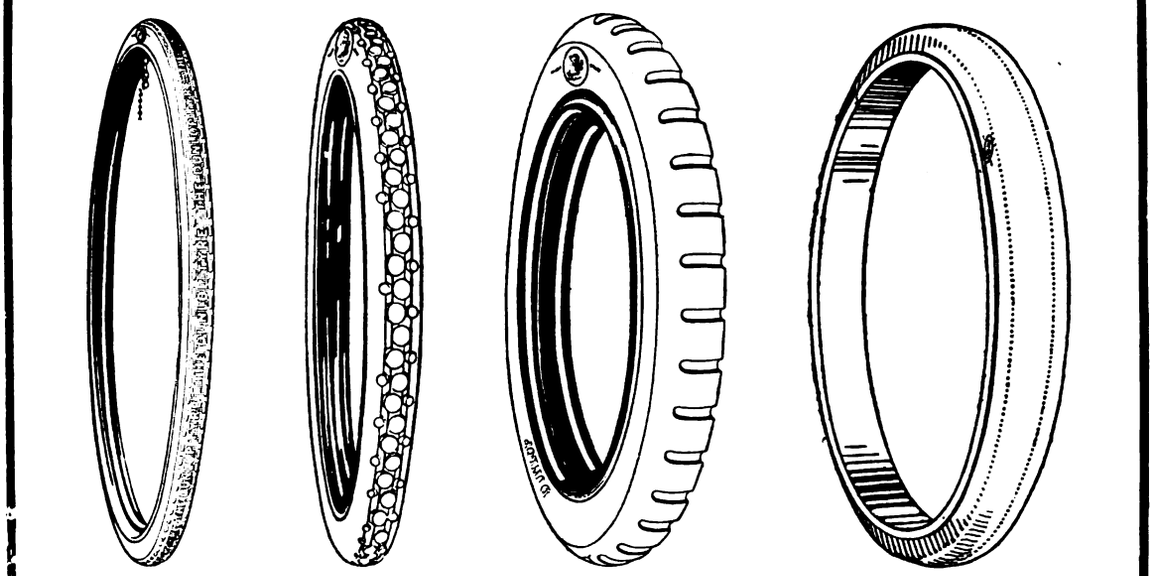
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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE PERSIAN GULF, PAST AND PRESENT.*

The events of the past four years have, amongst many other changes, produced a great improvement in the geographical knowledge of the average man or woman. Thus, one now hears names of places in all parts of the globe fall glibly, yet with understanding, from the lips of the man in the street, and the mention of, say, the Persian Gulf, Busreh, or the Hejaz is certain to secure from many people a prompt and keen attention, whereas in bygone days it would have fallen on unheeding ears. To all such as are interested in those little-known countries lying on the sea and land routes between the Mediterranean and India there is afforded an opportunity of learning something of the history of these lands and their inhabitants from these two volumes by the late Colonel S. B. Miles, of the Indian Army and Political Service, whose duties called him during the latter part of the nineteenth century to spend many years in Muskat, Baghdad, Zanzibar and the neighbourhood.

In his book Colonel Miles deals chiefly with the country of Oman, giving in his copious notes on the history and geography, flora and fauna of that part of Arabia, the fruit of his many years of residence on that inhospitable coast, whose history for long periods is one series of inter-tribal wars, varied only occasionally by intervals of peace and industrial prosperity when a chief stronger than the average held the coveted position of Imam. But there was a time when Oman and the neighbouring regions were far from being the somewhat insignificant lands they now are. In those days they held the doorway through which must pass the great trade from India, and even China, to Mesopotamia and Asia Minor; by which the spices and products of the Far East were supplied to the wealthy and luxurious inhabitants of Babylonia and Egypt, thanks to the daring and enterprise of the Omani navigators. It seems hard to realise in these modern days that the Arabs were amongst the first to practise the art of navigation, and their courage and seamanship were submitted to no slight test when making a voyage to the Indian or East African coasts in their *baghtas*, much the same craft as may be seen to-day in the Shatt-el-Arab. It was only the fact that the Omanis were so badly situated for land transport that prevented them from developing into a great and prosperous nation.

Coming to more recent times, Col. Miles has devoted considerable space to an account of the rivalry between the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English for the Gulf trade which led to the establishment of the first factories and political representatives in these parts, and relates how our Indian shipping was preyed upon by the native highwaymen of the seas to such an extent that for many years the country west of Ras Mussandum was known to Europeans by the ill-sounding title of "The Pirate Coast." Nor was it till after several attempts had been made that the piracy on these seas was eventually stamped out by an expedition sent from India as recently as 1820; while in the present century this same stretch has provided a base for many a gun-running adventure. One most admit, however, that the Arabs were not the only pirates to frequent these parts: towards the end of the seventeenth century the Arabian and Red Seas became the happy hunting grounds of English and French pirates, amongst whom one learns, figured the notorious names of Kidd and Avory.

That part of the book, however, which calls for most recognition is the dynastic and internal history of Oman and the appreciation of the influence of Mohammed. Though the Arab races are perhaps the most retentive people in the world regarding their genealogy, it is no easy matter to collate and reconcile the conglomeration of detail which has to a large extent been handed down by word of mouth from one generation to another and is not infrequently conflicting. In attempting this task Col. Miles proves clearly that his was no passing interest in the country to which his service took him, and though the succession of names of kings and dynasties may at times weary or confuse the reader, we cannot fail to be grasped now and then by sketches given occasionally of strong and striking characters, such as the Imam Seyidd Saud, the glory of the Al-Bu Saur dynasty, who was deemed not unworthy of notice by Napoleon when he was shaping his plans against India.

So much has been written about Mohammed, his life and work, that one may scarcely avoid the pitfalls of repetition; but whatever may be said concerning the religious side of the subject, it is pleasing to read the following appreciation of a remarkable character, written by one who had spent so much of his time among the followers of Islam.—

> Mohammed, to at least the same extent as any other law-giver, is entitled to the applause, veneration and gratitude of the world. It is the business of a law-giver to demarcate the boundaries of men's actions, to lay down just ordinances for the protection of the oppressed and helpless, to screen offenders from partial punishment, etc., and this is just what Mohammed did. His code was crude and imperfect, shortsighted and inadequate perhaps, but it represented the spirit of the age and nation and was intended for the Arab race. The difficulty is that his laws are not elastic enough: they are so mixed up with religion that they are unchangeable. But they took the place of chaos and worked an unexampled change in the condition and in promoting the social welfare of the Arab.

From the above may be obtained some idea of the wide range of subjects touched on by the notes of Col. Miles in these two volumes. Admittedly a book hardly likely to appeal *per se* to the public in general, but to that rather restricted circle who have a more than superficial interest in "the Gulf," as it is known to them, a most interesting and useful book of reference. We can only regret that the author was not permitted by his failing health to amplify and publish in their completed form these notes and records of travel in lands for which the future now promises so much.

*"The Countries and Tribes of the Persian Gulf." By Colonel S. B. Miles. 2 vols. (Harrison. 31s. 6d. net.)

THE NEW ROUMANIA.†

The world has been so surfeited with propaganda during the past four years that it is naturally suspicious of anything that looks like political propaganda. Fortunately, the justice of the Roumanian cause is so clear that it does not need to depend on the ordinary arts of the propagandist; it is only necessary for the Roumanian patriot to cite facts, and they interpret themselves. The case for a greater Roumania is indeed clear and unchallengeable by whatever principles we test it, and these two books sum up the position convincingly. Of the two we must regard that of M. Poporici as the more valuable contribution, for it discusses, with a mass of detail and statistics and an admirable map, the question of the Rumane populations in Transylvania and Hungary. The existence of the great fringe of Roumanian nationals under foreign control was scarcely recognised in France and England before the war, but since 1914 it has become notorious, and it has appealed to liberal sentiment among the Allies as a cogent argument for revising the national frontiers in the Near East. Curiously enough, the pacifists who have started from the assumption that the Central Powers were usually right in their position, have attempted to ignore the unliberated nationalities, or fractions of nationalities, in a way that would have profoundly shocked the old liberal sympathisers with the old national cause of Italy and Greece; yet if justice can be done to the one it should be done to the other, and the Roumanian question, like that of the freedom of Poland, is an effective touchstone for the pacifist who masquerades under the banner of Liberalism. The pacifist, in fact, applauds self-determination in theory, but opposes it in practice, because it works out to the detriment of Germany and Austria and to the benefit of the Allies—a curious contradiction which helps to explain the impotence and perhaps the irritation of the pacifists of the world to-day.

That Germany continues to hate Roumania, even with a so-called reformed Government in office at Berlin, is shown by the fact that in the remarks on the Peace Terms the Germans hold it an indisputable fact that Roumania entered the war "as a war of conquest," and they apply the same judgment to Italy. They do not realise, or at least they do not care to admit, that the only conquest which Roumania desired was the liberation of her own oppressed people. The justice of Roumania's ambitions emerges clearly from the statements of her case in these two excellent little books.

†"La Question Roumaine." By Aurele C. Poporici. (Payot et Cie. "Pourquoi la Roumanie a fait la Guerre." By J. Wisu. (Payot et Cie.)

BOOK NOTES.

John Lane has published, at 12s. 6d., "Asia Minor," by W. A. Hawley.

We have received the first number of "Hutchinson's Story Magazine." A poem by Rudyard Kipling commences the number, which includes, among other things, characteristic stories by Rider Haggard, H. de Vere Stacpoole, Baroness Orczy, and Charles Garvice.

Mr. V. J. Seligman has in preparation with Messrs. Allen and Unwin a new volume called "The Salonika Side-Show."

Paul Selver, one of our rare translators of Slavonic literature, has published through Kegan Paul, at 2s. 6d. net, an "Anthology of Modern Slavonic Literature."

A small book called "A New Constitution for India," which discusses the problem of the electorates, has been published at Calcutta by W. Newman and Co.

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ISSUE OF

4 PER CENT. FUNDING LOAN, 1960-90.

Redeemable within 71 Years by means of a Sinking Fund. Interest payable half-yearly on the 1st May & 1st November.
A First Dividend as follows will be paid on the 1st NOVEMBER, 1919 :—

ON ALLOTMENTS APPLIED FOR—	"Fully-paid Allotments." £ s. d.	"Instalment Allotments." £ s. d.	
on or before the 21st June	1 9 2% ...	0 2 3	on each complete £1,000 in allotments of £1,000 and upwards.
from the 23rd June to the 28th June ...	1 7 7% ...	0 1 6	" " " " "
from the 30th June to the 5th July	1 6 1% ...	0 0 9	" " " " "
from the 7th July to the 12th July	1 4 6% ...	nil	

PRICE OF ISSUE, £80 per Cent.

yable as follows :—1. For FULLY-PAID ALLOTMENTS—

On Application	£80 per cent.
2. For INSTALMENT ALLOTMENTS—	
On Application	£ 5 per cent.
On Tuesday, the 29th July, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 21st August, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 18th September, 1919..	£10 "
On Thursday, the 16th October, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 13th November, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 11th December, 1919	£15 "
On Thursday, the 8th January, 1920	£10 "
	£80 per cent.

The Stock is an Investment authorised by "The Trustee Act, 1893," and Trustees may invest therein notwithstanding that the price may at the time of investment exceed the redemption value of £100 per cent.

THE GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK OF ENGLAND and THE GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK OF IRELAND are authorised to receive applications for the above Loan, which will take the form of Stock or Bonds to Bearer at the option of Subscribers; Stock may be inscribed as "transferable in the Stock Transfer Books," or may be registered as "transferable by Deed."

Applications must be for sums which are multiples of £50, and may be for either (1) "Fully-paid Allotments," or (2) "Instalment Allotments." They will be received at the Bank of England Loans Office, 5 and 6, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3, and at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, and may be forwarded either direct, or through the medium of any Banker or Stockbroker in the United Kingdom.

British Government Treasury Bills issued prior to the 1st June, 1919, will be accepted under discount at 3½ per cent. per annum as from the 21st June, 1919, in lieu of cash in payment for "Fully-paid Allotments," provided that the entire proceeds of the Bills are so applied. "Fully-paid Allotments" made in respect of such Applications will receive on the 1st November, 1919, the dividend payable on that date in respect of "Fully-paid Allotments" applied for on or before the 21st June, 1919.

Stock and Bonds of the undermentioned Issues will be accepted at par as the equivalent of cash in payment, in whole or in part, for "Fully-paid Allotments" of this Issue:—

£4: 10s. per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945.
£5 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922.
£6 per cent. Exchequer Bonds 1920.
£4 per cent. National War Bonds, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Series.
£5 per cent. National War Bonds, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Series.

Where the Stock or Bonds surrendered do not represent the exact sum required to pay for an Allotment (which must be a multiple of £50), the requisite balance must be provided in cash. Interest accrued to the 21st June, 1919, will be paid on holdings surrendered, and the Allotments issued in lieu of such holdings will receive on the 1st November, 1919, the dividend payable on that date in respect of "Fully-paid Allotments" applied for on or before the 21st June, 1919. In the case of the £6 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920, an additional payment will be made representing interest at 1 per cent. from the 21st June, 1919, to the 16th February, 1920, upon the holdings surrendered.

NOTE.—Applications paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock inscribed or Bonds registered in the Books of the Bank of Ireland must be forwarded to the Bank of Ireland, Dublin.

Stock registered in the Books of the General Post Office, and Bonds issued by the General Post Office, will not be accepted at the Bank of England. They will be accepted at the Post Office under the arrangements set forth in the separate Prospectus issued by H.M. Postmaster-General.

The Principal and Interest of the Loan will be a charge on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

His Majesty's Government undertake to set aside at the close of each half-year a sum equal to 2½ per cent. on the nominal amount of the Loan orginally created. After deducting therefrom the amount required for payment of Interest on the Loan for the half-year, the balance of the sum so set aside will be carried to a Sinking Fund which will be applied during the succeeding half-year to the purchase of the Loan for cancellation if the price is at or under par; when the price is above par it will be either so applied or otherwise invested under the control of His Majesty's Treasury. Any outstanding balance of the Loan not previously redeemed will be repaid at par on the 1st May, 1990, but His Majesty's Government reserve to themselves the right, on giving three calendar months' notice in the "London Gazette," to redeem at par at any time on or after the 1st May, 1960, any outstanding balance of the Loan not previously purchased and cancelled by the operation of the Sinking Fund.

Stock and Bonds of this issue will be accepted by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue as the equivalent of cash on the basis of £80 cash for each £100 Stock or Bonds surrendered, with due adjustment on account of interest, in satisfaction of amounts due on account of Death Duties, provided that the Stock or Bonds surrendered have formed part of the Estate passing on death of the deceased continuously up to the date of death from the date of the original subscription or for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date of death. Stock and Bonds so surrendered and outstanding will be held for account of His Majesty's Government until redeemed by the operation of the Sinking Fund, or until the final redemption of the Loan, any portion of the Sinking Fund applied in any half-year to the purchase for cancellation of Stock or Bonds so held will bear to the total of the Sinking Fund available a ratio not exceeding that which the Stock and Bonds so held at the commencement of such half-year bore to the total of the Loan then outstanding.

Stock or Bonds of this issue and the interest payable from time to time in respect thereof will be exempt from all British Taxation, present or future, so long as it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that they are in the beneficial ownership of persons who are neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Further, the interest payable from time to time in respect of Stock and Bonds of this Issue will be exempt from British Income Tax, present or future, so long as it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that the Stock or Bonds are in the beneficial ownership of persons not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, without regard to the question of domicile. Where Bonds are in the beneficial ownership of a person entitled to exemption under these provisions, the relative Coupons will be paid without deduction for Income Tax or other taxes if accompanied by a declaration of ownership in such form as may be required by the Treasury.

The Books of the Loan will be kept at the Bank of England and at the Bank of Ireland.

Stock will be convertible into Bonds to Bearer (in denominations of £50, £100, £200, £500, £1,000, and £5,000), with Coupons attached for the Interest payable half-yearly, and Bonds will be convertible into Stock without payment of any fee. Stock will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of a penny.

Dividend warrants will be forwarded by post. In the case of inscribed and registered holdings of "Fully-paid Allotments," the warrants for the first dividend, payable 1st November, 1919, will be forwarded in all cases to the original Allottees or their Nominees.

"Fully-paid Allotments" will be issued in one or other of the following forms as applicants may direct,:—

1. "Certificate of Inscription" of Stock transferable in the Stock Transfer Books;
2. "Register Certificate" of Stock transferable by Deed;
3. "Bond Certificate(s)" exchangeable in due course for Bond(s) to Bearer.

Allotments made in respect of applications paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock or Registered Bonds will in all cases be inscribed or registered in the names of the holders in whose names the surrendered holdings stood. Allotments made in respect of applications paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Bearer Bonds will in all cases be made in Bearer form.

Allotment Letters with Coupon attached for the dividend, if any, due 1st November, 1919, will be issued in respect of "Instalment Allotments," and, when paid in full, may be inscribed or registered on or after the 1st September, 1919, or may be exchanged for Bonds to Bearer as soon as these can be prepared.

The Instalments payable in respect of "Instalment Allotments" may be paid in full on or after the 29th July, 1919, under discount at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum. Where payment in full is made between two instalment dates, discount will be calculated as from the instalment date next succeeding the date of such full payment. In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture. Payments may be made without additional charge at Offices of the undermentioned Banks in the United Kingdom.

A commission of one-eighth per cent. will be allowed to Bankers, Stockbrokers, and Financial Houses on Allotments made in respect of applications bearing their Stamp, and paid for wholly in cash and/or by the discounting of Treasury Bills. No commission will be allowed on Allotments paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock or Bonds.

Application Forms for
(1) "Fully-paid Allotments,"
(2) "Instalment Allotments,"
to be paid for wholly in cash and/or by the discounting of Treasury Bills may be obtained at the Bank of England and at the Bank of Ireland; at any Bank or Money Order Office in the United Kingdom; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall, and Co., 13, George Street, Mansion House, E.C.4; and of any of the principal Stockbrokers.

Application Forms for "Fully-paid Allotments" to be paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock or Registered Bonds, have been sent by post to all inscribed and registered holders (in the case of a joint account to the first holder) of Issues receivable in lieu of Cash. Further Forms may be obtained—

(At the Bank of England, London, E.C.)—
1 (a) For the surrender of holdings registered or inscribed in the Books of the Bank of England;
(b) For the surrender of Bonds to Bearer.
(At the Bank of Ireland, Dublin)—
2 For the surrender of holdings registered or inscribed in the Books of the Bank of Ireland.

Applicants for these Forms must state the description of holding which it is desired to surrender.

The List of Applications will be closed on Saturday, the 12th July, 1919.
Bank of England, 12th June, 1919.

LIST OF BANKS.

Bank of England.
Bank of Ireland.
Bank of Liverpool and Martin's, Ltd.
Bank of Scotland.
Barclays Bank, Ltd.
Beckett and Co.
Belfast Banking Co., Ltd.
British Linen Bank.
Child and Co.
Clydesdale Bank, Ltd.
Cocks, Biddulph and Co.
Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
Coutts and Co.
Cox and Co.
Dingley and Co
Dingley Pearse and Co
Drummonds.
Equitable Bank, Ltd
Fox, Fowler and Co.
Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co.
Grindlay and Co.
Guernsey Banking Co., Ltd.
Guernsey Commercial Banking Co., Ltd.
Guinness, Mahon and Co.
Gunner and Co.
Halifax Commercial Banking Co., Ltd.
Hibernian Bank, Ltd.
Hoares.
Holt and Co
Isle of Man Banking Co., Ltd.
Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Ltd.
Lloyds Bank, Ltd.
London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd.
London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd.
McGrigor, Sir C. R., Bt., and Co.
Manchester and County Bank, Ltd.
Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Co., Ltd.
Mercantile Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
Munster and Leinster Bank, Ltd.
National Bank, Ltd.
National Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
National Provincial & Union Bank of England, Ltd.
North of Scotland & Town & County Bank, Ltd.
Northamptonshire Union Bank, Ltd.
Northern Banking Co., Ltd.
Palatine Bank, Ltd.
Provincial Bank of Ireland, Ltd.
Royal Bank of Ireland, Ltd.
Royal Bank of Scotland.
Sheffield Banking Co., Ltd.
Shilson Coode and Co.
Stilwell and Sons.
Tubb and Co.
Ulster Bank, Ltd.
Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd.
Union Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
West Yorkshire Bank, Ltd.
Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd.
Yorkshire Penny Bank, Ltd.

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ISSUE OF

4 PER CENT. VICTORY BONDS.

Redeemable at par by a cumulative Sinking Fund operating by means of Annual Drawings commencing 1st September, 1920. Interest payable half-yearly on the 1st MARCH and 1st SEPTEMBER. First Dividends as follows will be paid on the 1st March, 1920:—

ON ALLOTMENTS APPLIED FOR—	"Fully-paid Allotments."	"Instalment Allotments."
On or before the 21st June	£2 15 9%	£1 6 3%
From the 23rd June to the 28th June	£2 14 3%	£1 6 2%
From the 30th June to the 5th July	£2 12 8%	£1 6 1%
From the 7th July to the 12th July	£2 11 2%	£1 6 0%

PRICE OF ISSUE, £85 per Cent.

Payable as follows: 1.—FOR FULLY-PAID ALLOTMENTS—

On Application	£85 per cent.

2.—FOR INSTALMENT ALLOTMENTS—

On Application	£5 per cent.
On Friday, the 8th August, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 4th September, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 2nd October, 1919	£15 "
On Thursday, the 30th October, 1919	£10 "
On Monday, the 24th November, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 11th December, 1919	£10 "
On Thursday, the 8th January, 1920	£15 "
	£85 per cent.

The Bonds are an investment authorised by "The Trustee Act, 1893," and Trustees may invest therein notwithstanding that the price may at the time of investment exceed the redemption value of £100 per cent.

THE GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK OF ENGLAND and THE GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK OF IRELAND are authorised to receive applications for the above Bonds which will be issued in denominations of £50, £100, £200, £500, £1,000, and £5,000.

Applications may be for either "Fully-paid Allotments" or "Instalment Allotments." They will be received at the Bank of England Loans Office, 5 and 6, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3, and at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, and may be forwarded either direct or through the medium of any Banker or Stockbroker in the United Kingdom.

British Government Treasury Bills issued prior to the 1st June, 1919, will be accepted under discount at 3½ per cent. per annum as from the 21st June, 1919, in lieu of cash in payment for "Fully-paid Allotments," provided that the entire proceeds of the Bills are so applied. "Fully-paid Allotments" made in respect of such applications will receive on the 1st March, 1920, the dividend payable on that date in respect of "Fully-paid Allotments" applied for on or before the 21st June, 1919.

Stock and Bonds of the undermentioned Issues will be accepted at par as the equivalent of cash in payment, in whole or in part, for "Fully-paid Allotments" of this Issue:—

£4 10s. per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945
£5 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1919, 1920, 1921, and 1922.
£6 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920.
£4 per cent. National War Bonds, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Series.
£5 per cent. National War Bonds, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Series.

Where the Stock or Bonds surrendered do not represent the exact sum required to pay for an Allotment (which must be a multiple of £50), the requisite balance must be provided in cash. Interest accrued to 21st June, 1919, will be paid on holdings surrendered, and the Bonds issued in lieu of such holdings will receive on the 1st March, 1920, the dividend payable on that date in respect of "Fully-paid Allotments" applied for on or before the 21st June, 1919. In the case of the £6 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920, an additional payment will be made representing interest at 1 per cent. from the 21st June, 1919, to the 16th February, 1920, upon the holdings surrendered.

NOTE.—Applications paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock inscribed or Bonds registered in the Books of the Bank of Ireland must be forwarded to the Bank of Ireland, Dublin.

Stock registered in the Books of the General Post Office, and Bonds issued by the General Post Office, will not be accepted at the Bank of England. They will be accepted at the Post Office under the arrangements set forth in the separate Prospectus issued by H.M. Postmaster-General.

The Principal and Interest of the Bonds will be a charge on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

His Majesty's Government undertake to set aside at the close of each half-year a sum equal to 2½ per cent. on the nominal amount of the Bonds originally created. After deducting therefrom the amount required for payment of interest on the Bonds for the half-year, the balance of the sum so set aside will be carried to a Sinking Fund which will be applied by means of annual drawings to the redemption of the Bonds at par (including Bonds which have been surrendered to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for death duties as hereinafter provided), the Bonds to be redeemed in each year being determined by lot and paid off on the 1st September in such year in accordance with regulations made by the Treasury. The numbers of the Bonds drawn for redemption on each occasion will be advertised in the "London Gazette" not less than two months prior to the date of redemption. Interest on Bonds drawn for repayment will cease from the date on which the Bonds become repayable. The first drawing will be that for the Bonds to be redeemed on the 1st September, 1920.

Bonds of this Issue will be accepted at their face value by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue as the equivalent of cash, with due adjustment on account of interest, in satisfaction of amounts due on account of Death Duties, provided that the Bonds surrendered have formed part of the Estate passing on death of the deceased continuously up to the date of death from the date of the original subscription or for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date of death. Bonds surrendered under these provisions will be held for account of His Majesty's Government until drawn for redemption as provided in the preceding paragraph.

Bonds of this Issue and the interest payable from time to time in respect thereof will be exempt from all British taxation, present or future, so long as it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that they are in the beneficial ownership of persons who are neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Further, the interest payable from time to time in respect of Bonds of this Issue will be exempt from British Income Tax, present or future, so long as it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that the Bonds are in the beneficial ownership of persons not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, without regard to the question of domicile. Where Bonds are in the beneficial ownership of a person entitled to exemption under these provisions, the relative Coupons will be paid without deduction for Income Tax or other taxes if accompanied by a declaration of ownership in such form as may be required by the Treasury.

Bonds of this Issue may be registered in the Books of the Bank of England. For this purpose the Bonds must be lodged at the Bank to be endorsed with particulars of registration, after which they will be redelivered to the registered holders. Registered Bonds will be "Transferable by Deed" and may be re-converted into Bonds to Bearer by means of transfer.

Dividends will in all cases be paid by means of Coupons attached to the Bonds, whether registered or to bearer.

Bonds with Coupons attached for the dividend due 1st March, 1920, and subsequent dividends will be issued in respect of "Fully-paid Allotments." Bonds issued in respect of applications paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock or Registered Bonds will in all cases be registered in the names of the holders in whose names the surrendered holdings stood. Allotments made in respect of applications paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Bearer Bonds will in all cases be made in Bearer form.

Allotment Letters with Coupon attached for the dividend due 1st March, 1920, will be issued in respect of "Instalment Allotments" and, when paid in full, may be exchanged on and after the 1st March, 1920, for Bonds with Coupons attached for subsequent dividends.

The instalments payable in respect of "Instalment Allotments" may be paid in full on or after the 8th August, 1919, under discount at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum. Where payment in full is made between two instalment dates, discount will be calculated as from the instalment date next succeeding the date of such full payment. In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture. Payments may be made without additional charge at Offices of the undermentioned Banks in the United Kingdom.

A commission of one-eighth per cent. will be allowed to Bankers, Stockbrokers, and Financial Houses on Allotments made in respect of applications bearing their Stamp, and paid for wholly in cash and/or by the discounting of Treasury Bills. No commission will be allowed on Allotments paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock or Bonds.

Application Forms for
(1) "Fully-paid Allotments,"
(2) "Instalment Allotments,"
to be paid for wholly in cash and/or by the discounting of Treasury Bills may be obtained at the Bank of England and at the Bank of Ireland; at any Bank or Money Order Office in the United Kingdom; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall, and Co., 13, George Street, Mansion House, E.C.4; and of any of the principal Stockbrokers.

Application Forms for "Fully-paid Allotments" to be paid for, in whole or in part, by the surrender of Stock or Registered Bonds, have been sent by post to all inscribed and registered holders (in the case of a joint account to the first holder) of Issues receivable in lieu of Cash. Further Forms may be obtained—

(At the Bank of England, London, E.C.)—
1 (a) For the surrender of holdings registered or inscribed in the Books of the Bank of England;
(b) For the surrender of Bonds to Bearer.
(At the Bank of Ireland, Dublin)—
2 For the surrender of holdings registered or inscribed in the Books of the Bank of Ireland.

Applicants for these Forms must state the description of holding which it is desired to surrender.

The List of Applications will be closed on Saturday, the 12th July, 1919.
Bank of England, 12th June, 1919.

LIST OF BANKS.

Bank of England.
Bank of Ireland.
Bank of Liverpool and Martin's, Ltd.
Bank of Scotland.
Barclays Bank, Ltd.
Beckett and Co.
Belfast Banking Co., Ltd.
British Linen Bank.
Child and Co.
Clydesdale Bank, Ltd.
Cocks, Biddulph and Co.
Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd
Coutts and Co.
Cox and Co.
Dingley and Co.
Dingley Pearse and Co.
Drummonds.
Equitable Bank, Ltd.
Fox, Fowler and Co.
Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co
Grindlay and Co.
Guernsey Banking Co., Ltd.
Guernsey Commercial Banking Co., Ltd.
Guinness, Mahon and Co.
Gunner and Co.
Halifax Commercial Banking Co., Ltd
Hibernian Bank, Ltd.
Hoares.
Holt and Co.
Isle of Man Banking Co., Ltd.
Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Ltd.
Lloyds Bank, Ltd.
London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd.
London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd.
McGrigor, Sir C. R., Bt., and Co.
Manchester and County Bank, Ltd.
Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Co., Ltd.
Mercantile Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
Munster and Leinster Bank, Ltd.
National Bank, Ltd.
National Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
National Provincial & Union Bank of England, Ltd.
North of Scotland & Town & County Bank, Ltd.
Northamptonshire Union Bank, Ltd.
Northern Banking Co., Ltd.
Palatine Bank, Ltd.
Provincial Bank of Ireland, Ltd.
Royal Bank of Ireland, Ltd.
Royal Bank of Scotland.
Sheffield Banking Co., Ltd.
Shilson Coode and Co.
Stilwell and Sons.
Tubb and Co.
Ulster Bank, Ltd.
Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd.
Union Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
West Yorkshire Bank, Ltd.
Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd.
Yorkshire Penny Bank, Ltd.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. June 13	1919. May. 31	Friday	1337. Ramadan. 15	5679. Sivan. 15
14	June 1	Saturday.....	16	16
15	2	Sunday	17	17
16	3	Monday	18	18
17	4	Tuesday	19	19
18	5	Wednesday	20	20
19	6	Thursday	21	21

Lord and Lady Inchcape have returned to London from Scotland.

Mr. O. F. Jenkins, I. C. S., has been posted as Sessions Judge of Benares.

Prince and Princess Antoine Bibesco have left town for Sutton, Surrey.

Prebendary Gough has returned from his visit to the troops at Constantinople and Salonika.

In the Birthday Honours List appears the name of Capt. T. Angus Swan, who has been awarded the M.B.E.

The Abyssinian Mission, consisting of Dejazmatch Nado, Kantibar Gabru, and Ato Herui, is now in London.

Raj. Kumari Sri Leilaba, Princess of Gondal, was married to H.H. Raja Rana Bhagat Ghandra of Jubbal on May 11.

Lord Dalmeny, eldest son and heir of the Earl of Rosebery, has been appointed to the Staff of the High Commissioner in Egypt.

M. Pericles Argyropoulis, the Greek Minister accredited to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, left London on June 5 for Helsingfors.

Sir Sidney Low is lecturing on "The Government of India" at three o'clock to-day at 52, Portland Place, by kind permission of Lady St. Helier.

Lieutenant-General Sir William and Lady Marshall have returned to town. For the next two months their address will be 18, Berkeley Street, W.1.

On reversion from military duty Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Gill, I.M.S., has resumed his former appointment of Malaria Medical Officer in the Punjab.

Madame Nikolas P. Pashitch, the wife of the head of the Serbian Delegation attending the Peace Conference, arrived in London on June 10 from Paris.

Mr. R. A. Mant, of the Indian Civil Service, has been appointed a Companion of the Order of the Star of India on the occasion of the King's Birthday.

The marriage arranged between Major J. St. Aubyn King (62nd Punjabis) and Miss Jeanne Demuth will take place at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Kensington Gore, on June 28.

Mr. Shuttleworth, Commissioner of Police, Rangoon, is to succeed Lieut.-Colonel H. Des Vœux as Inspector-General of the Burma Police when he proceeds on long leave in August prior to retirement.

The engagement is announced between Edward B. Robinson, of Alma, Maturata, Ceylon, eldest son of the Rev. E. C. and Mrs. Robinson, of Chadsmore, Malvern, and Isaline Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horn, of Ivylands, Epping.

General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, the Governor of Gibraltar, and Lady Smith-Dorrien, accompanied by Captain Carrington, A.D.C., have returned to Gibraltar after an eight-day tour in Morocco as guests of General Lyautey, French Resident-General.

The engagement is announced of (Temporary) Captain James Elmslie Henderson, M.C., R.A., Egyptian Civil Service, only son of the Rev. George Henderson, B.D., Monzie, Scotland, and Edith Mary (Maidie), elder daughter of H. Michael Elliott, Hallamgate Road, Sheffield.

An engagement is announced between Douglas Royle Tweedie, bimbashi, Egyptian Coastguard Service, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Tweedie, Port Said, and Ethelwyn Marjorie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank. W. Chanter, of Bloomfield, Braunton, North Devon.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that Sirry Pasha has finally accepted the invitation of the Greek Government to go to that country and draw up the plans of an irrigation scheme in a certain province there, and is expected to leave in the course of August next for that purpose.

The marriage of Captain J. D. Gabb, Indian Army, son of Dr. J. P. A. Gabb, of Poyle Mount, Guildford, and Constance Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Davids, of Hillier House, Guildford, will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, on June 14 at half-past two o'clock.

Viscount Gladstone will preside, and Lord Bryce, Lieut.-Colonel Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., Dr. Ronald Burrows, and Dr. Clifford will speak, at a public meeting, to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on June 19, at 8.15 p.m., to express sympathy with the Armenian cause.

The marriage was celebrated on June 4 at All Saints', Wokingham, by the Rector, the Rev. B. Long, M.A., of Lt.-Paymaster A. R. Henderson, R.N., son of the late Richmond Henderson, Esq., Allahabad, India, with Phyllis Agnes, eldest daughter of Dr. Ernest Ward, Wokingham.

The marriage was celebrated on May 27 at Eltham Parish Church, by the Rev. Elphinstone Rivers, between Captain A. G. H. Dyce, Indian Army, son of Colonel G. H. C. Dyce, C.B., and Mrs. Dyce, and Evelyn, second daughter of the late A. J. Brown and of Mrs. A. J. Brown, Cheviots, Eltham.

The marriage took place on June 3, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Charing Cross, by the Rev. E. Powell, between John Mackay Pringle, I.C.S., son of the late David Pringle, and of Mrs. Pringle, Castelnau, Barnes, and May, widow of the Rev. T. L. Williams, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Downing, Elm Lodge, Hagley.

The *Egyptian Mail* of May 14 states:—Mr. W. A. Lloyd, recently of the A.I.F. in Egypt, has been created a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem. This is a unique honour for an Australian. The Order corresponds to the Papal Knighthoods, and is the only ecclesiastical Order of the Orthodox Church.

The marriage was celebrated on June 3 at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, by the Lord Bishop of Khartoum, assisted by the Rev. R. Sheppard, Vicar of the Parish, between Harold Alfred MacMichael, son of the late Rev. Charles MacMichael and the Hon. Mrs. MacMichael, and Nesta, daughter of Canon and Mrs. Stephens, of 104, Belgrave Road, S.W.

The marriage was celebrated on April 25, at S. Thomas Cathedral, Bombay, by the Rev. W. T. M. Hamerton, between Arthur Hugh Jay (Bunnie), Captain 1st, 150th Indian Infantry, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Snelling, of Norwich, and Bryn-Coed, Wroxham, and Elizabeth Helen, daughter of Captain E. J. W. and Mrs. Reader, of Guildford, Surrey.

The engagement is announced between Major Nelson Rooke, Highland Light Infantry, younger son of the late Dibney Rooke and Mrs. Edith de Chair, Twickenham, and Marjorie Leslie, elder daughter of Sir Alexander Wood Renton, lately Chief Justice of Ceylon, and Lady Wood Renton, Camberley. The marriage will take place in Cairo in the middle of June.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Thomas Hall Plumer, M.C., only son of General Sir Herbert Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C. General, and Lady Plumer, O.B.E., of 22, Ennismore Gardens, and Monica Anne Georgiana, only surviving child of Brigadier-General Tempest-Hicks, C.B., and Mrs. Tempest Hicks, of Gladsmuir, Monken Hadley, Herts, and Hillgrove, Wells, Somerset.

Colonel Lawrence, who has now completed his work with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, will shortly return to Oxford, where he will take up a Fellowship, and will resume his task of lecturing on history. It will be remembered by our readers that Colonel Lawrence, who is twenty-nine years of age, was for two years staff officer to the Emir Feisal, Commander-in-Chief of the Arab army, and son of the King of the Hejaz.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

A telegram from Belgrade states that Admiral Koltchak's Government at Omsk has appointed M. Straudman as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Yugoslav kingdom.

Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, the Egyptian Minister of Education, has been appointed Minister of Communications. He is succeeded in the Ministry of Education by Ahmed Talat Pasha, Procurator-General of Native Courts.

The Most Rev. John Henry Bernard, D.D., Archbishop of Dublin, has been appointed by the Crown Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, in succession to the late Sir J. P. Mahaffy. The new provost was born in India in 1860.

Brigadier-General Robert Byron Drury Blackeney, C.M.G., D.S.O., has been appointed general manager of the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones as from April 1, with the precedence and privileges of an Under-Secretary of State.

The appointment of a Chief Conservator of Forests has been sanctioned for the Madras Presidency, and Mr. S. Cox, at present Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, has been selected to that post. His headquarters will be at Madras.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on May 11 of W. Weekes, Sudan Government Railways.

The death occurred on June 1, at 87, Devonshire Road, Bristol, of Robert Dick, late of the East Indian Railway, in his 75th year.

The death occurred on May 26 at 4, College Road, Reading, of Major-General Richard Carruthers Budd, late Madras Staff Corps, aged 84.

The death occurred on May 24 at Kandapola, Ceylon, of William Poyntz Spurway, surviving son of Charles Spurway, of Spurway, Devon, aged forty-five.

The death is announced of Sir Vincent Frendo Azopardi, Chief Justice and President of the Court of Appeal and Vice-President of the Council of Government of Malta.

The death is announced from Bombay of Professor R. P. Karkaria, at the age of 50. Mr. Karkaria was well known for his mastery of the scientific historical methods of the West. His researches covered the most varied ground of Indian history, both ancient and modern; of the classics; of the sacred books of the East, and essays in both French and English history.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A combined Civil Post and Telegraph Office has been opened at Deltawah.

A Serbian Royal decree orders the demobilisation of the third class of the Serbian Army in the case of soldiers over 38 years of age.

The Government of India is now experimenting with a proposal made by Commissioner Booth-Tucker, of the Salvation Army, for the treatment of cactus as food for cattle.

The *Busreh Times* of May 3 states that the Civil Post Office at Qumah has been converted into a combined Post and Telegraph Office, open to paid inland telegraph traffic.

A message from Simla states that the monsoon rainfall in India shows signs of being considerably below the normal for June and July, although there is no indication of the drought reaching serious proportions.

On June 6 the Serbian Prince Regent gave a lunch in honour of the general commanding the French forces at Belgrade on the departure of his staff. A dinner and reception were also given by the Serbian officers in Belgrade to their French comrades of the "Army of Hungary," who are leaving Belgrade for a town in the Banat.

BRITISH ADRIATIC MISSION.

Nearly 10 per cent. of the British Adriatic Mission, which co-operated with the French and Italian Missions in the evacuation and re-equipment of the Serbian Army, lost their lives by drowning, through enemy bombing, and kindred causes. A Committee has now been formed, with Colonel F. P. S. Taylor as president, Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. L. Fitzwilliams as hon. treasurer, and Captain J. R. Johnson as hon. secretary, with the object of commemorating the fallen, and subscriptions are invited. Lieutenant-Colonel Solomon is writing an official history of the Mission, and photographs, diaries, or information for that purpose should be addressed to Captain Johnson, 804 M.T. Coy., R.A.S.C., Darlington, Co. Durham.

THE CAMPS' LIBRARY.

The report of the work of the Camps' Library recounts the history of one of the worthiest efforts of the war. Few people can fail to realise what an immense boon books and magazines were to our fighting men, but the value and work of the organisation which provided that boon are not so readily recognised. When it is realised that up to the Armistice some 16 million publications had been dealt with by the Camps' Library (which were sent to the armies in France, Salonika, Egypt, British East Africa, Mesopotamia, Italy, and Russia), some idea of the amount of labour which this excellent institution performed can be obtained.

The story of the collecting of the books is not without humour. Absolutely every kind was sent for despatch overseas, from Shakespeare to "How to Cut a Smart Blouse"! "Books of every language," says the report, "were sent in: French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Hindustani, Maori, and Gaelic found their way to the library, and once, in grave and anxious days at the beginning of the war, someone sent in a 'Guide to Germany.' It was first suggested that this should be thrown away, but a far-seeing optimist rescued it from destruction and set it in a prominent place to be kept for the day when it should be useful to guide our army into the land of our enemies. On the day the Armistice was signed that book went over to France."

"The absence of red tape in all this very complicated system of 'book rationing' for the whole Army is the one thing on which the Camps' Library prides itself, and is probably one of the reasons why it is believed the Army liked the Camps' Library." Without doubt the library was extremely popular with the troops, and deservedly so; in fact, it still is, because the work of the library is not yet complete, and literature is still being forwarded to the troops overseas.

A delegation of the International Red Cross, instructed to visit and give pecuniary help to the prisoners of the Central Powers in Greece and Macedonia, has left Switzerland for Rome, Athens, and Salonika.

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Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone No.: 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1919.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL.

At a time when the whole world is suffering from indecision and the lack of any settled policy in high places, it is much to the credit of the Secretary of State for India that he at least knows how to pursue in spite of stress and storm an even course towards an appointed goal. There are and must inevitably be wide differences of opinion as to the methods by which he proposes to carry into effect the declaration of policy made to Parliament on August 20, 1917. But the procedure he has followed since then has been steadily and courageously consistent with the momentous announcement that "the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India, as an integral part of the British Empire," was the policy of H.M. Government, who must, however, remain together with the Government of India "judges of the time and measure of each advance, and be guided by the co-operation received by those upon whom new opportunities will thus be conferred and by the extent to which it is found that confidence can be reposed in their sense of responsibility." Mr. Montagu, it will be remembered, proceeded in person to India to study on the spot in consultation with the Viceroy and with official and unofficial opinion the first steps to be taken in order to apply the principles set forth in it to the actual task of government and administration. As the result of his mission an exhaustive report bearing his signature and that of the Viceroy was laid just a year ago before Parliament. It proposed far-reaching changes of which the most important affected the sphere of Provincial Government. There was nothing very novel in the recommendations it contained for relaxing the rigid control hitherto exercised by the Central Government over the provinces, for, years ago, a Royal Commission on decentralisation had already pointed the way. The crucial recommendations were those that urged the transfer of certain administrative departments in the Provinces to Indian Ministers who, though sitting together with the Governor and his Council as members of one Government, responsible as hitherto to the British Parliament, were to be made separately and directly responsible in regard to those departments to Indian assemblies elected on the broadest franchise possible under existing conditions. The Report at once provoked the criticism which its authors indeed invited. Some of the criticism was very violent. The Report was denounced by Indian extremists as a ludicrous evasion of India's demand for immediate and full-blown Home Rule. It was denounced no less fiercely by British extremists as an abject surrender of our trusteeship for the Indian masses to a small body of political agitators. More reasonable were those critics who pointed out that it was impossible to judge of the value of the scheme as a whole until two vital *lacunæ* were filled in. What were precisely the subjects which could be properly and safely "transferred" to Indian Ministers, and how were the electorates to be constituted that should return the assemblies to which those Ministers would be held responsible in regard to the "transferred subjects"? Mr. Montagu did not hesitate to admit the validity of this criticism, for the Report admitted that its authors had not had either the time or the opportunity fully to explore those two very difficult problems; and he appointed two Committees, under Lord Southborough, to investigate them thoroughly in the course of last winter by inquiries conducted in each of the eight provinces to be brought within the scheme. At the same time the Government of India and the Provincial Governments were to submit their reasoned opinions on the scheme as a whole. Their final reports, together with those of the Southborough Committees, having been duly received and considered by the Secretary of State, he has now laid before Parliament the Bill which he has commended to it for adoption in a second reading speech of great ability and moderation, whilst inviting the co-operation of a Select Committee of both Houses to examine its provisions and suggest, if necessary, such amendments as may be compatible with its fundamental principles.

Public opinion, both in this country and in India, will, we feel confident, recognise that the thoroughness and skill with which the introduction of so grave a measure has been handled are not unworthy of the magnitude of the issues involved. We shall doubtless again be told that the Bill represents a tremendous leap into the dark, but if that expression could ever be properly applied to a policy which, after all, merely pursues an ideal that has been present to the mind of many of our best administrators in India since the days of Thomas Munro and Mountstewart Elphinstone, nearly a hundred years ago, it could be applied only to the declaration in which it was first definitely formulated. Even the Indo-British Association does not, however, demur to the principles of the declaration, and it may be averred without fear of contradiction that the policy which the Bill attempts to carry into effect is now definitely accepted in this country. The Montagu-Chelmsford Report, upon which the Bill is based, has itself been for some twelve months before the public, and not the least cogent of the arguments used in the House by the Secretary of State is the failure of his critics to produce any real alternative scheme for translating the declaration into practice. He contends, and justifiably contends, that his scheme therefore holds the field, and, if once that contention be admitted, his case is clearly more than half won. For what is his case? It is that, if we want to train the Indians to self-government, we must give to the best and ablest amongst them, within limits however restricted, some measure of administrative authority, and that that measure of authority must be coupled with a corresponding measure of responsibility, without which power is invariably a snare and a temptation; and we must also create from the best materials available some representative body to which they shall discharge their responsibility. Indians have long complained that we will not allow them to go near the water because they have not yet learnt how to swim. We propose now to meet that complaint, not by allowing them at once to plunge into deep water in which they might come to grief themselves and drag the British *raj* down with them, but by marking off certain smoother areas of water in which they can learn and be helped by us to learn with less risk either to themselves or to us. Those areas are to be enlarged in proportion as they learn, until experience shows them capable of breasting the deepest waters without assistance or restraint.

That is the object of the diarchical or dual system which the Bill proposes to introduce in the first place into provincial government and administration, and no one has hitherto produced any practical alternative by which that object can be achieved. It is admittedly an experiment in political education—a delicate and difficult experiment, not free from danger, and for that reason hedged round with substantial safeguards which, if used by provincial governors to whose hands they are chiefly committed with caution and with firmness,

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ought to prove adequate and effective. We cannot therefore regret that in spite of the objections urged with great ability by five provincial governments, whose own counter-proposals have been subjected to exhaustive and, we think, convincing criticism by the Government of India, the Secretary of State has committed himself finally in the Bill to the introduction of the much-disputed dual system. It will, of course, be open to the Joint Committee to recommend modifications or even rejection, but we doubt whether it will do so, as its task should be not destructive but constructive, and it will find an ample field for its energies in the many important questions that the Bill still leaves open, as, for instance, to name only one of great perplexity, whether there shall be a common or a separate purpose for the "reserved" and the "transferred" departments in the Provinces. Upon the Joint Committee will also devolve the duty of considering the proposals to be submitted to it by the Secretary of State for giving effect to various recommendations of the Southborough Committees in the light of the despatches in which the Government of India has reviewed them. Many of their recommendations as well as other matters determined only in principle by the Bill are to be worked out in detail in the form of rules issuing in India, the policy on which those rules are framed being alone laid down by statute. This is, indeed, one of the wisest provisions of the Bill, for it secures the elasticity necessary to a scheme which is intended avowedly to be a transitional scheme capable of steady expansion, and nothing would tend more to delay and hamper expansion than the necessity for referring back to London for statutory sanction every modification which experience may suggest. Nevertheless, no evasion of Parliamentary control over the exercise of the rule-making power will be possible, as all rules will have to be laid before Parliament for such action as it may think fit to take upon them before they can actually come into force.

There are many other important sections of the Bill dealing with the constitution of the Government of India and with the future of the Indian public services on which space does not allow us to comment to-day, and the provisions concerning the reorganisation of the India Office are still incomplete, as Lord Crewe's Committee appointed to inquire into the subject has not yet submitted its Report. But the chief interest unquestionably centres in the great constitutional experiment which it initiates in the sphere of Provincial Government. Mr. Montagu pleads very eloquently that a measure of reform for which India—or, as we should prefer to put it, an influential body of Indian opinion that we can no longer afford to ignore—is waiting with confidence, not unmixed with impatience, cannot be safely curtailed or delayed. We agree with him, because this measure constitutes the fulfilment of a definite promise made to the people of India, and throws on to them the onus of proving their own fitness for further instalments of the power and responsibility essential to that true partnership in the British Commonwealth of Nations to which they aspire, and to which we have ourselves recognised their aspirations by securing the recognition of India as an original member of the League of Nations. In justice to ourselves as well as to India we could not do less, nor could we safely at present do more. Recent events in India itself have shown how dangerous are the elemental forces of disorder which even high-minded dreamers like Mr. Ghandi are apt to let loose but find themselves powerless to restrain; and how immature and helpless are still many of the best of the "politically minded" classes who allow themselves to be carried blindly down the inclined plane of emotional agitation into stormy waters of which they cannot plumb the depths. They can only be taught by responsibility, and, within the utmost limits of their safety and ours, responsibility is about to be given to them. We must hope that for their own sake and ours they will use it rightly. That hope might be less confident if the great material and economic changes which the war has produced in India, as in every other part of the world, were not bound to divert to more fruitful fields some of the excessive but rather sterile energies hitherto concentrated in India on political controversies. The Report of the Indian Industrial Commission set up during the war may well prove to be a document of no less abiding importance than the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, which itself contains a chapter on the economic aspects of the Indian problem that has attracted far less attention than it deserves. The British public has not yet begun to realise the economic ferment generated by the discovery and exploitation under the pressure of war necessity of India's vast material resources and industrial potentialities. Much has been said in this country, and rightly said, about India's loyalty during the war and about the gallant part played by Indian troops on every battle-front; but little has yet been said about the almost priceless value of the raw materials for war purposes which India supplied and, in many cases, could alone supply. Still less has been said about the extent to which Japanese and American as well as native competition have already succeeded as a consequence of war conditions in displacing our British import trade into India. We are on the eve, if not actually in the presence, of a complete transformation of Indian economic conditions almost as momentous as any political revolution. The demand for Indian self-government has been based hitherto mainly on political considerations, and it is well that a serious attempt should be made in this country to meet it before it has enlisted the overwhelming support of irresistible economic forces.

ENVER, HIS CHARACTER AND CAREER.—I.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The following are extracts from a series of notes jotted down by a late Arab officer in the Ottoman Army who knew Enver and his circle at the military school at Constantinople, and is therefore qualified to form a correct estimate of his character and intelligence. They give a true account of his career and define the real motives that led to his rapid advancement until he reached the top of the ladder of political power. One man sometimes alters the course of an empire's destiny, and, though genius is not always necessary, audacity and overwhelming ambition are indispensable qualities, especially in the case of a man like Enver, who rose from the ranks and had not the prestige of dynastic traditions behind him. In Enver's early career these traits lay hidden; indeed, he used then to give the impression of modesty bordering on timidity. A friend of the writer, a cultured Druse Emir, who knew all the young C.U.P. leaders intimately, once described Enver as being "shy like a maiden." That he possessed courage nobody can deny, but this quality degenerated into bold arrogance as soon as he came under the baleful influence of the Germans. Afterwards he acted like a mesmerised man, reflecting in thought and deed the dominant will of the Kaiser and his clique.

As a student he was mediocre, and used indeed to be taunted by his classmates with his backwardness in mathematics. His ignorance of this important branch of military science was once illustrated in instructions that he, when Governor of Benghazi, gave to the commandant of artillery for the utilisation of an old Italian 18-in. gun. Had these ignorant instructions been carried out the gun would have burst.


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

KIN GEORGE.

KING OF PAIN.
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As is well known, Enver came into the limelight on the outbreak of the Revolution, the origin of which may be traced to the incessant and costly punitive expeditions against Serbian, Bulgarian, Greek, and Albanian bands. Abdul Hamid's greatest error was the policy he adopted on the Macedonian question. The thinking section of the Ottoman Army finally saw that the only means of putting an end to this suicidal policy was to cut off the nails of the autocrat, and to that end they started founding secret military societies (committees). It was Enver's fortune to be one of the founders. He had just distinguished himself for conspicuous bravery in a fight against the Komitajis. His great ambition then was to vie with Aziz, Niazi, and Ayoub Sabri, who had distinguished themselves before him. When these military societies finally decided upon overt action, the following officers were, among many others, appointed for the fulfilment of that memorable deed: Ayoub Sabri, Aziz, Yussuf Zia, the artillery officer Niazi (who surpassed Enver in everything except cupidity), and Enver. Orders were passed to all the branches of the Committee to afford to these chosen delegates every possible help in the fulfilment of their mission. The regiments of Niazi and Enver had the largest measure of luck and success, as they had secured the support of the Albanian mountaineers, who were told that the chief object of the Revolution was the liberation of Macedonia, and especially of Albania, from the Bulgarian and Serbian yokes. This was the first symptom of Enver's nascent chauvinism. His ruse succeeded with those simple mountaineers, who trusted and respected Ayoub Sabri, Niazi, and Dervish Humbu, all three of Albanian origin.

When this first act of the Committee achieved the great success of compelling the autocrat of Yildiz to proclaim the Constitution, the eyes of all the weary empire turned naturally to what seemed to them to incarnate their salvation; and it so happened that the only names mentioned in connection with this first act of the drama in the telegrams that were flashed from end to end of the empire were those of Niazi and Enver; and the people, thirsting for freedom and in that psychological mood that favours the creation of dramatic situations, caught at these two names and idolised their bearers. The Central Committee, indeed, was anxious to screen its real leaders and active members behind the names of these two subaltern officers, as they still dreaded the party of Abdul Hamid and its myriad-eyed army of "mouchards." The real souls of the Committee were Atef and Sadek Bey, who, by the avowal of Niazi himself (*vide* his diary), was the all in all, and without whom there would have been no escape from Abdul Hamid's tentacles. Niazi as a real hero found his supreme satisfaction in the people's love and confidence, whereas Enver exploited this for playing the big game of the empire's fate; and a strange concourse of circumstances favoured the realisation of his Neroic ambition beyond his wildest dreams.

When, following the event of March 31, Mahmoud Shevket entered Constantinople at the head of his revolutionary army and crushed the reactionary movement, Enver was with him, and gained distinction in his attack on the Taxim Barracks. The youthful leaders of the Committee indulged on that occasion in many atrocities, and the dethronement of Abdul Hamid was succeeded by a state of wild anarchy at the capital. The German Ambassador, von Biberstein, with his well-known political cunning and acumen, saw his opportunity, and knew how to exploit the situation fully. In circumstances like these, when the gates of authority are unhinged, it is the audacious that cleaves his way to the forefront most quickly, and Enver was the man to serve this archplotter's end, especially as he and his compeers were known to have been nursing schemes of vengeance against Kamel Pasha. Biberstein gave a fête, and had special success in the circles of the youthful Unionists. Enver and his fellow-officers were, of course, invited, and at the close of the fête the Ambassador, after extolling the acts of Enver, is reported to have said to him: "The German people long to see you, and German military circles look forward to meeting the second Saladin, the saviour (*sic*) of Turkey." The weaker fell under the spell of the stronger man. Next day Enver begged Shevket Pasha for the post of Military Attaché at Berlin, and his request was promptly granted. This apparently simple incident marked the beginning of the era that was to be fraught with misfortunes and to bring about the utter ruin of the Ottoman Empire. German ascendancy, which von der Goltz had so sedulously fostered, was re-established in heightened glory. Biberstein reaped what von der Goltz had sown.

On his arrival at the Ottoman Embassy in Berlin Enver found the Kronprinz's chamberlain waiting for him. After flattering him by saying that von Biberstein had conveyed to the Kronprinz highly complimentary messages about him, the official asked him to call on his Imperial Highness. It was an unofficial call, wherein Enver had a warm reception, such as even a member of the Ottoman Imperial House could hardly expect. In the course of the frequent visits that ensued the process of shaping Enver in the German militarist mould was elaborately achieved. When Italy declared war on Turkey the Committee recalled Enver in haste, and on the occasion of his farewell visit to the Kronprinz he begged him for an audience with the Kaiser. The Kronprinz is said to have apologised by saying that, in spite of the admiration that his father the Emperor had for his character and remarkable qualities, yet he could not grant his wish. He declared that Fate had so decreed that Enver was one of the revolutionaries who rose against Abdul Hamid, his friend. Nevertheless, Enver might rest assured that the Kaiser's personal predilections did not affect the solidity of the ties of their friendship.

When on his return to the Embassy Enver acquainted Nizami Pasha with the conversation he had just had with the Kronprinz, the Ambassador observed: "The Kronprinz has politely masked the truth. The fact of the matter is that the Kaiser avoids granting audience to anyone who rises against potentates, even by their pens, for he is a firm believer in the divine right of kings." It was not long, however, before the "ruse" of the Kaiser was unmasked. The real cause for not granting the audience was that then he had doubts of the Unionists' ultimate success. As soon as they consolidated their position and securely held the reins the Kaiser cultivated with Enver a friendship such as the Sultan himself did not enjoy. The unalterable loyalty of his friendship with Abdul Hamid was discovered to be a myth. It was one of the many "ruses" that this man of boundless ambition introduced into his elaborate and vast game for world dominion.

THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

The following telegram from the Viceroy, dated June 4, has been issued by the India Office:—

"At the beginning of the Afghan trouble I wrote personally explaining the situation to all ruling princes and chiefs. All important rulers have in their replies offered their resources to the Government and have expressed unswerving loyalty to the Throne and detestation of the Amir's action. Necessary measures have been taken by the Nizam, the Begum of Bhopal, and other rulers to ensure that the real circumstances of the Afghan attack are fully understood by their Mohammedan subjects, and that the latter realise that no question of religion is involved. In placing his Imperial Service troops and resources at the Government of India's disposal, the Nizam of Hyderabad has specially asked me to convey to his Majesty the King his humble and respectful offer. The rulers of Baria, Ratlam, Patiala and Dholpur are among those who have offered personal service. Staff appointments in the field have been given to the Nawab of Loharu's two sons, including the heir apparent. We are considering other offers. Sir Partab Singh was eager to go, but in view of the importance of his duties as Regent of Jodhpur I discouraged him.

"Units have been offered by all ruling princes and chiefs who maintain Imperial Service troops. These units have in some cases only just returned from the front. We have selected for active service or garrison duty in India contingents of infantry, cavalry, artillery, sappers, etc., from Gwalior, Faridkot, Jaipur, Indore, Khairpur, Kashmir, Patiala, Maler Kotla, Sirmur, Tehri, and Rampur. We are considering the employment of Imperial Service troops of Bikaner, Nabha, and Kapurthala. We are receiving and accepting offers of camels, motor-cars, and money for providing comforts for the troops engaged in the campaign.

"Assistance was offered by the Nepalese Government in February last on the death of the late Amir. I asked the Prime Minister for a Nepalese contingent at the outbreak of hostilities, and, in spite of the great difficulties of moving troops through Terai in the hot weather, he promptly agreed. Arrangements for their reception in India are being made.

"Chiefs and Governors of the Gilgit Agency, the Khan of Kelat, and tribes in Baluchistan have also sent offers of assistance and loyal messages. Active assistance in repelling raiding parties has been given by the Mehtar of Chitral. The Nawab of Dir has expelled all Afghan agents who were in his country, and has offered his son's services."

The Madrid correspondent of *The Times*, writing on June 4, states:—A successful operation is reported from Morocco, where the Spanish forces ejected the Jebel Hebid and Beni Aros tribesmen from an important entrenched position on the Jarruo Valley. The enemy left forty-three dead on the field. The Spanish casualties totalled twenty-nine.

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THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA

(From a Correspondent.)

A short time ago a correspondent pleaded in these columns that the Government should lift the veil from Mesopotamia and tell the public what is the present position in the country. This plea deserves to be heartily endorsed, and it may well be hoped that before long there will be ample information about conditions in this long dormant country. As the correspondent pointed out, for two years already our men out there have been mainly occupied, not in fighting, but in the work of organising the country and securing its peaceful settlement. Opportunities for trade are ripe. The demand for imports must be considerable, yet it cannot be expected that advantage will be taken of the present opportunities unless ample information is forthcoming as to the state of the country, the conditions and restrictions affecting trade, the position as to railways and river traffic, and so on, and considerable information is necessary as to the proposals and scope of the big new company which, the correspondent stated, has been formed under the leadership of Lord Inchcape.

When the facts as to the new company are published there will probably be a revival of the controversy whether Government should or should not embark on trading enterprises in undeveloped countries. No finality has been reached on the proposals of the Empire Resources Development Commission with its recommendations that, in order to earn money with which to pay off our colossal war debt, the State should become "an owner of vast herds of cattle overseas, a proprietor of forests and valuable plantations of tropical shrubs and trees, the harnesser of mighty waterfalls, an organiser of great commercial air services, the reaper of the manifold harvest of the seas." The writer would view the carrying out of any such proposals with anxiety. The State is not fitted for commercial enterprise in distant parts, and official-run concerns would lack that spirit of initiative and keenness which alone can bring success. Nevertheless, there is ample room for Government co-operation on the lines of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. That scheme at Ahwaz and Abadan has been thoroughly successful, and shows how valuable Government effort can be if kept within proper limits.

Mesopotamia undoubtedly offers splendid opportunities for reasonable experiments of this kind. The country has lain so long dormant that every kind of effort has good chances of success. It is said by some that Mesopotamia will never fulfil the expectations of the war-time prophets, since any country which depends on artificial irrigation is periodically rendered sterile, because alkaline and other salts are brought to the surface. According to this view the ruin of the Mesopotamia of olden time was brought about by this natural cause rather than by misgovernment and warfare. That is a question for experts to decide, though one would have thought that British experience in Egypt and the Punjab would have been an answer to this depressing theory at least sufficient to justify big irrigation schemes in Mesopotamia. If this theory be correct in principle, the fact that it took very many generations to cripple Mesopotamia entitles us to set to work now, after so long, to make the country prosperous once more. A possible exhaustion in several hundred years hence can be viewed with equanimity. The writer has a very real faith in the future of the country, though it may be accepted that many of the attractive prospects held out by theorists who do not know the country are never likely to be fulfilled. For instance, too much can easily be said about the overland railway route to India. Anyone who knows the frontier railways of India will scarcely be able to imagine a great commercial traffic with Europe overland. When the railway from Constantinople is eventually linked with India it will probably enter India either through Quetta or Peshawar, which lines are both laid through mountainous regions and which are both scarcely suited for through goods traffic. One day beyond doubt these connections will be made, but they will have little importance for those who wish to despatch goods to India. From the Mediterranean and from Mesopotamia the main route to India will remain by sea. But although it is possible to be sceptical regarding some of the efforts of the journalists' imagination, the writer believes in the great future of Mesopotamia, and would like to see full and frank reports issued by the Government at an early date.

THE NEAR EAST.

The Manager of The Near East *would be glad to be informed of any instances of difficulty being experienced in securing copies of the Paper. If any readers have friends who are not already subscribers to* The Near East *and, in their opinion, are likely to be interested in the Paper, they are invited to send the names and addresses to the Manager, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.*

The Near East *will be sent weekly by post for £1 2s. 2d. per annum (£1 4s. 4d. abroad), or can be obtained from any bookstall or newsagent for £1 per annum.*

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Egypt appears to have caught the diseases of the modern world rather badly. It is now concerned with the position of its women. The paper *Ahram*, in an article on the organisation of women societies in Egypt, says that women must be soundly educated. The writer says: "I am one of those who dislike the organisation of these women committees of which we frequently hear in these days. They are nothing but places for chatting, in which ladies waste their time. . . ." We see no great harm in this; it is when ladies chat to waste other folks' time that one starts lamenting. There have been hundreds of explanations of women's chatter, but never a real excuse. The best thing to do is to make light of it, as Congreve did when he said in his "Way of the World": "I know a lady that loves talking so incessantly she won't give an echo fair play; she has that everlasting rotation of tongue, that an echo must wait till she dies before it can catch her last words." To find a woman a good listener is a rare joy; it is like the transient discovery of an eighth wonder of the world. The elation of those who had discovered the fourth dimension could not be greater than the pleasure experienced by the sight of a woman listening with never a thought of displaying her own pretty teeth!

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I do not believe that the British forces could have carried on the war without their great sense of humour, with which they turned the edge of the sharpest things. Largely, of course, this quality was unconscious. I write this after reading an article on "Humour in Palestine" in the *Egyptian Gazette* (May 30), by R. Thurston Hopkins. In that country life was made easier not only by the humour of the inexhaustible Tommy, but by the naïve remarks of the natives as well. Here is one very choice incident: "An Egyptian interpreter, attached to a regiment in Palestine, failed to turn up after ten days' leave at Cairo, and sent, by way of excuse, this note in English (?) to his O.C.: 'My absence is impossible. Someone has removed my wife. My God, I am annoyed.'" Is not the blasphemous indignation pricelessly transparent? I am not giving the O.C.'s comments, which probably were of rather too vivid a colour to be printed in this column.

Corsair.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Particulars of the new loan will be found elsewhere in this issue. Subscriptions are invited either to a 4 per cent. loan at the price of £80 per cent., redeemable between 1960 and 1990, or to 4 per cent. Victory Bonds at the price of £85 per cent., redeemable by annual drawings at par commencing on September 1, 1920. In both cases a series of carefully graduated instalments are arranged, and subscriptions are invited for amounts from £50 upwards. The conditions are thus framed to make the widest possible appeal. No definite amount is asked for, but it is obvious that the occasion is one on which every British subject must do his duty as far as in him lies.

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The figures for the trade of the Sudan during the first quarter of the present year, which are now available, show a slight decrease in imports and a fairly substantial rise in exports. The imports were valued at £E1,040,710, as against £E1,040,912 in 1918, and exports at £E882,820 as against £E734,732. As regards the imports, Egypt's share increased from £E589,087 to £E725,585, while the figures for the United Kingdom rose from £E64,079 to £E78,609. On the other hand, there was a very marked decline in imports from India from £E248,425 to £E85,699, while the imports from South Africa decreased from £E96,653 to £E57,432. As regards exports, Egypt took goods valued at £E409,566, as against £E705,645, while the exports to the United Kingdom were valued at £E188,305, as against £E107,502. It remains to add that the chief items in the list of imports were cotton fabrics, £E277,213, as against £E272,629, and sugar, £E193,507, as against £E139,142; while the chief exports were sheep and goats, £E106,834, as against £E92,387, cattle, £E97,836, as against £E107,259, and gum, £E93,711, as against £E204,759.

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In an interesting article in the current issue of the *Bulletin* of the Federation of British Industries on the prospect for the Athens Exhibition, which is to be opened on October 13, reference is made to a number of the more important openings for British enterprise in Greece at the present time. As regards building and constructional engineering, it is pointed out that important schemes, such as the rebuilding of part of Salonika and the construction of new buildings in Athens and other towns will afford vast opportunities, but, in addition, the reconstruction of the devastated areas of the Struma Valley is contemplated, "large undertakings being under review to the value of 60,000,000 drachmæ as a temporary measure only." Then a scheme has been proposed for the improvement of the telephone system, at a cost of 6,000,000 drachmæ, and mention is also made of the need for good printing machinery, for which "there are inquiries everywhere," and for electrical goods, regarding which it is stated that equipment of all kinds, from dynamos to fittings, is wanted immediately.

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Then there are openings for such commodities as clothing, in which direction "there is undoubtedly a large field for enterprise in costly materials, apart from ordinary clothing fabrics; food products, such as sweet pickles, sweets, and especially jams, all of which "appeal particularly to the Greek palate"; stationery, which is "very scarce and expensive, and apparently the scarcity will continue until English firms come to the rescue; and fancy articles, such as menu holders, mascots, etc., fancy leather bags, and jewellery. When it is added that other promising openings are for furniture, office equipment, sanitary appliances, cutlery, glass, china, photographic materials, and dental and surgical instruments, the wide range of Greek requirements, which has been the subject of constant emphasis in these columns, will be better appreciated.

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Apropos of the Athens Exhibition, I may mention that an influential committee has been formed in Athens, with Major Kennard, the Special Trade Commissioner in Greece of the Federation of British Industries, as chairman, to look after the interests of the exhibitors and to work in conjunction with the Federation in London. The members of the committee are: M. A. Typaldo Bassia, LL.D., M.P., ex-Minister, President of the Council of Exhibitions and Touring, Ministry of National Economy, and vice-president of the Zappeion Committee; M. P. Koukeas, Director of Exhibitions and Touring, Ministry of National Economy; M. A. Skintzopoulos, Inspector of Industry, Ministry of National Economy; M. J. Axelos, head of the Department of Architecture, Ministry of Communications and architect of the Zappeion; M. N. Iatrou, Director of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of National Economy; Mr. J. McDowall, of the Piræus; Mr. B. M. Bellasis, organiser of the Athens Exhibition; and Captain R. C. Cumberbatch, F.B.I., Assistant Trade Commissioner.

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An interesting feature of the recently issued report of the Persian Customs authorities is the light it throws on the continued growth of Anglo-Indian trade with Persia in 1917-18. During that period British imports into Persia were valued at 313,136,268 krans (£5,693,386 at the normal exchange of 55 krans to the pound sterling), about two-thirds of which came from India, an increase of 83,621,276 krans (£1,520,386) on the figures for the previous year. Cotton fabrics, iron and minerals, sugar, rice, flour and cereals, spices, woollens, indigo, and cloths were among the imports in which the chief increases took place. British imports, it may be noted, represented about 65 per cent. of the total imports into Persia, but the figures are subject to the qualification that, as in the case of Indian exports to other regions it is possible, if not probable, that India's share of the imports includes goods which were imported into India from Japan and were subsequently re-exported. Finally, as regards exports, the British Empire took from Persia, apart from petroleum products, goods valued at 41,000,000 krans (£745,454).

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Currency problems came in for full attention in the speech of Mr. Larkworthy, chairman of the Ionian Bank, at the recent annual meeting of that institution, and it is interesting to note that he expressed himself against the findings of Lord Cunliffe's Committee, and recorded his "deep conviction that our present currency note system is sound in itself, completely acceptable to the community, perfectly elastic, and properly and fully covered, and that neither the Government nor the banking world need trouble themselves for a moment with the question of redemption or convertibility."

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The dividend declared on the shares of the Bank of Abyssinia of 1s. per share, or 4 per cent., is specially noteworthy, as it is the first dividend paid by this bank since its formation in 1905. With the great possibilities for development before Abyssinia it is to be expected that this result will merely prove the forerunner of a period of prosperity for the shareholders of the bank.

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It will have been noted that Canada has begun to pay special attention to the Near East markets, and it may be hoped that the reason for this interesting development will act as a spur to business men in this country, who are still lingering over the decision whether or no to enter these markets. Canada is a country with a great industrial future before her, and the Trade Commission which has just been examining openings for her trade is stated to have come to the conclusion that there was little immediate prospect of orders from France and Belgium, and that in view of trade and financial conditions in general on the Continent it was necessary to look further afield. The possibilities of establishing trade with the Near East were then examined, and the conclusion was arrived at—and what other verdict was possible on the facts?—that there then was every prospect of important trade. I refer to this matter simply because I think this spontaneous testimony to the outlook in the Near East may be trusted to carry its own appeal to our business men.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE TIGRIS PORTS.

Future of Koweit.

(From a Correspondent.)

In writing of the Tigris ports it is necessary to place a very liberal construction on the word port. For there is only one real port on the Tigris (or rather on the Shatt-el-Arab) and that is Busreh. I have already written in these columns on the subject of Busreh as a port. My object now is to refer briefly to the other riverside towns which are likely to play their part in the development of Mesopotamia.

Looking well ahead, I can see Koweit as the big port of Mesopotamia (strictly speaking, it is not in Mesopotamia at all), duly connected by rail with Busreh, Baghdad, and Constantinople. Koweit is under independent rule, but our flag has always had a special position there, despite the efforts of the old-time Turk and his German backers. Lord Curzon, as Viceroy of India, paid special attention to these Persian Gulf ports, and our operations at Bushire and Bunder-Abbas might well have been impossible if it had not been for him. But of all the Persian Gulf ports, so far as trade with Mesopotamia is concerned, Koweit is the most important. Bushire and Bunder-Abbas are bases for Persia, and will develop, and have developed, enormously. But I back Koweit for Mesopotamia's trade. At Koweit, deep-water ships can unload, untroubled by the great natural bar which runs right across the Gulf just south of Fao. When proper wharf accommodation has been erected at Koweit and the railway to the north has been built, a very big trade will assuredly develop. But Koweit is very much in its infancy as yet. We have made practically no use of it during the war.

The first port on the river is Abadan, where the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has its vast works. Abadan is likely to remain an oil port, and I should not think that there will be any other developments there. Mohammerah is a little way up the Karun River. A good deal of trade from Persia is likely to come to Mohammerah, but the main tendency of Persia's revived trade will be to go south-west to Bushire and Bundar-Abbas rather than to Mohammerah. In my previous article I included Margil in the port of Busreh. It really is an extension of Busreh, and will always be part and parcel of the Busreh area. It extends practically to Gurmat Ali, the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris.

The main agricultural development of Mesopotamia will be in the area of the Euphrates, but it is impossible to speak of Euphrates ports. The river is only navigable by the very smallest craft, and nothing more than mere ferrying trade is possible. The Baghdad Railway is likely to follow the Euphrates course, but the principal value of the Euphrates itself will be for irrigation purposes. All the big irrigation schemes, in process or planned, will derive their water from the Euphrates.

Nar Umar, just above Gurmat Ali, on the right bank of the Tigris, was mentioned in the Busreh article. It is likely to become a place of considerable importance, for all ships which can pass the bar can be berthed there, and there is already a good railway to Amara. Nar Umar is only two years old. Above Nar Umar comes Kurna, the old junction of the Euphrates and Tigris. Here is, incidentally, an alleged Garden of Eden with an apple tree, surrounded by a wall, and nicknamed by Tommy "Temptation Square." Kurna was of very great importance in the earlier days of our military operations, but it has been superseded by Nar Umar. As a river port I do not anticipate much of a future for it.

At Kalit Sali the famous Narrows begin. These narrows will ever be a problem in Tigris navigation. Everything possible has been done to overcome their natural difficulties, and when passing through them I have been amazed at the comparative ease of movement, but they remain a problem. People fond of heroic solutions have suggested a direct canal from a point south of Amara to Kalit Sali. This sounds very practical, but Nature had a purpose in forming the Narrows, namely, to keep the water in the river above Amara. If the narrows were not there as a natural obstacle the water would flow rapidly throuhg the Upper Tigris and render navigation next to impossible. It might be practicable to build a canal with locks, but it would be a bold venture. When the river is in flood the Narrows, with their wonderful hairpin bends, become a vast lake. As the waters usually fall very rapidly, it is no uncommon sight to see ships stranded on dry land at some distance from the channel.

Amara has been called the "Brighton of Mesopotamia." It certainly is the best spot on the river. It has a noble facade of uniform houses on the left bank, and the fine MacMunn Bridge is a splendid feat of war-time engineering. The Jehaila Canal leaves the river at Amara and goes eastwards, but it was necessary to block up part of the entrance in order to keep the water in the Tigris. Amara is a big trading town, and is sure to be a progressive river port in the future. Between Amara and Kut the river is comparatively easy. I have done the journey in little over twelve hours, coming south. There is no place of importance between the two towns.

Kut is full of memories, but has no great commercial importance. Even after our recapture of the town we made our military base about five miles to the south, for at Kut itself the river banks are shelving and hopeless for accommodating craft. This consideration has always to be borne in mind when planning ports on the Tigris. Above Kut there are several small townships and military posts. Baghahlia and Azizieh are the principal of these, and may develop considerably when cross-traffic to the Euphrates area is needed. Ctesiphon, on the left bank, is of great historic and war interest, but has no commercial importance as yet.

Approaching Baghdad, there is likely to be development at the junction between the Dialah river and the Tigris, a spot hallowed by much magnificent bravery in the early days of 1917. Hinaidi (about seven miles south of Baghdad as the crow flies) is a military base. It is the railhead for the Kut and the Dialah lines, but I prophesy an eclipse for Hinaidi. The railway to Kut will probably be eventually transferred to the other side of the river, and when the Dialah railway is connected by a bridge across the Tigris with Baghdad, Hinaidi will lose its importance. Few of us who have been there will shed a tear.

The port of Baghdad has considerably extended during the war, absorbing Karradah, on the left bank, and necessitating a new area on the right bank, prosaically called Advanced Base. The river immediately south of Baghdad is very difficult, and the channel varies week by week. Commercial development in Baghdad is likely to concentrate on the west side. Here already are Baghdad Station and other buildings. I can foresee that the whole area between Western Baghdad and Advanced Base (I wish the name Maude could be commemorated here) will become one day a centre of trade. The river winds tremendously, but the distance by road is only about three miles.

Baghdad still presents the appearance of a much-shelled city, though nothing save a few aeroplane bombs ever fell on her. The new streets, constructed by the Turks, were invaluable to our troops, but new buildings have not yet been erected alongside. Baghdad will always be the centre of a vast trade. As far as Baghdad shipping up to a four-foot draught is always possible. Beyond Baghdad the river can only be navigated by small craft. In fact, north of Baghdad we cannot speak of Tigris ports. Samarra, Tekrit, and Mosul are inland towns, and very little of their trade is likely to come south by water. Beyond Baghdad the bed of the river slowly changes from mud to rock, but south of Baghdad all is mud, and I doubt if anybody has sailed the Tigris without touching bottom countless times. At Baghdad the Tigris as a commercial river ends, so I will leave her there, confident in her future, but also determined to see her no more, though plenty of bolder spirits will.

C. W. M.

INDIA'S GOLD IMPORTS.

In the House of Commons last week Captain Moreing asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he would state what was the present position regarding the shipment of gold from Australia to India, and the sale of such gold in that country; whether there were any restrictions, and, if there were, when they were likely to be removed.

Mr. Chamberlain said these were matters for the consideration of the Commonwealth Government and the Government of India. So far as he was aware, there were no restrictions on the export of gold from Australia. But under the Indian Ordinance regulating gold imports, imports could only be made by licence for tender to the Indian Government, for payment in Indian currency at a rate close to the par of exchange. He was informed by the Secretary of State for India that he could not consider the removal of this restriction until he had received and considered the report of the recently appointed Indian Currency Committee.

PRICE OF GOLD IN INDIA.

The Government of India announced on May 31 that the price for gold imported into India by licence under ordinance for tender to Government has been altered in conformity with the recent rise in the exchange value of the rupee from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. The price is now 12 rupees 4½ annas per sovereign, or one rupee for 9.20115 grains troy of fine gold. The old rates will be applicable to shipments made on a through bill of lading before May 31, 1919.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 30:—

General rain in Assam and Mysore. Local in Bengal, Bihar, at Chota-Nagpur, Burma, Southern Madras, and Bombay Deccan.

Bombay cotton market strong. Fully good broach, July-August delivery, quoted at Rs.515. Piece-goods market steady. Cabled delays hampering trade. Revised all India rice forecast; estimates yield 23,672,000 tons. Calcutta jute market dull. Jat Fours, Rs.11; rejections, Rs.6. Gunny market firm, but inquiries mainly for near deliveries.

Export trade generally handicapped by cable delays and rise in exchange.

Second edition "Industrial Handbook" published.

MALTA TUNNY FISHING.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, May 25.

Tunny fishing for the season has just commenced very auspiciously with a catch of five splendid fish weighing almost 16 cantars. This is an excellent start, and will be generally welcomed as a prospect of relief from the present scarcity and high price of fish, especially at a time when meat is beyond the average means.

Up to May 24 Indian Treasury bills were issued to the following amounts:—October 16, 1917, to March 31, 1919, Rs.136,39,05,000; April 1, 1919, to May 24, 1919, Rs.8,08,40,000—Rs.144,47,45,000; bills discharged or discounted, Rs.94,56,05,000; bills outstanding May 24, Rs.49,91,40,000.

According to an American contemporary, the American Trade Corporation is about to open a tobacco store at Constantinople. It will have agents in the Black Sea, Smyrna, Syria, and Armenia, who will purchase the tobacco and ship it to the coast by caravans. From there the tobacco will be shipped to the United States by the company's own vessels.

A new addition to the Bibby Line—the twin-screw steamer Yorkshire—was recently launched at Belfast by Messrs. Harland and Woolf, Ltd. Her gross tonnage is 10,500, and she is designed to carry 300 first class passengers. The state rooms are arranged on the well-known "tandem" system, giving daylight and fresh air to all the rooms. The Yorkshire is the first large passenger steamer launched at Belfast since 1914.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF FLYING.

Aviation as Affecting India.

Speaking at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts on June 5, at which General Seely presided, on "Aviation as Affecting India," Lord Montagu of Beaulieu said that it was a maxim now realised by everyone who had studied aviation that the longer the distance the greater the gain of the airplane over other methods of transport. Whether they took the shortest possible direct route to India—say, 3,000 miles in length—or the longer journey now being used by way of France, Italy, Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia—some 5,000 miles in length—in either case many days were saved.

When they were considering the question of routes other than those by air, they must realise that the distances from Indian ports to English ports were much lengthened by the peninsulas of Spain and Arabia, which jutted out in such a way as to make the course from the Channel to India a zig-zag one, resulting in the distance by sea—about 6,000 miles—being about double the distance by air direct. Even by the most rapid mail route, viâ Brindisi, Italy, and France, the distance from Bombay to London was nearly 5,000 miles, or 2,000 miles longer than the shortest air route. Then there were the necessary delays of the Suez Canal, say, twenty-four hours on an average.

In the case of flying between England and India, however, there was now a long but well-mapped-out route, to some extent provided with insufficiently numerous but regular stages, landing grounds, and spare part depots. With the exception of the flight over the Channel, France, and Northern Italy, no serious climatic disadvantages existed. As regards Imperial or international control, the present air routes to India passed, with the exception of France, Italy, and Crete, entirely under the direction of the British Empire. Moreover, when India was reached it was by no means a dead end, to use an old railway phrase, as some might think. India was half-way between London and Australia, and beyond India lay many important parts of the Empire, such as Australia and New Zealand, Burma, the Federated Malay Straits, British Borneo, and Hong Kong. The winter conditions in Siberia and Tibet would preclude regular flying from China and the East to Europe for many years to come, and the route south of the Himalayas was, therefore, certain to be used. The Northern Plains of India, from Peshawar to Calcutta, therefore, would become one day one of the world's greatest airways. He considered that Heliopolis (Cairo) would be the most important single centre of air transport for the Old World—Europe, Asia, and Africa—for thence would radiate services to East, Central, and South Africa on the one side, and on the other to India and countries beyond. But next to Cairo in importance would be some Indian station for reception of all mails east of India to places ranging from Vladivostock to New Zealand.

Advantage of Local Services.

He would give but one illustration here of how time might be saved in regard to the services between Simla, the political capital of the Government of India for eight months of the year, and Bombay, the chief seaport for Europe. Between Simla and Bombay there were two principal railway routes, varying from about 1,000 to 1,250 miles. The quickest journey to-day by either took about forty-eight hours, or an average speed of about twenty-five miles per hour. The same distance could be flown by an airplane (at the rate of 70 m.p.h. as a minimum) in rather over fourteen hours, a saving of thirty-four hours out of forty-eight hours. On a journey from Peshawar to Calcutta, or from Peshawar to Bombay—longer distances—the saving would be proportionately greater; while a direct air route from Karachi to Delhi, across Rajputana, at present a matter of forty-eight hours' journey by rail, would reduce the time taken to about ten hours. In considering the matter of mails, and whether it would pay to fly them, it was a question, of course, how much the letter-writing public in India—a small number all told—would pay for increased speed, even if they would pay at all. But the answer to this question could only be ascertained after trial for some time, and would probably have to be considered in connection with passenger services, as was the case with the present mail train and mail ship services. Another special aspect of flying within India itself should be considered, namely, if it was possible to set up regular passenger services between hill stations and the plains below, except, perhaps, during the months of November, December, and January. Such services would give overworked officials, civil and military, and their families, suffering from the effects of heat, an easier chance of constant recuperation in the hills for short periods, or even week-ends, without so large a proportion of time being absorbed as at present, in slow railway or road journeys.

Passenger Services.

He was often asked how soon passenger services by air would be established between India and England. In reply, he would say, first of all, let them establish for at least a year regular postal services, for the experience gained thereby would avoid loss of valuable lives, and the discouragement which was bound to come when only a proportion of the hopes they set out with were realised. Moreover, he thought it would be a long time before it was commercially profitable to fly passengers, on account of their weight compared with mails. The world was ready to pay much more per ounce for the rapid conveyance of information and news than it was prepared to pay for the transport of human bodies. But, of course, a year hence, if money was no object, anyone would be able to fly between England and India, and in time the fares would be much reduced.

He had worked out the following table to show the truth of this assertion. Taking the average load of a man with a very limited amount of luggage as weighing 12 stone, this weight came out at 2,688 oz. They would assume that airgrams pay at the rate of 2s. 6d. an ounce. If 2,688 oz. be taken in the form of postal matter they get a return of £336. Now a man would have to be very rich, or in a great hurry, to pay £336 for a passage between India and England, and the price was a prohibitive one to ordinary persons. At the price of 2s. 6d. per ounce of airgrams, the conveyance of a ton would return £4,480, and the airplane flying mails at this rate between England and India would therefore earn about £1 per mile by the present route. Against these receipts he ventured to put the expense at about 10s. a mile, including all ordinary expenses, depreciation, and interest at 7½ per cent. on capital. As regards passengers only, it took only thirteen and a third men to weigh a ton at an allowance of 12 stone for each man and baggage, and one would hardly imagine thirteen men, apart from the third of a man, paying collectively £4,480 for a passage between Karachi and London.

It was clear, therefore, that at first the main payable traffic by air must consist of what the Post Office called "mail matter," and he was sure that the commercial world in India, here, and elsewhere, when services became regular—the most important point of mail services—and rapid, would use air services very largely. It was interesting to note that about five thousand words could be written on thin foreign paper and, with envelop and stamp, weighed just under an ounce in weight. Any such letter up to five thousand words in length could be taken the 5,000 miles, the present route, in forty-eight hours, and for 2s. 6d. He assumed, of course, that the rate for internal mails in India was going to be a much cheaper one—namely, a maximum of 1s., or, say, 12 annas for an ounce letter. Then there was the use of photography for transmitting letters. A typewritten letter could be photographed in an exceedingly small compass, and enlarged again by the recipient. Probably at least 10,000 words could thus be sent for an ounce by this process.

The subject of flying, apart from mails, to India and in India, was so large a one that he would not let himself go into all the branches and aspects of it. But as to mail services to England, he would like to bring to their notice the fact that the present war route, viâ Cairo, Damascus, and Mesopotamia, was by no means the most direct, and that something like 1,000 miles would be saved by following a direct line from Cairo viâ Akabah to Busreh, the distance being only 790 miles between Cairo and Busreh.

NOTES FROM GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 22.

Step towards Nationalisation of Mines.

It is reported in a Greek newspaper that M. Venizelos, now in Paris, is entering into negotiations with a French combine with a view to the latter working all mineral deposits in Greece. The mines are to be nationalised, and the idea is said to be the result of special study and inquiry by the Premier. In the meantime M. Venizelos has telegraphed to the Mining Department in the Ministry of National Economy that mining concessions are to be sparingly issued. The French combine in question is said to be treating for the sole exploitation of any petroleum deposits found in Greece, and especially those known to exist in Epirus. The competent authorities do not regard the proposal to nationalise mines with any great favour, for the reason that in such circumstances private enterprise would be eliminated, and the Government would only work the richest deposits. Moreover, the Greek workman, when employed by the State, is not over-conscientious, and it is thought that cargoes of minerals would often be refused owing to the insufficient cleaning of ores and selection. It is also doubtful whether the State could find sufficient capital to make the necessary installations for opening up new mineral deposits.

Success of the Greek Loan.

According to the latest information, the Greek Loan has been over-subscribed, if the original subscriptions of the Greek banks, amounting to 25,000,000 drachmæ, be taken into account. It is stated the banks will now only have to pay in 60 per cent. of the amount they had originally underwritten, as the Government desires that private subscribers should receive the whole amount of their contribution. The loan was very widely and effectively advertised, and undoubtedly this had a great share in the success. It is stated by the Government that all advertising was carried out for the moderate sum of a quarter of a million drachmæ. It is extremely satisfactory to note that Greece and the Greeks have sufficient patriotism and financial soundness to be able and willing to subscribe the not inconsiderable amount of the last loan. The total subscriptions, according to the Ministry statistics, amount to more than 84,000,000 drachmæ.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

German Efforts in Roumania.

During the last two or three decades Germany, as has often been pointed out in these notes, contrived to find in Roumania a first-rate market for her goods. This was specially noticeable in the supply of agricultural and industrial machinery and implements. To give an idea of the importance of the Roumanian market for agricultural machinery, and the preponderating position of Germany in it—a position which formerly was held by England—we may mention that, taking one of the last normal years before the war, in 1912 the aggregate exports of agricultural machinery from Germany to Roumania represented a value of £215,900, from Austria-Hungary £54,750, and from the United Kingdom only £17,000. Of the £215,900 :—£112,600 was for iron ploughs, £25,600 for ploughs driven by mechanical motive power, £8,300 for mowing machines, £38,800 for threshing machines, £200 for separators, £22,800 for sowing machines, hay-turning machines, hay, straw, etc., presses, fodder chopping, chaff-cutting, and butter-making machines, rough grinding mills, lawn mowers, etc., £5,600 for machines for cleaning and separating corn, rice, and oil-seeds, and £2,600 for individual parts of the foregoing classes of machinery. Taking separately only the value of agricultural implements and tools imported into Roumania during 1912, the figures for Germany were £165,650, for Austria-Hungary £23,800, and only £300 for the United Kingdom. We mention the class of machinery and implements as a reminder to British manufacturers of similar goods; for in present circumstances an appreciable portion, if not the whole, of this trade should fall to them. Prompt action, however, is essential to achieve this end; for, apart from other competitors, the Germans, according to authentic reports, are only waiting for the signing of the Peace Treaty to start their commercial campaign. It is asserted that they are prepared to make "a big effort" to do business in Roumania, and it may be taken for granted that they will not easily let that good market go out of their hands, since it is known that one German plough maker had orders for as many as 35,000 ploughs for Roumania. It must be remembered that there will be a greater demand for agricultural machinery of all kinds in the new territory, and that to do business successfully there it is essential to supply high quality goods. Reapers and binders are imported mainly from America. Reapers of British manufacture are said to require six horses, and consequently to be too heavy for local requirements, as only four are used for the purpose with the American machines. This point should be seriously considered.

Poland's Requirements.

The Minister of Agriculture of Poland has recently announced that the most urgent agricultural machinery needs of United Poland are approximately as follows:—50 12-15 h.p. motor ploughs; 6,000 5 ft. harvesting machines; 2,500 6 ft. binders; 2,500 4½ ft. grass cutters; 700 54 by 24 threshing machines; 500 20 to 24 h.p. steam engines; 600 elevators; and 2,000 1½-3 metres wide seed drills. In addition, there are very heavy inquiries for all descriptions of sections, parts, etc. The purchasers of agricultural machinery, it is stated, are not confined to the large landholders nor to the United Agricultural Syndicates of Poland, but also include the peasants. These latter will buy directly from abroad, but the greater proportion of trade, which is expected to be of the value of £1,250,000 per annum, will be done through the larger bodies named. At the same time, in studying the needs of Poland, it is well to bear in mind that the peasants themselves possess two-thirds of the land of the entire country. It appears that so far few British firms have displayed any eagerness to accept Polish orders for agricultural machinery, and they seem to be awaiting the definite establishment of the currency. On the other hand, certain French and American houses are not averse to taking what is something of a risk in the hope that hereafter they will reap the full benefit. The lack of enterprise on our part has been criticised on the assumption that it is prompted by groundless fears, and it is pointed out that the Poles, being producers, prospered to a fairly large extent during the war, and there is plenty of money in the country.

Rubber Substitutes.

During the war Germany was in great need of rubber, which was unobtainable owing to the blockade. Her chemical-engineering industry has, therefore, been very busy in endeavouring to produce substitutes: and a partial success was, apparently, achieved in the production of one or two synthetic substances which in some way are said to have answered the purpose; whilst of others, although substantial similarity to the genuine rubber was evident, the production could not be extended beyond the experimental stage, owing to the want of the necessary material or compounds. In the latter category was included a rubbery substance which could be obtained from a common plant which grows in abundance in North Africa, as well as in the Near East. It is of the species *Euphorbia*, consisting of shrubs or large trees (*tithymalus peplus* and *cyparissias*), commonly called in Greek *flomos*, and in Arabic *forbion*. In either form this plant contains a milky, acrid juice, which is sometimes poisonous, but is known to abound in caoutchouc (india-rubber). The juice of these species of *euphorbia*, either exuding naturally or from incisions made in the bark, hardens in the air, like ordinary gum, and takes a light yellow colour. But to return to the German experiments; these have shown that the sap of the *euphorbia* contains one to three per cent. of rubber, and if plants of the species *cyparissias* and *tithymalus peplus* are dried and reduced to a coarse powder, from which, by treating it with benzine, ether and carbon tetrachloride, an extract of dark green colour is obtained which consists of two-thirds to one-half of fat. By dissolving this extract in ether and adding alcohol, a rubbery substance is derived, corresponding to 20 per cent. of the extract. Assuming that one square mile of pasture land would produce an average of 1.2 kg. of fresh *tithymalus peplus*, this represents 4.3 g. of rubber and 12 g. of fat, or 43 kg. rubber and 120 kg. fat per hct. Thus, with an increasing cultivation of *euphorbia*, considerable quantities of rubber and fat could be extracted by the installation of suitable plant for the purpose. And the undesirable and repulsive *tithymalus*, or *flomos*, in the Near East, would thus become the base of a great industry and a source of wealth.

New American Bureau.

A bureau to establish commercial relations between the U.S.A. and Poland has been opened in New York.

TURKISH 4 PER CENT. GUARANTEED LOAN.

A number of holders, representing a large proportion of the Turkish Four per Cent. Guaranteed Loan of 1855, have addressed the following letter to Mr. James Cooper, secretary of the Council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders :—

"We are of opinion that immediate steps should be taken to safeguard our interests in view of the general rearrangement by which the revenues specifically hypothecated to the service of this loan may be removed from the control of the Turkish Empire.

"All the bonds have been drawn for redemption, but have not been paid, notwithstanding the provision of a sinking fund. The interest and sinking fund are secured by a specific charge on the tribute of Egypt, and on the receipts from the Customs of Smyrna and Syria, in addition to being a general charge on the revenues of Turkey, but no portion of these revenues has been applied to a sinking fund since 1873. If, as we understand, there have been yearly surpluses available for this purpose, we should like some explanation as to the amount of these funds, and how they have been employed.

"In these circumstances we should be obliged if you would represent our case to the proper authorities, and take such steps as you may consider necessary to safeguard our interests."

CANADIAN LOAN TO ROUMANIA.

In the House of Commons to-day, says Reuter's Ottawa correspondent in a message dated June 9, Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, in reply to a question, said that the Government was advancing Roumania a credit of 25 million dollars for the purchase of supplies in Canada, and charging 5½ per cent. interest on the Loan.

Colonel W. Carew Smyth, R.E., until lately agent and chief engineer of the company in India, has joined the board of H.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Co., Ltd.

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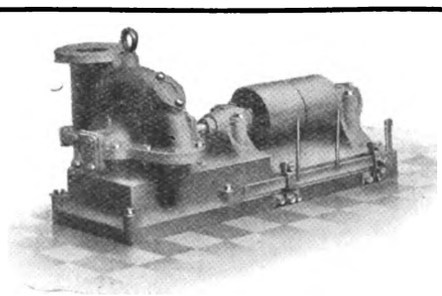
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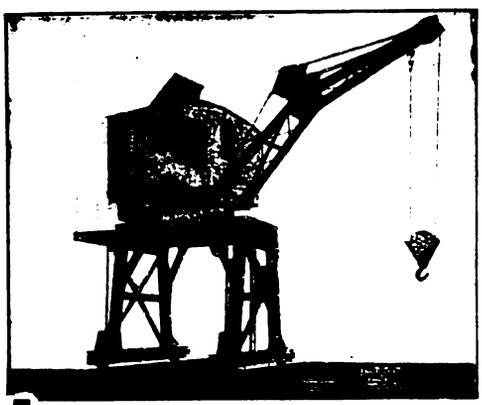
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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Manchester, Wednesday.

The market during the past week has been under the influence of the Whitsuntide holidays, and very little business of importance has been attempted. Prices in most quarters have been firmer. Reports relating to the Egyptian cotton crop do not show very much change. According to some advices, the plants are still suffering as a result of low temperatures. It is believed in some quarters that the acreage will not be as large as at one time expected. Prices have tended to harden in yarns made from Egyptian cotton. Some producers of fine numbers are now strongly situated. Buying has been rather irregular, but a very fair turnover has taken place. Cloth demand for Egypt remains extensive. Now and again shippers hesitate to pay higher figures, but there is undoubtedly confidence in the general outlook. Grey shirtings and printing cloths have been in encouraging request. More business is now coming round for several outlets of the Levant. Many firms are looking forward to a larger turnover in the near future for Turkey. Considerable activity continues to show itself for China. Bleaching cloths and grey shirtings have been in healthy request. Certain goods that have not been sold for four or five years back are now attracting increased attention. India has not been very active. The cable delays are still very serious and harass negotiations between manufacturers in Lancashire and dealers in the bazaars abroad. Rather more inquiry has been mentioned for South American outlets. American yarns for home use have been stiff in quotation, with a steady demand. Twists are stronger than wefts. Fine numbers have been wanted for India, especially in qualities suitable for dyeing. Cops have been sold in fair lots for Holland. There is every prospect of an early settlement of the dispute on mill hours and wages. The Minister of Labour is arranging another conference of employers and workpeople.

TRADE WITH MOROCCO.

The regulations of September 15, 1917 (says a French contemporary), have been rescinded as regards merchandise and imported products, with the exception of sugar, the export of which remains forbidden. The free export of all products or merchandise, sugar excepted, is permitted as from May 3 to France, her colonies and protectorates, and to allied or neutral countries.

A French decree authorises the export from Morocco, up to August 31 next, of 20,000 cattle to France, her colonies, and protectorates, and to allied and neutral countries. The export can only be effected via the ports of the French zone, and will only apply to animals of a specified age.

Lord Chalmers is joining the board of the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company.

Returns of the trade of British India for April show that imports increased by £439,000 and exports by £2,883,000 as compared with last year.

The directors of the Northern Assurance Company have decided to establish a branch of the company at Alexandria, and have appointed as manager Mr. C. N. Tadros, who entered the service of the company as Inspector for the Near East in December, 1908, having previously been associated with it as Agent at Jerusalem.

The International Sleeping Car Company announces that one of the cars of the Paris-Rome express will, on the Thursday of every week, continue direct to Taranto, where it is timed to correspond with the Italian steamer services to and from Piræus and Constantinople, leaving Taranto every Monday. This through service from Paris began on June 5.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Bombay Electric Supply.

The report of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company for the year ended December 31 states that the total revenue from all sources, including the amount represented by sale of current to the tramways, amounted to £512,756, an increase of £72,907, or 16.57 per cent. Total expenditure amounted to £217,805, an increase of £34,348, or 18.72 per cent., and the net receipts from the year's working aggregated £294,951, an increase of £38,559, or 15.04 per cent. Deducting interest on debenture debt (£33,388), provision for depreciation account (£56,667), capital amortisation fund (£16,350), Indian super tax (£644), contribution to officers' and employees' provident fund (£6,989), there remains an available balance of £180,914; £6,763 was brought forward, making £187,682. The directors recommend a dividend for the year on six per cent. cumulative preference shares, and a final dividend for the half-year on ordinary shares at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum and a bonus for the year at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, making 16 per cent. for the year (both free of income-tax to shareholders domiciled in India), to set aside as bonus to officers and employees £6,167, and to carry forward £12,716. Gross receipts from the company's traction branch amounted to £261,594, an increase of £33,534, or 14.70 per cent. Working expenses were £118,682, an increase of £16,541, or 16.19 per cent. Net receipts amounted to £142,912, an increase of £16,993, or 13.49 per cent. Gross receipts from electric supply, including the amount represented by sale of current to the tramways, amounted to £234,805, an increase of £26,784, or 12.87 per cent. Working expenses were £97,702, an increase of £17,990, or 22.56 per cent., net receipts being £137,102, an increase of £8,793, or 6.85 per cent. Capital expenditure during the year amounted to £137,602. The premium realised on the issue of the 11,000 additional ordinary shares at £20 per share, amounting to £110,150, less expenses, has been carried to the reserve fund, and it is proposed to meet the excess profits tax for the year, after it has been assessed, out of that fund.

Societe Anonyme du Behera.

The report of the Société Anonyme du Béhéra for 1918 states that at December 31, 1914, the company was indebted to its bankers in the sum of £E106,000. At December 31 last, instead of a debt to the bank, the company had a credit balance of £E72,600, and in the interval £E48,535 had been applied to the redemption of debentures. It will thus be seen that the company's financial position is now on a very healthy basis. But for the necessity of keeping funds in hand to provide for the current needs of the company and for the purchase of machinery, all the arrears of interest on the preference shares could be cleared off at once. The area of land sales registered during the year, exclusive of Sidi Salem, is 1,367 feddans, the highest figure recorded since 1908. In addition to this, the company holds sales contracts, maturing for registration under the deferred sales scheme, for an approximate area of 7,035 feddans, of a value of £E292,631. The Sidi Salem estate continues to do well. After meeting all annual charges, interest and capital expenditure on development, the total debt has been reduced from £E231,704 to £E218,170. Land sales for an area of 388 feddans were registered during the year, and sales contracts maturing for registration cover an area of about 2,490 feddans of a value of £E156,130. Considerable damage was caused by worm to the cotton crop, but the poorness of the yield was to some extent compensated by the high prices obtained. It is hoped that the Egyptian Government will relax none of its efforts in combating the various pests to which agriculture is exposed. The prospects for 1919, as far as can be foreseen at present, give cause for anxiety on account of the shortage of water. Considerable areas of land, usually under rice, will be deprived of this valuable crop. It is to be hoped that the flood will be early this year, so as to compensate this loss somewhat. The industrial section has been kept fairly busy. After setting aside the arrears of interest on annuities and of rents, amounting to £E4,428 and £E244 respectively, transferred to accrued interest in suspense and accrued rents in suspense, the net profit for 1918 amounted to £E43,417; £E103,790 was brought in, making £E147,208. From this must be deducted the coupons paid during 1918 on the preference shares, namely, No. 22, No. 23, and No. 24, which absorbed £E36,562, leaving £E110,645, which the directors propose to carry forward. The arrear coupons on preference shares, which amounted to £E48,750 on December 31, 1918, have been further reduced by the payment of two coupons on January 8 and March 3 respectively. It is the board's intention to pay off the outstanding coupons as soon as possible.

Nagolle Rubber.

The report of Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Plantations for the year ended December 31 last states that the profit amounted to £11,069, against £27,369, from which £1,342 has been written off for depreciation of buildings and machinery, leaving £9,727; £8,205 was brought forward, less excess profits duty to December 31, 1917, £5,682, making £12,250. The directors recommend a dividend of 6 per cent., less income-tax, which will absorb £11,108, and to carry forward £1,142.

Jaipur Tea.

The report of the Jaipur Tea Company for 1918 states that profit is £9,530; £5,343 was brought in, making £14,873, and after deducting income-tax and sundry items, £3,546, there is left £11,328. The directors propose a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year, which will absorb £3,000, and to carry forward £8,328, subject to excess profits duty, estimated at £500. It is not proposed to place any sum to reserve, but to carry forward the balance, so as to meet the heavy expenditure required in providing labour, machinery, and buildings to replace the shortages which could not be made good during the war.

Indian and General Investment.

The report of the Indian and General Investment Trust for the year ended April 30, 1919, states that of the funds held by the company £207,799 are invested in Indian securities, of which £118,079 are in sterling, and of the total funds over £350,090 are invested in bonds, debentures, or debenture stocks. The average rate of exchange at which the money employed in India stands in the books of the company is 1s. 4½d. per rupee; the present value is 1s. 8d. The net interest and dividends on investments amounted to £22,955, as compared with £25,103 last year, the income-tax deducted in the respective years being £8,102, as against £6,410. The sum of £4,892 (including £3,008, net surplus on sales of investments) has been transferred to the reserve account, but against this an equal amount has been applied in writing down certain investments, thus leaving the net balance of £50,000 at credit of the reserve account unchanged. Interim dividends on the preferred stock at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, and on the deferred stock at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum, for the six months ended October 31, 1918, amounting to £5,528, having been paid, there remains the net sum of £6,872, including £1,005 brought forward. The directors recommend a dividend on £149,400 5 per cent. cumulative preferred stock, less income-tax at 4s. 9½d., £2,653; dividend on £100,600 deferred stock at 9 per cent. per annum (making 8½ per cent. for the

(*Continued on page 569.*)

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LTD.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of EIGHT SHILLINGS AND NINEPENCE per £5 Share on Coupon No. 61 is PAYABLE on and after June 16th, 1919, at Barclays Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W. and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C. or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

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

Alexandria, Egypt.
3rd June, 1919.

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Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

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Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce: Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

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Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."

LIVERPOOL HOUSE: Postal Address: LIONDA & CO., LTD., APSLEY BUILDINGS, 4, OLDHALL ST.
Tel. Address: "EXPLIONDAC, LIVERPOOL."

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(*Continued from page 567.*)

year), less income-tax at 4s. 9½d., £3,216: balance to be carried forward, £1,002.

Ceylon Consolidated.

The report of Ceylon Consolidated Estates for 1918 states that the balance brought forward from 1917 was £8,782, profit for year amounted to £3,661, less interest on loans £1,353, leaving £11,090. The directors propose to transfer to reserve fund £5,000, and to carry forward £6,090. The transfer of £5,000 will bring the amount arising out of undivided profits at credit of reserve fund to £9,000, which the directors propose to capitalise by the distribution of a share bonus, tax free, in the proportion of one new fully paid share for every ten shares held (equivalent at par to 14¼ per cent., less tax). In order to be in a position to carry out this proposal and to make provision for the repayment of loans at maturity, the erection of a factory and plant capable of dealing with the largely increasing crops which are assured, as well as the cost of the new extensions and the upkeep of the present immature area of the estates, it is essential to increase the authorised capital to £150,000 by the creation of 500,000 new shares of 2s. each, ranking pari passu with existing shares.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The maintenance of the regulation of prices is no doubt called for. No transactions in cereals are permitted at prices exceeding the following:—Wheat, 9s. the bushel; oats, 2s. 3d.; and barley of this year, 3s. 9d.

The Asbestos Mine at Amiandos (Mt. Troodos), with plant, etc., has been bought by a Cypriot company for £16,500; and it is hoped that work will be resumed with good results under the new management.

TRACTORS FOR ALGERIA AND TUNIS.

Some little time ago, says the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce, Marseilles, the attention of the French Academy of Agriculture was drawn to the type of farm tractor required in the winegrowing districts of France, Algeria, and Tunis. Ploughing has to be carried to a depth of 4 in. to 6 in., and scarifying to a depth of 2 in. In the opinion of a French expert the maximum width of the tractor should not exceed 40 in., and the weight should not be much more than one ton. The tractor, together with the plough or cultivator, should be able to turn round within a distance of 10 ft. at most. It is also recommended that the tractors should be designed so that they may be used for applying sulphate and sulphur to the vineyards. The wheels should be of the strongest possible construction, in view of the difficult nature of some of the roads. Ploughs should be made so that furrows may be added or taken off, according to the nature of the soil and the depth of ploughing needed. With regard to the smaller implements, numbers are, of course, made in France, including sickles and scythes, rakes, pitchforks, and hoes. The United Kingdom has always done a good trade in well-finished spades, shovels, and picks.

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY.

The estimated traffic receipts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin (by telegraph) for the week ended May 17 amounted to £12,958.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Anglo-Indian Jute Mills.—Dividend on Ordinary shares of 30 per cent. per annum.

Reliance Jute Mills.—Half-yearly dividend on Ordinary shares at rate of 100 per cent. per annum.

Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt.—Directors recommend final dividend of £2 10s., making £5 per cent. for year to March 31 last.

The directors of the Land Bank of Egypt recommend a dividend of 3s. per share, less income-tax, on ordinary shares, payable June 16.

The directors of the Del Rey Tea Company announce an interim dividend of 4 per cent., less tax at 6s., on the ordinary shares, payable June 13.

The result of the working of the Algerian Tramways to March 31 shows a net profit of 262,096 francs, against 692,407 francs for the preceding year.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on June 25, at 12.30 p.m.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company will be held at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., on June 20 at 1 p.m.

The annual general meeting of the Assam Company will be held at the offices of the company, 5, Lawrence Pountney-hill, Cannon-street, London, E.C.4, on June 23, at 2 p.m.

Monerakelle.—The directors of Monerakelle Rubber Estates announce an interim dividend of 4 per cent., less tax at 6s., payable June 20.

The directors of the Bank of Abyssinia announce that at the general meeting held in Cairo on May 30 a dividend of 1s. per share—namely, 4 per cent. on the amount paid up—was declared payable on June 6.

Transfer books of the British Burmah Petroleum Company 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock will be closed from June 20 to June 30, both days inclusive, for the purpose of the preparation of the warrants for the interest payable on July 1.

The directors of Egyptian Markets, Ltd., have declared a final dividend on the Ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in £, in respect of the year ended December 31 last, payable on and after June 27.

The Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company announces that the preference stock transfer books will be closed from June 23 to July 5, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to the shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

The directors of the Baraoora (Sylhet) Tea Company have resolved to pay on June 30 the following dividends:—On the Preference shares, half-year's dividend to date of 5 per cent., less income-tax at 6s. in £; on the Ordinary shares, final dividend on account of 1918 of 20 per cent., less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in £.

The report of the Poonagalla Valley Ceylon Company for 1918 states that, after providing for debenture interest and all other charges, the net profit amounts to £2,655; £7,228 was brought forward, less excess profits duty, 1917, £5,458, making £4,425. The directors propose to write off estates account for depreciation of buildings and machinery £1,000, to write off capital expenditure in 1918 £1,092, and to carry forward £2,333.

ON 'CHANGE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

The Whitsuntide holiday this week has again interfered with business, and this has been further hampered by the very serious telegraphic delays in communicating with Egypt, the most recent telegrams taking about nine days each way. There has been, in spite of all these difficulties, a renewal of demand from Egypt for Government stocks and bank shares.

As regards Government stocks, Egyptians rose smartly to nearly 88, after a fairly large business, and are closing half a point up at 87½.

In Bank shares Nationals have been in constant demand throughout the week, and close 3-16 higher at 20 9-16. Egypt has also bought several hundred Agriculturals at last week's price of 6. Anglo-Egyptian Banks, on the other hand, have receded ¼ to 15½. Land Banks remain a firm spot at 7 1-16.

As regards Land shares, Béhéras are ¼ easier at 12½, and both Delta Lands and Foreign Trusts are fractionally lower at 14s. 6d. and 15s. 3d. respectively. A large business has been done in Egyptian Consolidated Lands, which are closing 6d. higher at 2s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares there have been constant buyers for Alexandria Waters, but no business has resulted, owing to there being no sellers; and Salts and Sodas, on some quiet buying, have improved ⅛ to 2⅞.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B, after weakening to about 6 and recovering to 6 7-16 are finishing 1-32 firmer at 6 5-16. Roumanian Consols are unchanged at 20, but Traians are 6d. down at 13s.

In Greek securities business has been practically at a standstill, and the market is irregular. The 1890 Loan is two points up at 75 and the 1884 Loan one point up at 71. On the other hand Monopolies are ¼ a point down at 59½. Bank of Athens shares have been dealt in at a somewhat lower level, and are closing about 3⅝, a fall of ⅜.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows under date May 24:—

Our market became very animated soon after the blockade was raised. All classes of people started buying the article, and consigning it to America, encouraged by prices there of 60s. to 80s. per lb. for 11 per cent. to 13 per cent. The result is that some 800 to 900 cases were sent off by the first two or three direct steamers, and 40 to 50 cases to London. What was to be expected took place: prices here advanced, and in the consuming markets went down. Since shipments have ceased our market has dropped again, and to-day's probable price for 11 per cent. manufacturing materials is about 24s. per lb. c.i.f., port of destination. The quality of the new crop, which will soon be harvested, shows well, for the weather has been all along favourable, but as regards quantity, it will be small, owing to the unsettled state of the country, to lack of hands, and to floods and inundations all through the winter and spring months.

It is reported that the Serbian financial delegates attached to the Serbian Delegation attending the Peace Conference will travel to London this week.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. June 4	June 11
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87	87⅛
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	74
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	71	71
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	70	71
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60	59½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	54	54
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	73	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	86	86
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83½	83
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15¾	15½
Bank of Athens	£2	80/-	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7⅞	7⅞
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	77	77
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9 1/16	9 1/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7 1/16	7 1/16
London County and Westminster	—	17	17
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅜	20⅜
National Bank of India	43	53	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅞	7⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	67	67
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/-	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8½	12¾	12¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consolidated	3/11	2/-	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/9	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/-	25/-
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	7	7
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	13	13
Egyptian Markets Ord	1 1/16	25/-	25/-
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	2⅜	2⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6¼	6¼
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	¾	6 9/32	6 5/16
Anglo-Persian	1 3/32	27/-	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	—
Roumanian	1 1/16	20/-	20/-
Traian (Roumanian)	—	13/6	13/-

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MAY 23.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20 1/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	112
" " Div.	Frs.	160
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 3/32
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	11 1/16
" priv.	L.E.	4 1/32
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	175
Bons de Panama	Frs.	150
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	97
" Priv.	Frs.	107
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	101
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3¼
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 3/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3½
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6
Bonded Stores	L.E.	13½
Unifiée	L.E.	86½
Privilégiée		76½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7 7/32
Nungovich Hotels	£	6 15/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
" " " Fond.	£	500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4 1/16
" Ord		130
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	14 7/16
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	179
Egyptian Markets		22/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	365exc
Div.	Frs.	270exc
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	298
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda		51/10½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	726
" Fondateur	Frs.	980
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	430½exc
" 1903 "	Frs.	309
" 1911 "	Frs.	281¾
United Lands	P.T.	4½
ssoc. Cotton Jinners		5/3

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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

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RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
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The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

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

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,364,793.

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

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

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

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

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

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

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 24·40 Drachmæ to £1.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: PIRÆUS, SYRA.

CAPITAL - Drs. 10,000,000.

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Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

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

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ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

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1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
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4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
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In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£85,000*

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£850,000**
RESERVE - - - - - -	**£220,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Reserve Fund	**Rs.1,51,00,000**
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	**Rs. 25,00,000**

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Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches, Sub-Agencies or Pay Offices.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

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Reserve Fund - - - -	**Rs.52,00,000**

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Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

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Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each ..	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,550,000**

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 424.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

An official summary of the German counter-proposals for the Treaty of Peace and the Allies' reply to those counter-proposals have been issued this week. As far as it is possible to judge by the former, the enemy does not yet appear to realise either that he is beaten, or that he already stands convicted before the world of crimes for which full reparation will have to be made before he can be admitted into civilised society again. He is ready to admit that crimes—a few crimes, it seems—were committed by the old, Imperial Germany, but the Democratic Germany of to-day, he argues in effect, is quite a different country and cannot justly be asked, or expected, to pay for all the damage done. It expects, on the other hand, to be admitted to the League of Nations forthwith, when it will devote itself to leading the world along the paths of progress. With every wish to avoid flippancy, it is impossible to avoid calling to mind the case of the burglar, who, professing to see the error of his ways, desired to be appointed immediately treasurer of the flourishing friendly society attached to the chapel which claimed him as a convert. His impassioned appeal, if we remember aright, fell upon deaf ears, and similarly it is not surprising to find the Allies making it clear that, while they have no wish to prolong the period of ostracism unnecessarily, they must have solid proofs of Germany's change of spirit before they accede to her request.

The German counter-proposals—or the official summary of them—contain few direct references to the Near East. They remark that "Germany is called upon to violate the Egyptian right to self-determination by recognising the British Protectorate"; but there is no indication of any intention to refuse such recognition; and the moral effect of the reference, coming from such a source, is not likely to be very great. While accepting the obligation to pay for damages sustained by the civilian population of occupied Belgium and France, Germany is opposed to making reparation in occupied Roumania, Serbia, or Montenegro—as also in Italy and Poland—"as no attack in contradiction to international law was involved" in the later cases. Germany also quite bluntly "refuses to accept the general abrogation of engagements with her former Allies and Russia and Roumania," the reason being given as "threatening the ordered relations with these countries"; and she demands representation on both the Danube Commissions. The tone of the Allies' reply indicates that these protests and demands have been taken at their true worth. The period of five days at first allowed for consideration of the Allies' "last word," as the reply is expressly termed, has now been extended to seven days, but Germany is told quite unambiguously that she must then sign the Treaty as now amended or take the consequences.

The Turkish delegates arrived in Paris at the end of last week, and on Tuesday morning, at the Quai d'Orsay, Damad Ferid Pasha, Tewfik Pasha, and Riza Tewfik Bey were accorded a hearing by the Council of Ten. Ferid Pasha read a memorandum which, while admitting that atrocities had taken place, declared that not all the blame was Turkey's, and that not all the crimes had been committed by Turks. He also entered a strong plea for the maintenance of the Turkish Empire. The delegation was later informed that it should receive a communication from the Allies on Saturday. Obviously it is too early to attempt any forecast of that communication, but it is permissible to guess that its character may be affected by the attitude of Germany in regard to signing the Peace Treaty. It is permissible also to add that the Turkish delegates' contention that the Young Turks were responsible for the war is admittedly more genuine than the German attempt to put all responsibility for the war on the ex-Kaiser and his particular set. The present Turkish Government is genuinely hostile to the "Young Turks" and their ways, but it would be ill-advised if it built any high hopes on that foundation.

So little trustworthy news of Bulgaria has found its way into this country recently that the telegram from our Correspondent in Sofia, which will be found elsewhere, is of particular interest and value. It flatly contradicts innumerable reports and rumours which have obtained currency here, and should serve to dissipate a great many fears, real or assumed. For the time being, at any rate, Bulgaria is clearly on her best behaviour, and her people are giving fresh proof of their practical common sense and their undeniable industry. What the future may have in store for them remains to be seen, and in certain eventualities they may, as the telegram hints, show the world a less admirable side of their character. But in the meantime they could not better employ their time than as they are reported to be doing by our Correspondent.

Discussion of Indian constitutional reforms has made little progress since we last wrote, but such attention as has been given to the subject has continued to be con-

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centrated on Functions rather than on Franchise. Our own view of the relative importance of these categories can best be stated in the form of a parable. India has, let us say, decided to abandon the old family bullock-coach, and we are trying to design a motor-car adapted to her peculiar requirements. We do not expect immediate finality of design, but we want something which for a few years will go better than the bullock-coach, and not be too uncomfortable for the occupant; our principle is to build the *tonneau* as well as possible, but to think of the *chassis* first, while the general trend of discussion both here and in India is far too much concerned with details of the upholstery. During the period of experiment you can drive the *chassis* perched, if necessary, on a soap-box, and though we think India can be made rather more comfortable than that, we should prefer the soap-box on a good *chassis* to the most luxurious seat on top of a machine that would not go. That is why we think of the Franchise first.

From this point of view, the most interesting document hitherto published on this side is the White Paper giving the opinions of the Government of India on the Report of the Franchise Committee. The despatch has obviously been put together somewhat hurriedly, and perhaps for that very reason it gives a vivid picture of the mentality of its authors. The dominant theme is anxiety to go forward, and the changes proposed in the Southborough scheme are on balance distinctly democratic. But interwoven curiously with this theme is the old bureaucratic *motif* of "uniformity," that relic of the Strachey epoch, requiring that the people, from Delhi to Dacca, and from Kumaun to Cape Comorin, should conform to the sealed pattern evolved by the pure intellect of some Under-Secretary at Simla. The interplay of these two ideals is probably a fairly accurate reflection of the mind of India just now, but at present we are concerned only with its effects in the political sphere.

We meet the ideal of uniformity at the very outset of the despatch, when the Government deplore the omission of the Southborough Committee to establish general principles; they go on to apply neat and ingenious tests of the degree of "correlation" resulting from the Committee's work, and, among other changes, they would reduce the electorate in some provinces and expand it elsewhere to mitigate the "abnormalities" thus brought to light. It is quite a good specimen of secretariat work done at high pressure, and the criticisms are sound if the need for uniformity be granted; its defect is that, as nobody outside Simla attaches any particular importance to the principle, the arguments based on it do not carry much weight. The despatch however, makes some good points on various topics too detailed to be discussed here, and will be of much use when the Franchise rules are on the anvil, provided that the men who have to hammer them out will ask not merely whether a rule secures uniformity, but whether uniformity is desirable in the circumstances to which the rule applies.

The White Paper to which we have referred contains some other documents, among them a minute by Sir Sankaran Nair, which possesses a melancholy interest of its own. This gentleman, who has since resigned his seat on the Council, was chosen about four years ago to hold the portfolio of Education, and here we find him basing his arguments on mis-statements of well-known historical facts, so glaring that a schoolboy who perpetrated them would deserve to be—let us say subjected to disciplinary measures. We have noticed two or three statements of the kind, but to take a single example, we are told that "India, we know, was a great manufacturing country, whose wealth attracted the East India Company." That assertion, which was circulated originally for the purposes of political agitation, has been shown to be groundless again and again, and it is really depressing to find it repeated in obvious good faith by the man who has been ultimately responsible for teaching India the truth.

Is it too much to ask that Indian politicians should try to prepare themselves for their new responsibilities by laying aside such cherished fallacies as these? Very little study of the original authorities would suffice to convince them that the East India Company's merchants were not attracted to India by its wealth, but went there in the hope of buying cheap and selling dear, the motive which has influenced merchants since trade came into existence; while if they could spare a little more time they would also learn that far from being "wealthy," India was, if anything, a poorer country then than now, and that she owes most of her material possessions to that British administration which they are so ready to decry. The more widely such truths are told in India just now the better will be the prospects of the new regime; dreams of a purely fictitious past are the worst possible foundation for the future to which she aspires.

The Greek advance in the Aidin vilayet is causing some uneasiness in Italy. The Rome correspondent of *The Times*, for instance, reports that it is asked whether Italian claims in Asia Minor have been definitely rejected, "and, if they have not been, why the Greeks should be permitted to extend their occupation as far as they have done." In many quarters almost any definite decision of Paris on this thorny question would be hailed with relief, and the one suggested in the message quoted would be by no means the least popular, provided that Italy's exertions in the war received due recognition by her Allies.

In any case, if she is to hold Smyrna and its hinterland permanently, Greece will have no easy task to perform, and it is to be hoped that her difficulties will not be increased needlessly. If she is to make the most of the territory and to do it justice, her administration must command the goodwill and respect of the foreign community and at least the respect also of the Turkish community—the goodwill will follow in due course. For the capital necessary to develop the resources of the region, and even to carry on satisfactorily without any extensive development, she will assuredly have to look for foreign help, while for labour she must almost certainly depend largely upon the Turkish community. With the co-operation of the important British and French communities at Smyrna the administration might soon be made a model for the rest of Greece; and fortunately the Greece of to-day is not too proud to learn from her friends. Such co-operation as we refer to would, we cannot doubt, be heartily given if sought, and by the exercise of tact the Greek administration may surely look to secure and provide an efficiency to which Smyrna has been a stranger for at least several centuries. Under the influence of M. Venizelos's inspiration, we believe that happy end will be secured.

The accession of territory which Greece receives as an outcome of the war brings to the front the broad question of the nation's administrative capacity. With the selection as High Commissioner for Smyrna of M. Stergiadis, who is regarded in many quarters as Greece's coming man, it is evident that the Government realises the necessity of creating the best impression in the new territory. But the head of a Government, however gifted, is seriously handicapped if he has only second-rate subordinates. At the moment when Greece finds her administrative responsibilities being largely increased she is trying to carry on with a civil service considerably depleted as a result of the division of the country into two hostile camps. The question, therefore, arises, and is being cautiously referred to in circles whose loyalty to M. Venizelos is beyond challenge, whether in the interests of the Hellenic race it will not be necessary to make a definite attempt to heal the breach that now renders Greece a country divided against herself. It was considered necessary two years ago to remove from office a number of officials, whose services, if the past could be satisfactorily cancelled, might be of great assistance now. Will the experiment be made of in-

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viting them to return, and, if once introduced, will it be possible to draw any hard and fast line? The problem is of the profoundest interest to Greece.

It is reported from Paris that the Egyptian Nationalist "delegates" have fallen out among themselves, and that some of them are already on their way home. In most quarters there will be little disposition to question the accuracy of this report, or to shed tears over it; for the most ardent supporter of Egyptian "Nationalism" could hardly argue that the presence in Paris of Zaghlul Pasha and his followers could in existing circumstances benefit Egypt in any way; while there can be little doubt that it will tend to prevent the country from settling down to the period of rest and reflection that it so obviously needs after the late excesses. As to the plotters' quarrel, it is natural to suppose that disappointment at not being taken so seriously as they had hoped imposed a greater strain upon their self-control than it could support. Apparently there are other reasons also. The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports a rumour to the effect that Zaghlul and Sharawi Pashas have quarrelled because the latter has refused to advance money "for the party funds." As Sharawi Pasha is generally understood to have been admitted to the Zaghlul coterie chiefly by reason of his wealth, his defection will probably be a serious blow for the "delegation," and may hasten its departure from Paris, if it is unable to find another patron to pay the piper for it.

Although Spain took a long time to make up her mind about putting her zone in Morocco into order, now that she has embarked on the operation she is pushing it with some vigour, especially in the north-west portion of her territory. The Anjera tribe is reported to have submitted, and it is hoped that the Beni Msaour, the Beni Aros, and the Wad Ras tribes will shortly be compelled to follow suit, as the result of an encircling movement now being carried out. In view of the fact that the Minister of War announced the complete submission of the Anjera tribe so long ago as April, it is slightly bewildering to find the submission reported again now—and with the qualification in one message of being that of "practically the entire tribe." The fact is, no doubt, that these tribesmen, never too ready to recognise authority, even that of their own chiefs, have felt free to decide, each man for himself, as to submitting or resisting further.

At Buckingham Palace last week a picturesque ceremony took place when the King and Queen received a Special Mission from Abyssinia. The Mission, which was headed by Dejazmatch Nado, bore the congratulations of the Empress Zudito and the Heir-Apparent, Ras Tefari, whose fight against and victory over Lij Yassu were recorded in THE NEAR EAST a year ago. In his reply to the address of Dejazmatch Nado the King expressed the hope that the cordial relations between the two countries will be cemented by a rapid development of communications and commerce. That hope will be widely shared in this country, and, as the members of the Mission have been showing considerable interest in our commerce and industry, as well as in our administrative methods, it is likely to be fulfilled.

A statement issued last Saturday by the War Office reported that a communication, dated June 7, had been received from the British prisoners in South Kurdistan, whose capture at Suleimania was recorded in these columns a fortnight ago. At the time the telegram was despatched all the officers and men referred to were safe, but were still in confinement. This news is satisfactory as far as it goes, and the fact that the prisoners had been able to send off a telegram at all is hopeful. On the other hand, the nature of the country lends itself well to guerrilla warfare as practised by the Kurds, so that it may be some time before the recalcitrant chieftain is brought to book. And, unfortunately, the Kurd, in circumstances like the present, is apt to develop unpleasant characteristics which are lacking in the Arab and even in most genuine Turks.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

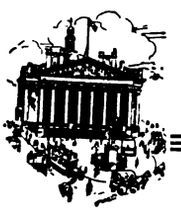
CAIRO, May 25.

A New Ministry.

Last week was in every sense a busy one. Since the resignation of the Rushdi Cabinet the country has been administered under the provisions of martial law, but the lack of some regularly constituted authority was continually being manifested, and when it was suddenly announced on Thursday that Mohammed Pasha Said had been called upon to form a Ministry, and had succeeded in doing so, the news was received with mixed feelings in different quarters. The partisans of Egyptian independence immediately denounced the new Ministers and all who had anything to do with them, including even the Sultan, as traitors to the national idea, and, not content with muttered threats, published a leaflet to the effect that unless the Sultan accepted the resignation of Mohammed Pasha Said and his colleagues within a few days some, if not all of them, would be assassinated. This sort of bluff, however, is becoming somewhat stale, and it has been proved during the last two months that threatened men live long. Consequently the friends of the new Ministers and most sensible Egyptians congratulated the Cabinet on its accession to office.

Statement of Policy.

The Premier, in receiving the representatives of the Press, made a statement of the policy he aimed at pursuing. He divided his programme into ten heads, as follows:—1. The Cabinet is essentially *Egyptian*, and its only object is the interest of Egypt. 2. It will endeavour to set the public services going again on a normal footing, and to restore the administration to the civilian Egyptian authorities, and so put an end to the grievances arising out of the present state of affairs. 3. It has no political colour, considering that the Egyptian question is for the Peace Conference to decide. 4. It will not take any decisions concerning the political status of Egypt. 5. It will endeavour to place the Legislative Assembly again in effective working order. 6. It will do all it can to bring about the end of the state of siege and the abolition of all exceptional legislative measures, also the suppression of the Press censorship. 7. Also the abrogation of the Press Law. 8. It will spare no effort to realise as rapidly as possible the aspirations of the Egyptians. 9. It will not allow any pressure to be used against individuals or corporations, especially if such is not called for by the needs of State. 10. It trusts that the nation will wait and see the results of its labours before passing judgment on it. The statement in paragraph 8 may arouse some comment coming from the new Cabinet. It may be



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taken, however, for granted, without much fear of error, that in mentioning "Egyptian aspirations" Mohammed Pasha did not include, in his own mind, either "total independence" or British evacuation, which are usually amongst the first articles of faith put forward by the Zaghlul Party. Since the declarations made by President Wilson and the other Powers at Paris in recognition of the British Protectorate the aspirations of all moderate and rational Egyptians no longer embrace such fanciful dreams, but are confined to very praiseworthy and meritorious, as well as natural, aspirations for a larger share in national affairs to be thrown open to Egyptians competent to undertake it. There are, of course, many other directions in which an intelligent and cultivated Egyptian may have quite legitimate ideas of improving the position of himself and his contemporaries. A full opportunity is likely soon to be given apparently to all such to air their views and state their case.

The Royal Commission.

According to the information vouchsafed to Parliament, a Royal Commission will shortly reach Egypt with the precise object of examining into the basis on which the Protectorate is to be established, with due regard to the claims of the sons of the soil to participate in administration and legislation. Somewhat curiously, the Nationalist extremists are vehemently protesting against the appointment of this Commission, instead of giving it the welcome it might have expected. Their characteristic argument is that any relations with the Committee are tantamount to an admission that they recognise and acquiesce in the Protectorate, which they continue to repudiate as "anathema maranatha." Emissaries have, in fact, been sent forth throughout the length and breadth of the land to prepare for the Commission "the reception it deserves." Before the Commission arrives, however, better counsels may prevail, and it is difficult to believe that even the most rabid partisans of "independence" will stand by and let their adversaries alone have the ear of the Commission.

For the present little is known about this Commission beyond the mere fact that it will come with very extended powers and will probably be presided over by Lord Milner. Presumably its headquarters will be Cairo, even if the Sultan and Ministry be temporarily in summer quarters at Alexandria. It is also presumed that it will generate a number of sub-commissions to study various separate subjects. If it is really to make an exhaustive inquiry into the present conditions of Egyptian administration with a view to re-modelling them where necessary, its task is a gigantic one.

It is early yet to predict what may be the outcome of the labours of the Commission, but to the impartial observer who is acquainted with past and present happenings in Egypt there appear to be scarcely more than two practical solutions. First, to hand over Egypt administratively to the Egyptians—as, for instance, the Arab kingdom is likely to be handed over to the Arabs—merely keeping a strong hold on the Canal and on strategic points, and possibly on finance, in the interests of Europe. This would delight the whole nation for a short while, but probably not for very long, as it would soon perceive the difference between Oriental self-rule and even modified and "advisory" British administration. Secondly, creation of an Anglo-Egyptian Civil Service—of a large body of *resident* inspectors, political officers, or otherwise-named officials, with *executive* powers really to control and lead their native subordinates. At present there are in normal times a mere handful of British Inspectors of the Interior, Public Works, etc., who mostly live in Cairo or Alexandria, and visit the provinces for purposes of inquiry into anything that is brought before them, or that they consider requires looking into. They have no executive authority, but a powerful advisory position.

Recently a certain number of Englishmen have been appointed, as a purely temporary measure during the unrest, as "Political Officers" in the provinces. Whenever these, or any of the regular British Inspectors, have been on the spot the result has been almost invariably a quick restoration of peace and confidence.

Marriages.

Last week was a truly nuptial one in the Sultanian family. On Sunday Prince Djemaleddin, son of Princess Fatma of Constantinople, married Princess Kadrieh, daughter of the late Sultan Hussein. On Monday the Sultan's Chamberlain, Mahmoud Fakhry Pasha, married the Sultan's daughter, Princess Fewkieh, and on Tuesday the Sultan himself went through the religious form of marriage with the daughter of Abdurrahim Pasha Sabry, Governor of Cairo. The final marriage ceremony was to have taken place, and is said to have been celebrated yesterday, the 24th, but the announcement has not yet been made in the papers. It is indeed seldom that two daughters of Sultans and the father of one of them are all married in the same city during the same week.

GREECE AND SMYRNA.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Smyrna, May 30.

The Military Occupation.

Smyrna has had time to get over the physical effects of the Greek military occupation, and is now concerned with the political and economic future. Greece made a bad start when her troops forgot that they were carrying out a mandate of the Paris Conference and imagined that it was just another instalment of the traditional struggle between Greek and Turk, with everything in favour of the former. True, they were fired upon—not necessarily from the barracks themselves—when they were advancing to occupy the barracks; but they had no difficulty in coping with that particular problem, for the barracks quickly capitulated to an effective bombardment, and from that moment the military purpose of the landing was accomplished. There was no need for the massacre of many of their prisoners in the full view of the foreign men-of-war in the harbour, still less was it in the spirit of the injunctions sent by M. Venizelos when he ordered the expedition that there should be a simultaneous and seemingly organised attack on the Turkish quarter. The excesses ceased, however, almost as abruptly as they began. A Greek soldier and a Greek hooligan were condemned to death for their share in the proceedings, and order was restored in the town. Better still, the Greek Government at once sent its ablest available representative in the person of M. Stergiadis to take control of things in Smyrna.

M. Stergiadis.

The Greek High Commissioner has just completed a successful two years of office as Governor of Northern Epirus, where any improvement that has been effected in the relations between the Greeks and Albanians may be attributed to his personal efforts, his broad-mindedness, and administrative capacity. No better choice for Smyrna could be made. M. Stergiadis is prepared to face facts, and he has shown that he could even face the unpleasant facts of the original Greek landing. It would have been better, indeed, if he could

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have been in Smyrna at the time in order to prevent the details of the mistakes of those days from being suppressed in Greece itself by the censorship. For the Greeks are on the threshold of great things, and nothing is better calculated to burn into the nation a sense of its responsibilities than the knowledge of its own shortcomings at a time of test. The problem with which Greece is confronted does not concern merely the Government of the day, or a handful of civil servants. It is the business of the race as a whole, and until every Greek realises his responsibility in this matter there will always be the possibility of similar "mistakes" recurring, and the work of the best administrators is liable to be stultified. Let it be added in fairness to the Greeks that the extension of the military occupation in the vilayet of Smyrna has taken place, so far as is known, without incident, an aspect which seems to confirm the theory that the firing on the Greek troops in Smyrna was the work of irresponsible hotheads. The Turks are war-weary; most of their able-bodied men, moreover, are probably away from the districts now being occupied by Greek troops, but it cannot fail to help the Greek cause that the occupation should be carried out peaceably. M. Stergiadis does not expect the Turks to welcome the Greeks with open arms, but he recognises the advantage of this peaceful occupation, as it enables the newcomers to show their best qualities and will encourage the Turk to believe that things may, after all, not turn out to be as bad as he had anticipated.

A Difficult Problem.

At best, the future administration of Asia Minor presents a most intricate problem, in which many other interests than those of the Greeks and Turks are involved. Everyone, therefore, who is concerned for the peace and progress of this part of the world ought to feel constrained to help, as far as possible, in the solution, and, above all, to refrain from handicapping those who are conscientiously trying to secure it according to their ability.

The problem can, perhaps, be more easily understood by a statement of the difficulties ahead of the Greeks. Their mandate, or whatever authority will give them control in Asia Minor, rests on the principle of nationality. They are in Smyrna in virtue of the numerical superiority claimed for their nationals in the town and immediate neighbourhood, although it is problematical whether much reliance can be placed on local statistics. Their preponderance, in any case, ceases at a comparatively short distance from the coast. Smyrna, on the other hand, has been built up and exists on the trade of the interior; its future depends on the maintenance of that trade. If the port is under Greek jurisdiction, and the interior remains under Turkish or any other rule, is there the least guarantee that trade will continue to take the Smyrna route, even if the Greeks adopt the most liberal-minded fiscal policy? Further, Smyrna and its trade depend almost entirely on Turkish labour. At least one Turkish village in the vicinity of the port has been completely abandoned by its inhabitants as the aftermath of the Greek method of occupying Smyrna. It is impossible to say whether this village was the special object of Greek attention or whether the Turks, without a more definite reason, decided that "it wasn't good enough," and disappeared. The incident is significant. M. Stergiadis, as well as his subordinates, knows well enough that Greek interests require every Turk in Greece's sphere of influence to remain where he is; but how long will it take them to instil the same degree of statesmanship into the minds of the rank and file, who have in such a marked degree in their own hands the making or marring of Greater Greece?

The economic interests of Smyrna require that a large extent of the interior should be under the same jurisdiction as the town, and, in any case, that there should be nothing in the way of fiscal barriers to drive trade away from the town. The Greeks, therefore, having inaugurated their military control badly, are compelled, in the interest of their position here, to ask immediately for a wide extension of territory to which they can put forward no claim of nationality. If they should be given this additional territory, have they any certainty that they will be able to prevent the Turkish population from migrating, and thus stultifying the very object they had in view in taking over the territory? Again, with other parts of the Asia Minor coastland under the control of a European Power, it may be taken for granted that an attempt will be made to develop some other port as a rival to Smyrna's hitherto unchallenged position. The future of Smyrna, therefore, hinges partly on the capacity for promoting its development on the part of the controlling Power. There may be plenty of money in Greece to-day; but, apart from the fact that there is more than ample use for it in Greece proper, it is not within the bounds of possibility that it should be used to develop Smyrna. For the progress of this town the Greeks will have to depend largely on foreign capital; but here again the Greek administration is confronted with the uncomfortable factor that the first instinct of foreign trade is to take alarm at the prospect of a Greek regime, and to envy the ease with which the Turk effects his transfer.

In the circumstances the Greeks may well claim sympathy in connection with their acquisition of Smyrna. It will need real statesmanship in Athens to bring home to the people, who have given a thought to nothing beyond the fact that the Greek flag now floats in Asia Minor, an appreciation of the difficulties of the position. One thing is evident: anything in the nature of a crude policy of stereotyped annexation would be suicidal for Greece. This fact, I believe, the Greek Government recognises. Unless it wants to take over a moribund port, it must gain the confidence of Turks and foreigners, and it is unlikely that this can be done without definite steps being taken to secure the co-operation of both in the administration. If Greece will regard her presence in Smyrna as a valuable training-ground for further and still more important expansion, she will tread very warily; she will voluntarily school herself in the curriculum of empire until she has built up an efficient and trustworthy civil service, capable of impartial and effective administration. To evolve such a service without outside help will take five or six times as long as with such help, and in the work ahead of the Greeks time is an important factor.

In view of the internal difficulties attending her presence in Asia Minor, Greece is entitled to protection from complications from outside. If Italy, who is said to have sanctioned the Greek mandate in Smyrna, is bent upon "playing the game," she has adopted a curious method of showing it in her policy in Asia Minor. Misgivings on both sides may be responsible for misunderstandings and exaggerations, but so far there is considerable ground for the belief that the situation can only be satisfactorily cleared up by the direct intervention of Great Britain, France, and the United States, who can hardly claim the introduction of contiguous Greek and Italian spheres as a peaceful solution of the Asia Minor question.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The officer administering the Government has decided that Mr. Televantou shall continue to act as Local Commandant at Nicosia until further notice. Hitherto it has not been customary to appoint either Greeks or Turks to the office, and this has long been a grievance on the part of the Greek community. If any exception were made, Mr. Televantou, who is a Greek, certainly deserves the appointment. An energetic and efficient officer and a good linguist, he has rendered long and excellent service in almost every part of Cyprus, both as inspector and Local Commandant.

Empire Day was kept as a holiday, with services in the churches, receptions, and other marks of rejoicing. Ramadan still falls in a hot season, and coincides this year with what is the beginning of the slack summer season. Harvest operations have been carried on and are approaching an end in all the lower lands; but cereals are grown on suitable land in the Nile districts up to nearly 4,000 feet, and hill barley is the best that is grown, especially in the west of the island.

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ATHENS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 31.

Visit of Admiral Beatty.

The British Minister at Athens, Earl Granville, accompanied by Countess Granville, left on Monday last for England. Lord Granville is going on leave for four months, and Mr. C. Russell, Counsellor of the Legation, remains as Chargé d'Affaires. During Admiral Beatty's stay here the Municipality of Athens conferred on him the freedom of the city of Athens, and the Municipality of the Piræus passed a resolution that one of the principal streets of that town be named after him. The Admiral and Lady Beatty stayed on board their yacht Sheelah, which had anchored in the Bay of Phalerum. Their visit lasted three days, and they entertained, and were entertained by, the British Minister and Countess Granville. The Admiral and his staff and Lady Beatty were entertained at lunch by H.M. the King, and at dinner the same day by M. Repoulis, Acting President of the Council of Ministers. The Greek press wrote eulogistic articles of welcome to the gallant Admiral, extolling the services he had rendered to humanity and the Allied cause by the ceaseless watch he and his Fleet had maintained during the most critical period of the war.

The Occupation of Smyrna.

The unfortunate incidents in connection with the occupation of Smyrna by the Greek troops which necessitated the hurried journey thither of the Acting President of the Council, M. Repoulis, have now ceased, and telegrams from Smyrna report that order reigns once more. Ultra-Royalists ascribe the incidents to disorderly elements in the Greek Army of Occupation, hoping thereby to discredit the Government, and quite forgetting in their zeal that the army is composed of, and officered by, their own kith and kin, since the mobilisation was a general one, and called to the colours all Greeks, irrespective of their political convictions. These incidents, however, were undoubtedly caused by a few fanatical Turks, who were provoked by the patriotic and triumphal reception accorded by the Smyrniotes to the Greek troops. News has now come of the occupation of Aidin and Aivalik by the Greek troops, together with the confirmation of the fact that order reigns throughout all the occupied districts.

The Trial of the Skouloudis Cabinet.

On the resumption of the sitting of the Court on May 23, the President of the Special Court gave the decision on the proposals made by counsel for the prosecution, and on the pleas put forward by the counsel for the defence, which had been put at the second sitting of the Court on May 22. These proposals and pleas concerned the absence of several witnesses considered important both by the prosecution and by the defence. The decision of the Court was that owing to the absence of these witnesses, whose testimony would have important bearing on the trial—amongst the absent witnesses is also M. Venizelos, Prime Minister—the sitting should be adjourned until September 12. MM. Skouloudis and Jiannakitsas were admitted to bail on the understanding that they are not to absent themselves from Athens without permission of the prosecuting counsel. Bail was fixed for M. Skouloudis at £20,000, and for M. Jiannakitsas at £400. The decision of the Court to allow bail for the ex-Premier has created a very good impression, as he was undoubtedly suffering, owing to his great age, in confinement.

On May 27 the Court-Martial of Athens began the trial of General of Brigade A. Papoulas, Col. K. Konstantinopoulos, M. K. Hoesslin, J. Sagias, President General of the Reservist Leagues, S. Merkouris, former Mayor of Athens, K. Inglessis, and G. Pezmazoglou. The latter is absent, having escaped from Corsica. The charge brought against the accused is that of high treason, it being alleged that they illegally armed the populace in December, 1916. Various counsel for the defence urged that owing to the absence of witnesses considered important for the defence the trial should be adjourned for a more convenient season. Other counsel for the defence urged that in view of national interests being in the hands of the Great Powers it was not seemly that "unfortunate, most unfortunate, occurrences, created in the past by various circumstances and contrasts," should now come up for public discussion. The Public Prosecutor, however, resisted the appeal for adjournment, and the Court decided that the hearing of the case should be resumed on May 31 in the Chamber of Deputies, which had been altered suitably for the trial of the Skouloudis Cabinet.

Skra di Leghen Anniversary.

The anniversary of the capture of the Skra di Leghen was celebrated with all possible pomp yesterday at the Square of the Barracks, Athens. The garrison as well as the Cadet School took part. The King, with his civil and military Staffs, the Cabinet, and General Grammat, Chief of the French Military Mission to Greece, attended. Major-General Joannou, who commanded the Greek troops which carried out the attack, was also present, accompanied by his aide-de-camp. A memorial service for the twenty-eight officers and 594 soldiers who fell in the engagement was celebrated by the Metropolitan of Athens, assisted by his suffragans. The Master of Ceremonies, Lt.-Col. Koimisis, made an oration in honour of the brave troops who had given their lives to become the forerunners of Hellenic victories. A telegram of greeting was also sent to General Guillaumat, who had been in command of the Allied troops on the memorable day.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 30.

General Averesco on Britain's Effort.

General Averesco publishes an instructive article in the journal, *Indreptarea*, for May 17, on "Limitation of Armaments," in which, no doubt with the conditions to be imposed on Germany in mind, he emphasises the great difficulty of attaining by such means the practical object of avoiding war. In support of his argument he refers to the total failure of Napoleon's measures to reduce the military power of Prussia after the peace of Tilsit in 1807 by imposing on her a limitation of peace effectives. He then proceeds to lay stress on the recent example supplied by Britain. After giving a succinct account of Britain's military effort, he sums up as follows:—"The country which was least prepared for war on a grand scale at the time when it resolved to measure itself against the most formidable military organisation the world has known, was undoubtedly England. None the less, it is England who, if we put into the balance every variety of consideration, made an effort of such magnitude as to surpass even that of Germany."

Weather and Crops.

There are many people, I am sure, who, reflecting on the unfavourable conditions of the European climate, at heart wonder how our old continent came to be so thickly populated. The weather of the last few years has served to add to this impression, at least in our part of the world. In 1916 we had a spring and summer of intolerable heat, during which the thermometer frequently registered 43 deg. Centigrade in the shade. The following Christmas might have fallen in the spring for all the indications that the climate gave us. Then came two months of intense cold, with the thermometer somewhere between 20 deg. and 30 deg. C., which, under the conditions then obtaining, caused great loss of human life, not to speak of the tens of thousands of frozen feet. After this, in succession, a rainless autumn, a snowless winter, a dry spring, and a droughty summer, which turned the rich countryside into a desert. And now, for the last months, the weather conditions have been most unsettled, the damp element, however, predominating. Rivers have overflown their banks, bridges have been swept away, and crops have been swamped. An amateur meteorologist, gifted with an imaginative turn of mind, tells us that 15 million tons of rain fall on the earth's surface per second, and deplores its distribution over so large an area. If only, he complains, instead of inconveniencing innocent people the world over, it would consent to concentrate itself for a week or so on the regions polluted by Bolshevism, how great the benefits that would accrue to humanity! Roumania would be doubly grateful for such an occurrence.

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The wheat has remained behindhand on account of the cold, and the wind has caused some damage among the fruit trees. The soil has fortunately been cultivated completely in Bessarabia and Oltenia, and the conditions in Moldavia are, taking all the circumstances into account, satisfactory. The untilled fields of Valachia point eloquently to the German occupation. I had ample leisure for contemplating its effects in the course of a recent trip, during which a motor breakdown near the Sireth kept us 26 hours in the open country. Half-filled trenches, miles of shell-strewn country, abandoned by all living creatures, formed a vast German cemetery, and contrasted strikingly with the green fields and waving yellow colza beyond the lines so bravely defended by the reconstituted Roumanian Army of 1917.

THE SITUATION IN BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 17.

In view of repeated misstatements regarding the situation in Bulgaria, it is necessary to establish the fact that the country is at present entirely peaceful, and there is no foundation for the reports of disturbances, or of aggressive intentions on her part. Suggestions that Bulgaria has not conformed to the terms of the armistice constitute an unmerited reflection upon the Allied military control. Whereas the armistice provided for the retention of three mobilised divisions, the whole army has been demobilised. The disarming of the people was never suggested, and no Allied force was provided to carry out any measure of the kind.

Owing to the requirements of the land, and to the people being predominantly agricultural, the transfer of the soldiers to their normal peace occupation has been effected comparatively easily, and the shortage of food is now being met.

It is probably true that the people are buoyed up by the expectation that the Peace Terms cannot conflict with the principle of nationality, and that consequently they are unable to believe that their punishment may take the form of territorial surrenders. It remains to be seen what their attitude will be if the terms offered should prove to be what they should regard as excessive. At present Bulgaria's neighbours have no cause for any anxiety. On the other hand, the reported concentration of several thousand *komitajis* on the other side of the frontier should serve as a warning to the Allied Powers how easily complications may arise in the future unless the suppression of all irregular forces in the peninsula is insisted upon.

MESOPOTAMIAN HISTORY.

On June 6, in the second of the course of lectures which he is giving at the School of Oriental Studies, Mr. R. Campbell Thompson reviewed the history of mankind in the Mesopotamian region from the very earliest times. He said that the Sumerians were not the earliest inhabitants of Babylonia. Before them there were a race who used slings, bows and arrows, made and decorated pottery, but had no writing. Then came the Sumarians; these did not paint their pottery, and did not use the bow. They built temple towers in shape like an Egyptian pyramid. From the fact that they used the same sign for mountain as they did for country, it was assumed that they came originally from a mountainous land. They were not at first familiar with either the horse or the camel, but called the camel the beast from the sea and the horse the ass from the East. Next came the first wave of Semites. This people had been cradled in Arabia, and possibly came originally from Africa, but it did not advance directly on Babylonia from Arabia, but came down the Euphrates, so that the Sumerians were sandwiched between the invaders and the Gulf, and were gradually absorbed. About 2,300 B.C. came the second Semitic invasion, and it was during the period then inaugurated that the land was canalised. Afterwards came the Hittites, and about 1,800 B.C. the Kassites. The first of these was probably, and the second certainly, an Indo-Germanic people. The Kassites brought in the use of the horse and instituted a simpler system of dating. The Assyrians were first mentioned about 2,200 B.C., but their rise was much later; it was about 1,100 B.C. that Tiglath Pileser spread the Assyrian empire abroad. From that time onwards it grew, and its record until about 606 B.C. was one long record of cruelty and bloodshed. That year marked its fall to the Scythians. In 538 Cyrus took Babylon, and the Persian empire rose. Then followed Alexander, who died at Babylon in 323. After him came the Selucids, Arsacids, and Sasanians, which brought us down to 226 A.D. Another and last Semitic wave flowed over the country with the coming of Islam, when the Arabs made themselves masters of the region. Then came the rise of the Abbassids, and the Khalifate was installed at Baghdad. About 1,055 A.D. the Mongols overran the country, and they made later invasions in 1,250 under Hulagu, and in 1,393 under Timur; but by this time the Osmanlis were becoming powerful, and in due course Mesopotamia was included in their empire.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The "Cyprus Mission," now in London, which claims to represent Greek Cypriots, has placed before the British Government and public its arguments in favour of cession to Greece, as M. Venizelos has done before the Peace Conference; and some ardent phil-Hellenes have supported the petition. Little has been said in the Press by advocates of retention; but those who know the Near East best consider that no valid argument has been given why this "outpost of civilization" should be ceded, and our links of Empire weakened at a vital point, at this critical period of unrest in the Near and Far East. On the contrary, while the motives of the "Greek" aspirants are mainly sentimental, our own interests, which militate strongly against abandonment, are very material.

While the circumstances that led to the original occupation of Cyprus in 1878 have altered, and our policy towards Turkey has necessarily changed, our reasons for holding this strategic point are more cogent than ever. The conditional offer of Cyprus to Greece in 1915 by Sir Edward Grey, made without reference to Parliament, was generally condemned in England. The cession of Heligoland, made "without consultation with the naval and military authorities," has proved unfortunate. It might be added that Corfu, had it remained British, would have been of no little value in the late war. And few people know of what use Cyprus has been of late years. As Mr. Joseph Longford has suggested in the *Morning Post*, such a cession might be carried to its logical conclusion by the cession of Gibraltar to Spain, of Ceylon to Holland, and of Hong Kong to Japan.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor has recently stated that he had reason to believe that the Government of Greece would be ready to make it a part of the transfer "that any harbour which the British authorities might deem necessary for the protection of British routes would be pledged to the use of the British authorities whenever required." This is so. But it must not be forgotten that we came very near to being stabbed in the back by Greece in the late war. M. Venizelos saved the situation. But the wise policy of M. Venizelos, Greece's one and only modern statesman, can provide no guarantee for the future.

Greece has more than enough to do for a long time to come in administering Greece and newly-acquired territories, without the additional responsibility of governing Cyprus. She has a very extensive coast line, which she cannot police efficiently. Cyprus also has a large coast-line which offers numerous possibilities. As regards aircraft, which are to play so important a part in the future, the island position is of very great importance. It is, moreover, our only, and excellent, sanatorium in the Levant and Mediterranean.

For the material good of the Cypriot people the change would not be beneficial; and the promise made to the 60,000 Moslems, who strongly oppose abandonment of the island by Great Britain, that their interests would be fully considered, must be fulfilled. Whatever we may do in the future, the main point at present is that the geographical position of Cyprus alongside of continents in which troubles are more than likely to arise, presents a most powerful argument against a surrender which might, and probably soon would, be a cause of regret and of censure upon those responsible for such a blunder. May I therefore endorse the opinion of Colonel A. C. Yate (The Near East, June 13) that "there are the strongest possible reasons why Cyprus should be retained by Britain as a base in the Levant. The hands of Britain, indeed, of the Western Allies, need to be strengthened in the Mediterranean from end to end."—I am, etc.,

June 17. Foresight.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—You will perhaps allow me, in view of Lieut. Col. A. C. Yate's letter in your issue of June 13, once more to expose as simply and unequivocally as may be the standpoint of the Greek population of the island

Lieut.-Col. Yate asks for the foundation of my belief that "the Greek régime is beyond any doubt going to be established in Cyprus." This belief of mine is not based on information secretly gathered behind the political scene.

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It is primarily based on the simple conviction in which I have been nurtured that the British nation is an honest nation, respectful, above all things, of its plighted word. Now, the British nation has by the mouth of its constitutional representatives given not once, but a hundred times, its free and solemn adhesion to the principles of the self-determination of national groups which have been adopted by the Allied democracies as the basis of a new world. This is a fact which Lieut.-Col. Yate cannot, and, I am sure, would not, wish to deny. But in the light of these principles my belief surely follows from the premises with irresistible logic. I need only ask Lieut.-Col. Yate two simple questions: Is it not a fact that four-fifths of the population of Cyprus are Greeks? Is it not also a fact that they have on every possible occasion affirmed their will for union with Greece? In view of these indisputable facts it is quite clear what the application of the principles on which the new frontiers of the world are to be drawn involves for Cyprus. Great Britain can deny Cyprus union with Greece only by breaking solemn and repeated promises given before the whole world.

As a matter of fact, the value of Cyprus to Britain "as a base in the Levant" has been practically nil. It is unlikely—to say the least—that it would prove more valuable in the future. Nevertheless, it is a proof of the readiness of the Greek Government to meet every exigency of British interests that it is perfectly willing in the event of the cession of Cyprus to Greece to afford every facility demanded by military necessities. The matter, in a nutshell, is this. The Greek claim is indisputable on ethnological grounds. The objections made to it are, therefore, based on the military utility of the Island to the British Empire. That utility is denied by us and by the whole of its past history. Even so, however, Greece is ready, provided the aspirations of the Cypriots are met, to allow the military utility which Cyprus is alleged to possess to be exploited to the full by Britain. I should like to know if, in view of the above, Lieut.-Col. Yate still considers that his wish that Cyprus should not be ceded to Greece has "good solid backing."

Lieut.-Col. Yate's arguments against the union of Rhodes with Greece are curious. "If the Greeks get Rhodes," he says, "those (*i.e.*, the Hospitaller) edifices and traditions will meet with no respect." Does he seriously wish to suggest by this that if Rhodes goes to Greece these "Rhodian remains" will fall victims to Greek vandalism?

Lieut.-Col. Yate quotes in support of his views a lecture of Sir W. M. Ramsay before the Central Asian Society. With all the deference due to the great authority of Sir W. M. Ramsay, I do not think his opinion of Greek colonisation in Anatolia can help us in this matter of Cyprus. I imagine that Lieut.-Col. Yate would hardly describe the 235,000 Greeks living in Cyprus (as against 60,000 Turks) as colonists and settlers amid a largely Moslem population. *Apropos* of lectures, I remember that I, too, attended a lecture in February at the Royal Colonial Institute by Mr. M. G. Chussachi. A few sentences I heard there stuck in my mind: "Roman publicists dwell firmly on the mediæval prowess of the knights of St. John, who for centuries were masters of Rhodes and the surrounding islands, and whose rights they maintain have devolved on the Crown of Savoy. They conveniently forget to quote the admission of Vertot, the historian and panegyrist of the Order, that the Greek inhabitants preferred Turkish rule to the rule of these Latin knights."

I trust that the above will justify in the eyes of Lieut.-Col. Yate the firm belief which I hold in common with the Greek Government and nation that the legitimate aspirations of both Rhodes and Cyprus will be realised shortly.—I am, etc.,

DR. NIC. KL. LANITIS,
Member of the Legislative Council of Cyprus and of the Cyprus deputation.

June 16.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—In a letter published in your issue of June 13 Colonel Yate still persists not only in throwing more "light" on the future of Cyprus, but also in stirring up again the question of the restoration of the *non-Greek* (the italics are mine) Rhodes to the Hospitallers; and he again expresses his fears as to the fate of the Auberges of Rhodes should they fall into the hands of the Greeks.

I am sorry that Colonel Yate has misinterpreted the "intemperate tone" of my letter of March 13, and, once for all, I can assure him that neither I nor any other Greek have any evil intention against these poor Auberges. The matter is simply not worth arguing about. The Greeks, though they have never been vandals, will not pour their vials of wrath upon lifeless buildings with the pretext of taking their *revanche* for the unspeakable yoke under which the Dodecanesians groaned when the Knights of Rhodes were governing the South Sporades.

I am fully aware of the fact that Colonel Yate is an excellent authority on Iran or Turkestan, but I am afraid that his historic notions concerning the Hellenism of Cyprus and the Dodecanese are very poor. His good friends the Italians have now proclaimed, *urbi et orbi*, that they will only leave the good harbours of the Dodecanese when England abandons Cyprus and Malta, and when Corsica, Tunis, Nice, and Savoy are restored to their Mother Country! I understand that Great Britain and Greece are about to settle amicably the question of Cyprus outside the Conference circles. We are quite confident in Albion's sense of justice. Our Cypriot brothers have not suffered under the British Government; on the contrary, they have enjoyed the same paternal administration that was adopted in the Ionian Islands before their cession to the Hellenic Kingdom. But, speaking frankly, the Italian "solicitude" for the Dodecanese, which have been for over 3,000 years Greek, looks very suspicious indeed, especially as the same Italian finger is to be found everywhere, not only in Asia Minor, but also in Thrace and Epirus.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, June 15.

French cruisers have gone to Odessa to superintend the embarkation of foreign refugees from that port. The refugees will be taken to Constantinople in a transport.

The work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals has been greatly reduced, but is continuing vigorously in Serbia, where the need is very great. Hospitals are being maintained at Belgrade and at Vranja, in Old Serbia. In this latter place the Scottish Women's Hospital is the only medical centre for miles around.

The Times' Tangier correspondent, in a message dated June 9, states:—The Spanish Government has at last decided upon the expulsion of the German agents from Larache, in the Spanish zone, who during the whole period of the war have carried on an active and dangerous intrigue against the French in Morocco.

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THE GERMANS AT TABRIZ.

GERMAN CONSUL DEFIES THE PERSIANS.

By "MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN."

TABRIZ, April 12.

The German Consul has been responsible for a good deal of trouble here during the last few days. The German Consulate is in the western, or, rather, the south-western, portion of the city, which is the most select quarter. It is in this part of the town that the Germans erected their once-famous rug factory. The staff of the Consulate consists of five persons—the Consul himself, whose name is Wustrow, the doctor of the Consulate (Paul Shints), an orderly, and two soldiers, who act as guards.

The trouble to which I refer was caused by a letter to-day from the Consul addressed to H.E. Amir Toman Kela-Begi, the Governor of the ward of the city in which the German Consulate is situated. The letter, a copy of which has also been received by the Armenian Bishop, Melik Tankian, is in French and typewritten, and reads:—"Permit me to call your Excellency's attention to the fact that the local Persian authorities have demanded that I should hand over to them all the arms and ammunition I have in my Consulate. This demand of the Persian authorities has been dictated to them by the British. I will not give up an ounce of gunpowder or a single rifle or pistol. In my Consulate there are 1,200 kilogrammes of explosive material. If the Persian authorities, who have besieged my Consulate with gendarmes, attempt to force me to submit to their demands (I will submit to no one), I have decided to blow up everything—the materials, the Consulate, the Consular staff, including myself, rather than debase ourselves before these nobodies, who think themselves to be somebodies. Hence I will ask your Excellency to remove the score or more Armenian families who have their residence round my Consulate, so that they may not be harmed by the explosion. I may add that I will hand over the war material at my disposal to the Persian authorities or to anybody only when an order is brought to me from Berlin."

It is generally believed that in sending this letter to the Armenian Bishop it has been the intention of the Consul to inform indirectly the Persian authorities and the other Consuls of his intentions, so that they will not attempt to force him to yield, and so that the gendarmes will be removed. It is not thought that the Consul would worry much about the lives of a few score of Armenians if it actually came to blowing up himself and his Consulate. The letter of the German Consul was received yesterday at 7 p.m. by the Armenian Bishop, who was so alarmed at the possible execution of this threat that he at once informed the Crown Prince, the Acting Governor-General, Mokarram-el-Mulk, and the British, French, and American Consuls. At the same time, Consul Wustrow had the walls of the Consulate buildings raised all round, placed two quick-firing machine guns on the roof, and barricaded the place, preparing for eventualities. The Persian gendarmes were there, of course, not to take the place by storm, but simply to see that no arms or ammunition were transferred to other quarters. This precaution was taken on account of the rumour that the German Consul intended to hand over his ammunition to the Persian democrats, who had been in silent conflict with the Crown Prince and the Governor-General for over a year and a half. In view of this rumour the authorities were naturally obliged to take action.

Karguzar, the agent of the Foreign Minister in Tabriz, called to persuade Consul Wustrow to give up the ammunition, but all he got for his trouble was a stiff lecture from the Consul on the presumption of the Persians, and he took his departure without accomplishing anything. As a matter of fact, he was not even admitted at first, until he had dismissed his few armed attendants, and not until then was the gate opened, and he was allowed to pass in alone.

It is said that a telegram was handed to Consul Wustrow from the German Minister at Teheran, ordering him to give up his ammunition to the Persian authorities, but the Consul flatly refused to comply, basing his refusal on the ground that the telegraph line being in the hands of the British, they could easily make up such a telegram. He added, "I will give up all I have if an autograph letter is brought to me from the German Minister at Teheran ordering me to do so, but not until then."

No one is now permitted to enter the Consulate except the Karguzar (unattended) and H.E. Heshmet Sultanieh, the Master of Ceremonies to the Crown Prince (also without being accompanied by attendants). The only person who leaves the Consulate for official or personal business is the chief *ghulam* of the Consulate, who is over 6 ft. 6 in. When Consul Wustrow stopped his negotiations the local authorities intended to arrest this *ghulam*, and thus cut off the Consulate from communication with the city and the democrats; but a second threat of the Consul, "that if his *ghulam* were placed under arrest he would explode 1,200 bombs within the Persian quarter of the city," made the authorities think again before they acted. The German Consul, it is said, would not have dared to make such threats, considering the small number of his staff—five persons and a few *ghulams*—who, moreover, would not care to sacrifice their lives merely because their Consul wanted to have his will accomplished—had not there been within the Consulate nearly 100 democrats on whose active assistance Consul Wustrow has been depending.

THE HEDJAZ RAILWAY.

On June 17, lecturing before the Royal Asiatic Society, London, Miss F. Newton described a journey made by herself and another lady in the spring of 1913 along the Hedjaz railway from Haifa to Madain Saleh, a place further towards Mecca than Christian women had ever previously travelled. The object of her journey had been to ascertain what opening there was for missionary enterprise in northern Arabia, and she had returned convinced that any such attempt was, in the circumstances of the time, altogether impracticable. But in another way the journey had important results, for some photographs she had taken, and an authentic map of the railway, of which she had obtained a copy, had proved exceedingly useful.

She said the whole story of the railway was a romance. It followed closely the ancient caravan route traversed by Mahommed when journeying as a trader with his camels. It had been built by the labour of Turkish conscripts, working for an average wage of 2s. 6d. a week. It was a narrow-gauge railway. This was partly to save expense, and partly because the rolling stock, brought from Europe, had to be transported from Beyrout to Damascus over a narrow-gauge railway. It had been seen from the first that the railway could not pay as a commercial venture, and the most extraordinary devices had been resorted to in order to raise money to build it. Large sums were received as gifts from pious Moslems; small stamp duties were placed on almost everything. On one occasion, proceeding to the pier at Haifa to take the steamer for Jaffa, she had been engaged in conversation by a Turkish official, who was exceedingly polite, but showed no disposition to let her proceed on her journey. At length someone came and whispered in her ear that nobody would be allowed to go on to the pier that day without giving something voluntarily towards the Hedjaz railway. She had previously made a donation, but she now gave another sixpence, whereupon she was allowed to proceed, and was just in time to catch the steamer.

Speaking of her journey, the lecturer said that through its whole length the railway ran through no towns and hardly any villages; almost the only inhabitants of the country were wandering Bedouin, and one of the deepest impressions left on her mind was that of the absolute silence of the empty space, with here and there a mound beside the railway showing the grave of some poor pilgrim. Another oppressive feature was the absence of any sign of road or footpath at even the most important stations. The journey from Haifa to Madain Saleh occupied from 3 a.m. Monday until the same hour on Wednesday. Madain Saleh was situated in a plain in northern Arabia, with mountainous country all around it. There was no trace of human habitation there now, nor any evidence that a city had ever existed. But the mountains around were full of tombs carved out of the solid rock. The whole district was a vast Nabatean necropolis, extending towards the south for miles It was conjectured that there had never been a town upon the site, but that it was in ancient times a centre to which dwellers in the district around had resorted for purposes of trade.

The dinner of the Gurkha Brigade was held at the Trocadero on June 5. The officers present were:—Colonel R. Fulton and Lieut.-Colonel A. G. B. Lang, 1st G.R.; Colonel J. Fisher, C.B., Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Sweet, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel C. L. N. Newall, C.M.G., and Captain C. G. Toogood, D.S.O., 2nd G.R.; Captain F. Barter, V.C., M.C., Captain G. H. Ogilvie, Colonel Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., 3rd G.R.; Captain E. C. Lentaigne, D.S.O., Colonel E. P. Mainwaring, and Colonel F. M. Rundall, C.B., D.S.O., 4th G.R.; Colonel G. H. Boisragon, V.C., Lieut. W. B. O. Fox, Colonel G. Hawkes, Lieut.-General Sir A. R. Martin, K.C.B., and Major-General Sir J. M. Stewart, K.C.M.G., C.B., 5th G.R.; Major F. B. Abbott and Major J. M. Whittall, 6th G.R.; Lieut. T. H. Denny and Lieut.-Colonel A. L. Longhurst, 7th G.R.; Major G. C. B. Buckland, D.S.O., M.C., Colonel J. D. Coleridge, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel E. R. Johnson, and Major G. L. S. Ward, 8th G.R.; and Mr. H. M. Hales, hon. secretary.

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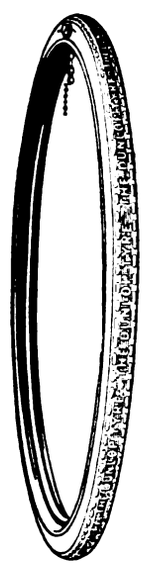
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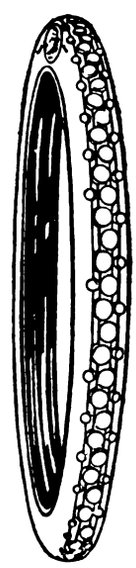
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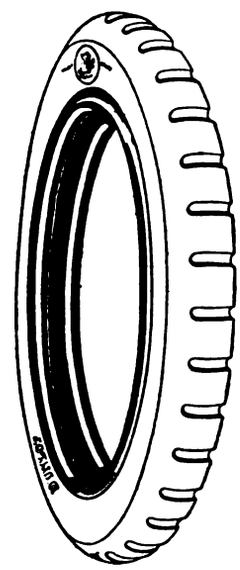
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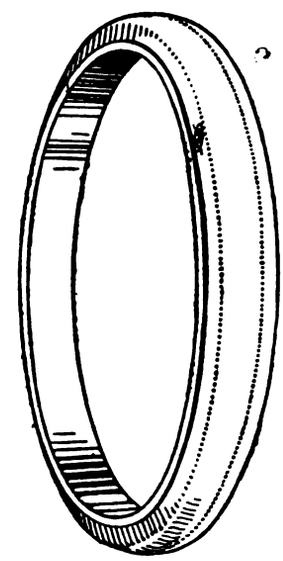
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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A UNIQUE GYNARCHY.*

The history of Bhopál teaches the same lesson as that of the British Empire in Victoria's spacious days. It proves that female rulers may possess considerable administrative ability, and command the chivalrous devotion of their subjects. Bhopál is a Mohammedan State of Central India, with an area of 7,000 square miles and a population slightly under three-quarters of a million. Wedged between the powerful Máráthá kingdoms of Indore and Gwalior, it was saved from destruction by British influence; and its rulers have always proved staunch in their allegiance to the Supreme Government. But Bhopál possesses other claims to our respect and sympathy. For upwards of a century it has been governed by a succession of princesses, who, despite their disabilities imposed by their creed, have taken an active share in the administration. The first of this unique dynasty was Nawáb Begum Qudsia, only daughter of the fifth Nawáb of Bhopál. At fifteen she married a cousin, who succeeded to the throne, but was accidentally killed three and a-half years later. His will placed the State under his young widow's tutelage, and right nobly did she fulfil the trust reposed in her. During the Mutiny of 1857 she kept Bhopál aloof from the Delhi Confederacy, and rendered essential services to the British cause. After reigning wisely for many years, she abdicated in favour of a daughter, and her descendant in the fourth generation is now ruler of Bhopál. The latter, styled officially "Her Highness Nawáb Sultán Jahán Begum, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.I.," tells the story of her great-grandmother's romantic career in a little book, which is illustrated by portraits of her ancestors and exquisite colour-prints of Bhopál scenery. The Nawáb Begum's Urdu has been ably Englished by the Political Agent in Bhopál, whose "Foreword" gives a graphic picture of the troublous times in which her ancestress's reign began. F. H. S.

THE E.F.C.†

The author has given us a short account of the inception and growth of the Expeditionary Force Canteens, and has increased the interest of his book by the insertion of some excellent photographs. There are brief descriptions of the E.F.C. in France, Flanders, Italy, Salonika, Mesopotamia, Gallipoli, and Egypt. The work of the E.F.C. is too well known to need recounting. Like all the other indispensable things in the war, it received its share of criticism; but it gave to thousands of thirsty and hungry souls satisfaction which, if not made public, was nevertheless very real. (Even if we did have to be present at a lucky time to partake of the goods of which the photographs give so tantalisingly full a picture!) It is a good work that Captain Vredenburg has done in giving to the general public this book, for it shows how much, beyond the normal and excellent rations, the Army did for its men.

THE CHILDREN OF THE ANGELS.‡

It is not every don who can hear the horns of Elf-land, but Mr. Lawson, a tutor of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Commander British Naval Mission to Greece, knows well the fairy bells and their tinkle, whence they come, and for whom they are ringing. His explanation is made with charming simplicity—everywhere the elves are chiming prayers "to welcome Michael home" from the wars. They started singing their litany (for which I'm sure they might have had a much better tune) last All Saints' Day, and I think they're going on singing it until peace comes. This little book is sad with the joy of the elves, because they are never so happy as when consoling grief; but if it brings to those to whom the war brought tears those jolly little comforters of nature it will have accomplished its simple purpose.

THE ELVES OF EDUCATION.§

This book is delightfully produced; it is charmingly illustrated by Charles Robinson, and it is well printed. It purports to be "a masque of education," dedicated to Bridget Dieudonnée, an Irish child, "who is learning lessons in England from her mother in India." A key is here provided which will unlock the door to all the rooms of education—mathematics, science, music, poetry, and the rest. But we fear that Bridget must have been a very precocious child to understand just how this key fitted the door; and were not the fairies who danced round her a little exclusive? Mrs. Stevenson's fairies are beautiful things, but the simplicity with which they are created is no proof of their existence, which indeed is likely to be perceived more easily by adults than by the compeers of Bridget.

* "Hayat-Qudsi. Life of the Nawáb Begum Qudsia of Bhopál," by H. H. Narwáb Sultán Jahán Begum, G.C.S.I., etc. (London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., 1918.)

† "West and East with the E.F.C." By Capt. E. Vredenburg. (London, Raphael Tuck and Son).

‡ "The Litany of the Elves." By J. C. Lawson. (Cambridge University Press. 3s. net.)

§ "Bridget's Fairies." By Mrs. Sinclair Stevenson. (London: The Religious Tract Society. 4s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. have published at 25s. net No. XXII. of "The Annual of the British School at Athens."

Mr. A. Wilson Green has edited a volume of French extracts entitled "La Grande Guerre: Récits de Combatants." The passages selected were written by French soldiers, and deal with Serbia, Gallipoli, and the Western Front. The Cambridge University Press is publishing the book.

Messrs. Nisbet are publishing an English version, to which Lord Bryce has written an introduction, of M. Také Jonescu's "Reminiscences."

The Oxford University Press are shortly publishing "Moslem Architecture, its Origin and Development," by G. T. Rivoira, translated from the Italian by G. McN. Rushforth.

A little book called "Reminiscences of a Year's Captivity in the Hands of the Turks" has been written by Trooper R. Limmer. It is published at 59, Payne's Hill, Salisbury.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Co-operation in India." By Henry W. Wolff. (London: W. Thacker and Co. 12s. net.)

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council meeting was held on Wednesday, June 11, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. S. G. Hough (Vice-President) in the chair. There were present Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, H. V. Musgrave Clark, C. W. Laird, G. Buxton, R. A. Willis, Captain the Hon. G. Savile, Major G. B. Ollivant, and the Secretary (Rev. D. B. Montefiore, Islip, Oxon). The Council accepted further entries for the "Stud Book," and decided that the entries for Vol. I. should close on October 1 next. The arrangements made for the Arab Stallion Class at Ranelagh were discussed and approved of. It was unanimously decided that the title and sub-title of the society be expanded as follows:—"The Arab Horse Society: Founded to promote the breeding and importation of pure-bred Arabs, and to encourage the re-introduction of Arab blood into English light horse breeding." It was resolved that the general meeting of members of the society be held at the London Show in March, 1920. The Council then adjourned until their next meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 1919, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

RECEPTION FOR LADY CHELMSFORD.

The Secretary of State for India and Mrs. Montagu gave a reception on June 18 at the India Office to meet Lady Chelmsford, wife of the Viceroy, who was accompanied by her daughter, the Hon. Joan Thesiger. Mr. and Mrs. Montagu received the guests in the quadrangle, which was carpeted for the occasion, and refreshments were served at buffets round the sides. The company included:—The Maharaja and the Maharaj-Kumar of Bikanir, the Maharaja of Kapurthala, the Thakore Sahib of Limri, Lord and Lady Cowdray, Lord and Lady Zetland, Lord and Lady Inchcape, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, the Chief of Ichalkaranji, Lord and Lady Ribblesdale, Lord and Lady Midleton, Lord Sinha, Lady Carmichael, Lord Islington, Lord and Lady Pentland, Lord Chalmers, Lord Inverforth (Mr. Andrew Weir), Sir Henry Craik, M.P., and Lady Craik, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., Mr. Justice Rowlatt, Sir Thomas and Lady Holderness, Sir Charles and Lady Bayley, Sir Claude Hill, Sir Lionel and Lady Abrahams, Sir Arthur and Lady Hirtzel, Sir William and Lady Duke, Sir Verney Lovett, Sir Frank Sly, Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., Sir James and Lady Du Boulay, Mr. B. N. Basu, Sir Prabashankar Pattani, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan, General Sir Edmund Barrow, Sir Murray and Lady Hammick, Sir Marshall Reid, Lieut.-General Sir H. V. Cox, Mr. W. D. Sheppard, Surgeon-General Sir Havelock and Lady Charles, Mr. Laurence Currie, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Arnold, Mr. L. J. Kershaw, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Foster.

ROYAL SCHOOL FOR DAUGHTERS OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

At an Election of 20 Pupils at £20 a year, on the 17th of June, 1919, the following was the RESULT of the POLL:—

SUCCESSFUL.

	Votes.		Votes.
Miss G. D. S. Smyth.....	6653	Miss U. C. Mortimore	5654

UNSUCCESSFUL.

	Votes.		Votes.
Miss M. F. I. Wood	3985	Miss M. F. Maycock	884
Miss R. L. Eldridge	3433	Miss K. M. Wilson.....	666
Miss E. O. Daniell.....	1606	Miss B. M. Thacker	580
Miss A. Smith.....	1484	Miss I. M. S. Smyth.....	534
Miss I. B. S. Northcote ..	951	Miss E. M. Owen	398
Miss H. M. O'Rorke	939	Miss A. F. Clark	255

By Order,
F. W. T. ATTREE, Col., late R.E., Secretary.
25, Haymarket, S.W. 1.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. June	1919. June		1337. Ramadan.	5679. Sivan.
20	7	Friday	22	22
21	8	Saturday.....	23	23
22	9	Sunday	24	24
23	10	Monday	25	25
24	11	Tuesday.....	26	26
25	12	Wednesday	27	27
26	13	Thursday	28	28

The King and Queen received on June 12 a Special Mission from the Empress of Abyssinia.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has arrived from Paris, and is staying at the Savoy Hotel.

Lord and Lady Furness have returned from abroad and taken up residence at 39, Park Lane.

Queen Alexandra has given her patronage to the Serbian Red Cross matinée at the St. James's Theatre on June 30.

Commander Talbot, who is specially attached to M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, left London on June 15 for Paris.

Brigadier-General R. C. Boyle, C.B., C.M.G., gave up the command of the Alexandria District on June 1, 1919.

M. Joannes Gennadius, Honorary Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius have returned to London from the country.

M. Diamantides, Greek Under-Secretary of State for Transport, arrived at Marseilles on June 18 from the Piræus.

Mr. Justice E. W. Ormond, of the Chief Court of Lower Burma, has left Rangoon on long leave preparatory to retirement.

Major W. H. Lang, 16th Cav., I.A., was married on June 11, in London, to Miss Gweneth Bewley, daughter of the late Bewley Bey.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, had an interview with Earl Curzon at the Foreign Office on June 12.

M. Jean A. Caradja, First Secretary to the Greek Legation in London, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation at Stockholm.

Mme. Nikolas P. Pachitch, the wife of the head of the Serbian delegation attending the Peace Conference, has arrived in London from Paris.

M. Paul Popovitch, the chief of the Yugoslav Press Bureau, has returned to London from Paris. He will leave town shortly for Belgrade.

Mr. H. McPherson has been nominated an additional member of the Imperial Legislative Council, in place of Mr. E. A. C. Walsh, resigned.

The new Chaplain of St. Mark's, Alexandria, the Rev. W. Gladwyn Batty, is expected to take up his appointment towards the end of this month.

Mr. T. Rowland Hill, Personal Assistant to the Postmaster-General, United Provinces, has been appointed to act as Deputy Postmaster-General, Punjab.

Dr. Nair, the Madras specialist and representative of the non-Brahmin community in the Presidency, has arrived in England, and is staying at 87, Wimpole Street, W.

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq has been appointed by the Ahmadia Community in India as their delegate to represent in this country their views on political reforms in India.

A marriage has been arranged between Major John D'Oyly, 119th Infantry, Indian Army, and Evelyn Alice Giffard, widow of Hardinge Frank Giffard, barrister-at-law.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, accompanied by Mme. Costiesco-Ghyka, left London on June 12 for Bucharest.

Mr. A. J. R. Hope, Deputy Secretary, P.W.D., Government of India, proceeded on six months' leave at the end of May. Major H. Pollard-Lowsley, R.E., is officiating for him.

Mr. R. M. Loan, who is succeeding Mr. F. A. Hadow as Secretary to the Railway Board, has arrived in Simla from England. Mr. Hadow proceeds on long leave home.

Professor J. L. Myres will deliver a short address at the annual general meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League, to be held to-day in the Lecture Theatre at King's College, Strand, at 5 p.m.

The silver casket and address which will be presented to his Excellency Monsieur J. Gennadius by the Hellenic community is now on view at Messrs. Elkington, Limited, 73, Cheapside.

Lieut.-Colonel Geoffrey Evans, late Director of Agriculture in Mesopotamia, has, on reversion to civil duty, resumed his permanent post of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Central Provinces.

Mr. S. R. Daniels, Additional Judicial Commissioner of Oudh, is to proceed home on six months' leave. Mr. E. H. Ashworth, Sessions Judge of Cawnpore, will act as Additional Judicial Commissioner in his absence.

Mr. Guy Rutledge, barrister-at-law, and Secretary to the Burma Legislative Council, who is expected from leave this month, will act for Mr. Justice Ormond on the latter taking long leave preparatory to retirement.

A reception of the members of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain was held on June 16 at the headquarters, 9, Ennismore Gardens, to welcome home from Serbia the Society's Commissioner, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield.

The marriage was celebrated on June 6, at St. Anselm's, Davies Street, W., by the Vicar, the Rev. R. H. Sinclair, M.A., between Gerald Ernest Frye, of Bombay and Ealing, and Beryl Maud Hirst, of Beckenham, Kent.

The marriage was celebrated on June 12, at the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue, between Mr. A. D. Bassous, of Bombay and London, and Hilda, elder daughter of the late Saul J. Nathan and Mrs. Nathan, of 53, Belsize Park, N.W., and Singapore

The marriage was celebrated on May 28, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Valetta, Malta, between Paymaster Lieut. E. Arnold Crook, R.N.R., and Mary Clare (May) Broad, daughter of Colonel J. Lancaster, I.M.S. (retired), and Mrs. Lancaster, of San Remo, Italy.

The marriage was celebrated on May 3, at the Church of the Holy Name, Wodehouse Road, Bombay, between Major B. de L. Brock, M.C., 126th Baluchistan Infantry, and Ethel Margaret, widow of the late Captain Gordon Cable, I.A.R.O., attached 7th Hariana Lancers.

The King inspected on June 12 a detachment of Indian warrant officers and non-commissioned officers belonging to divisional ammunition columns, Royal Field Artillery, under the command of Captain H. C. Clogstoun, Indian Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France.

The marriage took place on June 17, at Warblington, Hampshire, of Colonel A. M. Moens, C.M.G., D.S.O., 52nd Sikhs F.F., son of the late S. M. Moens, I.C.S., to May, widow of Captain Dermot Affleck Graves, R.E., and daughter of Captain A. J. Douglas, R.N., of Roxburgh, Emsworth, Hampshire.

The marriage was celebrated on June 7, at the Rue Roquépine Church, Paris, by the father of the bride, of John Noel Macbeth, younger son of the late J. B. K. Macbeth, of Bombay, and Mrs. Macbeth, of Hanover Court, Hanover Square, to Enid Mary, only daughter of the Rev. W. T. and Mrs. Allen, 4, Rue Roquépine.

The marriage arranged between Robert Hamilton, Indian Civil Service (82nd Punjabis), son of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Wellhay House, Alberton, and Nora Standen, daughter of Bertram Standen, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Standen, Chorley Wood Lodge, Rickmansworth, will take place on June 26 at Christ's Church, Chorley Wood.

The marriage was celebrated on June 12, at St. Mark's Church, Surbiton, between George Farquhar Singer, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Paris Singer, and Vera Marguerite, daughter of the late Major George Sartorius, 103rd Mahratta Light Infantry, and step-daughter of Mr. H. F. Freshwater, The Homestead, Cranes Park, Surbiton.

The marriage was celebrated on June 12, at Christ Church, Westminster, by the Right Rev. Bishop W. R. Mounsey, assisted by the Rev. Cavendish Moxon, between L. Holden Barford, A.C.S. and E., Bombay (Captain, I.A.R.O., Cav., Lieut., R.N.R., British Vice-Consul, Genoa), third son of the late J. G. Barford, of Glynfyllyn, Wokingham, Berks, and of Mrs. Barford, of The House, Coulsdon, Surrey, and Mary Sheila, eldest daughter of the late H. P. Todd-Naylor, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., and Mrs. H. P. Todd-Naylor, of Walton Court, Cheltenham.

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The marriage was celebrated on June 4, at Luccombe, Somerset, between Major A. S. B. Roberts, I.A., Burma Commission, elder surviving son of the late Major-General A. W. Roberts, I.A., and of Mrs. M. K. Roberts, and Miss Nan Forbes, youngest daughter of the late C. H. B. Forbes, of Bombay, and of Mrs. Forbes, Oland's, Porlock, Somerset.

The Government of Serbia has conferred upon Mr. F. J. Smith and Mr. J. H. Walker the Order of St. Sava, V. Class (Chevalier), in recognition of the services which they rendered for our gallant ally. Their work was specially brought to the notice of Prince and Princess Alexis of Serbia when their Royal Highnesses visited Bradford.

The marriage was celebrated on June 3, at Murree, India, between Captain Derek Fitzgerald Massy, 33rd Ind. Cav., R.A.F., fourth son of the late Major Hugh Ingoldsby Massy and Mrs. Massy, of Stoneville and Cloughnarold, Co. Limerick, Ireland, and Margaret Vida Smith, daughter of the late Mrs. Anne Smith, of Hampstead and Bradford.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Lieut.-Colonel F. R. Hawkes, O.B.E. (Indian Army Reserve of Officers), Indian State Railways, son of the late George Hawkes and Mrs. Hawkes, Abbey Cottage, Stevenage, and Constance Marion, daughter of the late H. T. Bovey, F.R.S., and Mrs. Bovey, 16, Hans Road, S.W.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Vaughan Montague Bradley, Royal Field Artillery, eldest son of Colonel Sir A. Montague Bradley and Lady Bradley, of Dover, to Irene Geraldine, only daughter of the late Robert Gerald Pantin, J.P., Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Pantin, and granddaughter of Andrew Guy Everard, J.P., and Mrs. Everard, Hill Park, Bridgwater, Somerset.

The marriage was celebrated on May 5 at St. Thomas's Cathedral, Bombay, India, by the Rev. W. F. M. Hamerton, between Captain and Adjutant Arthur George Balbernie, M.C., Royal West Kent Regiment (the Queen's Own), son of the late Captain C. R. Balbernie, of Shanghai, and Mrs. Wheeler, Upper Norwood, and Doris Hilda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Higgins, of Chittagong, Bengal, India.

The marriage was celebrated on June 4, at the Barclay Church, Edinburgh, by the Rev. R. Sangster Anderson, D.D., assisted by the Rev. J. A. Hughes, M.A., the Rectory, North Berwick, between Eric Gerald Gauntlett, D.S.O., C.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S., of King's College Hospital, London, late Lieut.-Colonel, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), Consulting Surgeon to the Salonika Forces, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Lee Gauntlett, 37, Howards Lane, Putney, London, S.W., and Hilda Mary Gerrard, R.R.C., late V.A.D. Salonika, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gerrard, 24, Hermitage Gardens, Edinburgh.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The Rev. J. R. Weller has been appointed Assistant Chaplain of Quetta, with effect from April 25.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. F. B. Thompson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., London, has been appointed District Medical Officer at Nicosia.

Mr. J. T. Martin, I.C.S., Central Provinces Commission, has been appointed Census Commissioner owing to the inability of Mr. Burn, United Provinces, to take up the post.

Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Iremonger, Superintendent of Police, on special duty in the Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab, has been appointed Chief Civil Intelligence Officer, Lahore.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Abdeali Mahomedali Kajiji, barrister-at-law, to be Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Sir Norman Macleod to be Chief Justice.

OBITUARY.

The death is reported on June 9, at a nursing home, after an operation, of Mr. N. P. Chellagin, of Colombo, of the firm Molchanoff, Pechatnoff, and Co., of Russia, Hankow, and Colombo.

The death occurred on June 11, at 137, Cromwell Road, S.W., of Mr. Alec McMillan, Indian Civil Service (retired), late His Majesty's Consul at Nice.

The death occurred on June 13 of Captain I. C. Maling, C.M.G. He was born at Calcutta in 1841, and was one of the few remaining officers who served in the Mutiny.

The death occurred in June 14, in his sixty-first year, of David Hugh Lindsay, of Elmstone House, Barham, Kent, late General Traffic Manager, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

The death occurred on June 14 at 32, Kensington Court Mansions, W., of George Greig, late of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders, and of the Indian Forest Department, in his eighty-first year.

The death occurred on May 1, in hospital at Poona, India, of Bruce Cunningham Glen, second son of the late Reginald Cunningham Glen, M.A., LL.D., V.D., barrister-at-law, aged 32.

The death took place on June 9, at Redbourne, 6, Woodgrange Avenue, Ealing Common, W., of Mr. Frederick Hodgson Bentham Schneider, eldest son of the late General Frederick Schneider, Indian Army (Bombay Staff Corps), aged 65.

Mr. George Varley, a Crimean veteran, died on June 16 at Littlemore, near Oxford, at the age of 84. As a member of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, he took part in the storming of the Redan in June, 1855, and on the following July 22 was wounded outside Sevastopol. Afterwards Varley took part in the capture of Cawnpore and the relief of Lucknow. He was awarded a medal and the Sevastopol clasp, as well as the Turkish medal and the Mutiny medal.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A post office has been opened at Tel Afar (Mosul Division), announces the *Basrah Times*.

The Union of the East and West is giving a series of Indian performances in the open air. The first took place on June 16.

The American Mission to Syria arrived at Constantinople on June 12, and shortly afterwards proceeded to Jaffa. Thence it will go to Jerusalem, Beirut, and Aleppo.

The Headquarters Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, is represented in London by an office at 110, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

In recognition of their good work during the recent disturbances, the staff of the Telegraph Department in Lahore have received the following awards:—A bonus of Rs.500 to the superintendent-in-charge, 30 per cent. of their pay to signallers, and one rupee per day for seven days to the menial staff.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1919.

THE TURKISH PEACE TERMS.

The peace terms with Germany having been finally settled, and the preliminary statement of the Austrian terms delivered, the Peace Conference in Paris naturally turns to the remaining belligerents. One of these—Bulgaria—has not been mentioned as occupying the attention of the "Big Four," and although that country was the first of the enemy Powers to collapse and withdraw from the war, it appears that she will be considered last in the negotiations. Admittedly Bulgaria is the smallest of the belligerents, and the political, economic, and territorial problems connected with her restoration to the normal conditions of peace are less complex than those connected with Germany or Austria. But the delay, although conceivably inevitable, is none the less unfortunate, since the mere lapse of time alone hinders the rebuilding of civilisation in the Balkans. In the case of Turkey a more definite step has been taken, and Ottoman statesmen have been invited to Paris to enter into discussions with the Allies. The whole world has been struck by the distinction between the method adopted in this case and in dealing with the German and Austrian representatives, who were merely allowed to receive the terms and comment on them in writing, oral discussion being prohibited, and the prohibition being maintained despite the appeals of Berlin and the seductive smiles of Vienna. While in the case of Turkey it is understood that the Allies will formulate the broad principles of the terms before presenting them, it is clear that the discussions will be real, and the negotiations actual, and it may be assumed that there will be a certain amount of give-and-take before the treaty is definitely signed. The Turk is not likely to overlook the advantage, the designed advantage, which this course gives him over his co-belligerents. His worst enemies have never accused him of being either a child in diplomacy or of displaying that combination of truculent rudeness and whining penitence which distinguishes Count Brockdorff-Rantzau.

The fact that the negotiations with Turkey will be real negotiations must be considered in connection with another fact—that President Wilson appears unlikely to take the prominent part in them which he has assumed in the construction of the terms imposed on Germany and Austria. The President is now enjoying his long-delayed visit to Belgium, and it appears that he proposes to return almost immediately to the United States, where he will have, according to current report, to fight a far harder battle with his own people than any that has been waged in the decorous atmosphere of secrecy at Paris. American politics are obviously not our affair, but President Wilson's return to the States before the close of the negotiations indicates clearly enough that in his opinion the settlement with Germany and Austria was vital to American interests, and equally clearly that the settlement with Bulgaria and Turkey is not vital. Nobody on this side of the Atlantic will question that his reading of the situation in that respect at least is correct; but it carries with it the implication that America is unlikely to intervene decisively in the future destinies of Asia Minor. At one time, indeed, President Wilson seemed to favour that extension of responsibility, and in a speech in his brief spring visit to the United States he asked his audience whether their heart beat as passionately as his over the question of Armenia. The immediate response, or subsequent embittered criticism of his opponents and embarrassed silence of his friends on that point may have convinced him that American interest in Asia Minor in general and in Armenia in particular was more platonic than real; and a more recent suggestion of the Parisian Press, which we interpreted as a *ballon d'essai* at the time, to the effect that America should be the mandatory of the League of Nations in large parts of Asia Minor appears to have evoked no response whatever in Washington, despite the recognition by all parties of the legitimate interests of American missionaries. It seems likely, therefore, that President Wilson is meditating a compromise. He is so deeply committed to the League of Nations, of which he desires to be recognised by posterity as the founder, that he cannot withdraw from its advocacy, and he intends to convert his own people, if possible, from their old political isolation into active support of the League. But he appears to recognise that their repugnance to entangling alliances and to intervention in foreign affairs—except at the call of some extraordinary emergency, such as arose when Germany threatened to sink American ships in 1917—is a permanent and unconquerable factor in American political life, which revolted against the Imperialistic schemes of President Roosevelt in precisely the same way that it is now revolting against the intervention and "beneficent guidance" policy of President Wilson; and for that reason apparently the idea of America as a mandatory of the League of Nations will be greatly minimised, if not abandoned altogether. The decision is not unnatural. From every point of view there seemed something incongruous in American intervention in a country which does not interest the majority of her citizens either culturally or commercially, while her renewed insistence on the Monroe Doctrine makes it clear that her special political and economic interests lie nearer home.

We take it, therefore, that the negotiations with Turkey will be carried on mainly by France, Britain, and Italy. There can be no question, of course, of a return to the *status quo;* the war has irrevocably altered the position of the Ottoman Empire, and Turkey can no more be exempted from the consequences of defeat than her late comrades in arms. Three separate questions, however, come up for discussion in Paris in considering the terms of peace. Although there can hardly be any idea of Turkey paying an indemnity, on the familiar principle that blood does not flow from stones, the financial question of the Ottoman Empire will have to be investigated carefully. Now, the finances of the Empire are at once so complicated and so disordered, and the responsibility for the pre-war debt is so scattered through Europe—the war debt, we take it, will be written off by Germany and Austria as a loss—that consideration of this matter in itself must occupy some time. The Turks will certainly desire that those provinces which no longer remain within the Empire shall assume some portion of the Imperial Debt, in accordance with the familiar principle, whose latest example is furnished by Austria, and this claim, if and in so far as it is reasonable, will have to be investigated by responsible statesmen. The territorial question is hardly less difficult. Palestine must obviously be liberated, Arabia has again liberated itself, and Mesopotamia cannot be restored to Constantinople; while the idea of restoring Armenia to the Turk after the massacres would be intolerable. More difficulty is likely to arise over the conflicting claims of Italy and Greece in the Levant, and it is to be regretted that the Conference in Paris has already prejudged these in part aside from the main issue. The path of future agreement has not been rendered more smooth by these sudden decisions, which appear to have been not unconnected with the froth and foam aroused by President Wilson's unexpected plunge into the Adriatic. But the territorial question in Turkey is intimately connected

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with a problem that does not arise elsewhere in the settlement—the religious question. There is a school of thought, both in America and Europe, which would disestablish the Ottoman dominions altogether, and eject the Turk from Constantinople. This school has been extremely vocal lately, and it has naturally received some support from earnest religious people, who remember that Constantinople was once a Christian city. But Britain is a Mohammedan Power, and now a greater Mohammedan Power than ever, and we are bound to take into consideration the legitimate and praiseworthy susceptibilities of our Mohammedan fellow subjects. India is hotly against the idea of disestablishing the Sultan and ejecting the Turk from Constantinople in favour of a Christian mandatory under the League of Nations, and it would be sheer folly not to take that fact into very serious consideration. Fortunately there is no doubt that the whole subject will be exhaustively reviewed, and the recent protest of Indian opinion remembered, before any definite decision is come to. A mistake on this point would have serious consequences for our prestige in Asia.

ENVER: HIS CHARACTER AND CAREER.—II.*

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Sultans of Turkey until Abdul Hamid exercised in regard to the female members of the Imperial House the absolutism of primitive times. The Imperial princesses were deprived of their natural right of disposing of themselves; they could be married only by Imperial *iradé*, and the Sultan's will had to be obeyed, otherwise the recalcitrant princess knew well that she would forfeit any further chance of marriage, and remain besides in disgrace for the rest of her days.

When the Unionists succeeded to power they arrogated to themselves even this dynastic right. At the close of 1909 a list was submitted to the Grand Vizierate of the names of the Princesses who had attained to the marriageable age. The list was referred to a committee composed of senators under the presidency of Hilmi Pasha, who made a judicious selection of husbands from the sons of Ministers, generals, and other personages of exalted rank. The niece of the Sultan Mohammed Reshid fell to the lot of Eslam Bey, one of the sons of Fuad Pasha el Masri ("the Egyptian"), surnamed by the Turks "Deli Fuad." But a few hours after this decision was reached Hilmi Pashi received a warning from the C.U.P., and actual threatening advice from some of its members to withdraw his decision, because, they stated, it was not worthy of the nation that Eslam Bey el Tcherkessi (the Circassian) should be allowed to marry the highest Princess in the reigning house.

This unwarrantable interference in personal matters on the part of the Unionists vexed Hilmi Pasha, and, to find a way out of the *impasse*, he sought the advice of Nejm el Dine Monla, the friend of the Unionists and one of his colleagues on the Committee. But all the latter could do was to tell him that although the Unionists were blameworthy for taking such a strong attitude in regard to a man of his exalted position, yet their intention was laudable, as they wished to marry the Princess (daughter of Suleiman Effendi) to Enver Bey, the hero of liberty, for having consecrated his life to the service of the Ottoman nation. Hilmi Pasha had, of course, to bow, as he had done on previous occasions, to dominant Unionist influence.

This incident produced the worst possible impression on all thinking persons in the capital, who had expected Enver and his compeers to be the defenders of the principle of personal liberty and not the first transgressors of such a sacred right; and it was given no little importance in the Imperial houschold. The matter was, in fact, submitted to the Heir Apparent, Yussuf Izzeddin, whose dislike of the Unionists was notorious, and who forthwith demanded explanations from Hilmi Pasha. The latter plainly said that the candidature of Eslam Bey had to be withdrawn by order of the C.U.P., and that the Senatorial Committee felt unable to run counter to the wishes of Enver and his clique. Prince Yussuf Izzeddin was equally incapable of opposition, because the final decision in these matters rests with the Sultan, and he well knew how little the Sultan's character fitted him for taking a strong attitude in this connection.

The passive attitude of the Heir Apparent finally compelled Saleh Pasha Khair Eddin to take the matter up with Mahmoud Shevket Pasha and the principal leaders of the Army, as well as many of the senators and leading publicists and Ulema. The Mufti of the Sheikh Ul Islam-

* *The first part of this article appeared in the "Near East" of June 13.*

ate felt so strongly over this matter that he forthwith solicited an audience of the Sultan; and actually submitted that such arbitrary action on the part of Enver and the acquiescence of the Khalifa therein would reflect on the honour and prestige of the Imperial House, to which reverence was due from all the nation, and not less so from the members of the C.U.P. To this impassioned appeal the Khalifa gave the cool and curt reply: "And Enver is our child, too." Seeing the hopelessness of trying to counteract Unionist influence through such channels, Saleh Khair Eddin Pasha, as a last resort, sent the Princess, his wife, to her cousin to acquaint her with the high-handed behaviour of the Unionists, and to point out to her that a forced marriage such as they meant to impose on her with Enver even a helpless maid could not tolerate, much less a Princess of the House of Othman. To this the Princess's mother replied, "Such is the will of Sultan; we are powerless to resist aggression."

About a couple of months later the Majliss el Mabouthan (Parliament) voted an allowance of £2,000 for the trousseau of the Imperial Princess. This however did not satisfy Enver, who intimated to his compeers that he wished to have the matter reconsidered; and, after much discussion, the Unionists decided that Enver should exceptionally be allowed a double trousseau allowance, the other half to be drawn from the secret funds, so that the opposition party might not get wind of the matter.

Mahmoud Shevket Pasha was the only outstanding figure among the Young Turks. His own enemies acknowledged his military attainments and ability, as well as his judgment and integrity. He was courageous without being cruel, and earned universal esteem. One of the Opposition party in the House once said to Talaat: "But for the existence of Mahmoud Shevket Pasha in the C.U.P., I would be inclined to call it the Committee of Evildoers." It was he who prevented many an imminent outburst against the Unionists and restrained on the other hand the reckless ambitions of their deluded youths Those who had occasion to note his opposition to their Turkifying policy and to the open declaration of their anti-Islamic doctrine can best realise the value of the man and appreciate the sincerity of his patriotism. The presence of a man of this stamp in the Unionist gang was a source of uneasiness and a stumbling-block in the way of their unholy ambitions. It was not long therefore before he disappeared, and they had the field all to themselves.

It is said that on the occasion of the publication in the Salonika Press of an article entitled "Have the Turks any one but thee, oh Enver," Shevket Pasha remarked to his brother, "These youths seem to have vowed to overturn everything in the Empire, even reason and common sense. They wish to do everything in one day, and they cannot rest until they have got hold of every post in the Government. They now threaten me, in their papers, with Enver, and next with the Committee's power; and I can tell thee, oh brother, that what has happened so far is enough to ruin the mightiest Empire. You can therefore imagine what the consequences will be when these light-headed youths have secured all the Government posts; they aspire to the highest, even to the throne of Othman; for I have often overheard them exchange whispers on the subject. Vain was my advice to a clique whose sole aim and object is to prepare the people's mind to the proclamation of Enver as Dictator."

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

America and Constantinople.

In *The Times* of June 11 Mr. Frank H. Symonds, an American writer, had an exceedingly interesting article on "The Future of Turkey." He shows that American participation in the Near East is an extremely delicate proposition, but one full of enormous possibilities for good. On Constantinople he says:—

If the American mandate is to be stretched to cover Constantinople, Anatolia, and Armenia the task will be far more gigantic and far more difficult. Constantinople has been the cause of more wars than almost any other city in the world. It is hard to believe that in the future it will be less coveted. Greek and Bulgarian ambitions will continue. A day is almost certain to come when Russia will once more look southward towards Tsargrad and Anatolia. We shall find ourselves faced by seven million Turks who will hardly welcome our rôle, and we shall find ourselves confronted with the task of defending them against the Greeks and the Italians. A mandate for Constantinople, Anatolia, and Armenia would mean the employment of an army of a quarter of a million Americans for an extended period of time. It would mean an enormous task of organisation industrially as well as politically, and it would mean inevitable participation in all the disputes of the future in the Near East. It would mean, in reality, that Europe had transferred to the United States the gigantic task of solving the old Eastern problem, which is and remains beyond European possibilities, but we should find ourselves handicapped in such a solution by the fact that essential parts of the territory affected have already been assigned to Italy and Greece, including the natural borders. Armenia would be a much less ambitious task, but one the difficulties of which could not be exaggerated.

It would certainly take thousands of American soldiers and consume years. I have said, and I repeat, that no finer work of national unselfishness is conceivable, and if any mandate is to be taken by the United States none is more worthy of our acceptance, since none would provide greater opportunities for service and fewer of profit. But it would be a task beside which the Philippines was child's play and Cuba a mere pastime.

Between Asia and Europe.

The *Outlook* for June 7 contains a very informative article on "The Gateways to the Orient," by "Seminole." The writer shows that before the war the peoples inhabiting the land that lies between the Caspian and Black Seas and the Persian Gulf were progressing towards union through an economic fusion of interests.

Nationalism was giving place to a natural exchange of trade between the hills and the plains—the nomads and the settled communities. It made little difference to which political system the peoples belonged, whether their allegiance was claimed by the Czar, the Sultan, or the Shah. Religious animosities were giving place to economic and cultural exchanges, and such cleavage upon the lines of nationality as existed were principally of a poetic and artistic nature. Social economy and commonsense seemed to augur well for the unity of the peoples in this geographically confused region. Economic internationalism seemed about to solve the animosities of centuries, and there seemed but little doubt that if left to themselves the various peoples would have worked out their own salvation.

However, the economic ambitions of Russia and Germany broke up this promised unity, and in the resultant confusion all these peoples turned in self-defence to a revival of the old nationalisms. They still are turning from the League of Nations to anarchy or to Islam. But the writer entertains hopes of ultimate union.

Islam is indigenous, and has no ulterior motive of exploitation; it offers a common ground upon which nomad, villager, Turk, Tartar, Persian, and Afghan can combine without strife. Before they were interfered with by Westerners, the Suni and Shiah and the Christian Armenian were in a fair way to compose their difficulties. For a moment, under the influence of the higher ideals of the Russian revolution, they did get together. They seek again for a common means of living and let live for the revival of trade rather than the victory of exploitation. Islam offers to the democratic Christian a sympathetic ground on which to plant his ideas of social economic brotherhood, for the Islamic system is essentially democratic. The idea of nationality splits these people vertically into warring compartments, in which murder or deportation of the minority is the only solution. Bolshevism divides them horizontally into classes and kills off the very idea of brotherhood and freedom. Christian and Moslem must, therefore, find some softer or cultural means of progress. Perhaps in the democratic system of Islam they may find it. Every encouragement should be given to economic fusion of interests, fully utilising the power of Islam in so doing, and "national aspirations" should be definitely discouraged where they cannot be justified.

Industry in Constantinople.

In the June number of the *Wide World Magazine* there is a most instructive article by L. M. J. Garnett called "The Trade Guilds of Constantinople." It shows that an economic system similar to that of Europe in mediæval times still obtains in the Turkish capital.

All members of the various trades, crafts, and callings pursued by the industrial population of Turkey are, for their mutual protection and support, enrolled severally, irrespective of race or religion, in guilds or corporations. Though now less numerous than in former centuries owing to the decay of many once important industries, these guilds still constitute an important feature of urban industrial life, especially at Constantinople, where representatives of all the various crafts and callings practised in the Empire are to be found.

Here each *Esnaf*—to use the native term for these corporations—has one or more lodges in every quarter of the city and suburbs, presided over by officers bearing titles equivalent to priors, sub-priors, superintendents, and inspectors, who are annually elected by the members from among its own master-craftsmen, such officers being formally recognised by the city authorities, who hold them responsible for the good behaviour of their fellow-guildsmen.

Certain among the *Esnafs* possess considerable revenues, and a few enjoy peculiar privileges granted by royal charter in bygone centuries in return for services rendered at some important political crisis. Among these are the shoemakers, who, it is said, have special officers empowered to judge and punish all offenders belonging to their fraternity without the interposition of the legal authorities, this extraordinary privilege having been conferred upon them in the sixteenth century by Suleyman "the Magnificent." Some *Esnafs* are composed entirely of Moslems, certain callings being exclusively in the hands of the ruling race, others entirely of Christians. Many, however, include adherents of both creeds; and, as members of the same *Esnaf*, Christians and Moslems, allied by an *esprit de corps*, and also, of course, by trade interests, pull together much better, and evince mutually a greater liberality of feeling, than is displayed generally in the social relations of Moslems and Christians.

The history of these guilds is also of curious interest.

Though it is a matter of historical fact that certain of these guilds had already been long established among the Greek, Venetian, Genoese, and other Christian nationalities inhabiting Constantinople and the other seaports of the Levant at the time of the Turkish Conquest, their Moslem members assign to them an Oriental and probably much more ancient origin than can be historically verified. The merchants, for instance, maintain that their *Esnaf* was incorporated in the lifetime of the Prophet, who himself followed the calling of a trader, and thus became patron of the Guild of Merchants. For, as with the guilds of Western Europe, every trade has its own patron saint, the majority of them being the prophets and holy men of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Koran, each of whom, according to Moslem tradition, invented or excelled in the craft or calling placed under his protection. Thus Adam, besides being the patron of the Tailors' Guild, is also that of the Bakers'; and among other patron saints of *Esnaf*, Abraham, as the traditional builder of the holy Kaaba at Mecca, is the protector of masons; Cain, of the sextons, and also of all those who shed blood in their callings; David, of armourers and smiths generally; Joseph, of the watch and clock-makers; while Jonah and the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus—who are included by the Moslems in the roll of holy men—watch, somewhat paradoxically, over sailors, especially those who navigate the Black Sea. . . .

Syrian Orphans

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without Father, or Mother, or Home.

CHILDREN
with Nobody left and Nowhere to turn to.

CHILDREN
Neglected—Forlorn—Sick.

***A Typical Story*—**

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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It is satisfactory to learn that the strike of the Suez Canal employees came to an end on June 10. The terms on which the strike has been settled are not yet available here. It may be noted, however, that the strike is described as having been purely an economic movement, and as having been devoid of any political motive.

***

Widespread regret will be felt at the news of the death of Mr. William Allan Ironside, senior partner of Bird and Co., and president of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the representative of the Chamber on the Imperial Legislative Council, which took place in India on June 5 from cholera following upon enteric fever. Mr. Ironside, who was only forty-nine years of age, went out to Calcutta seventeen years ago as a member of the great industrial firm with which his career has been associated, and the continued progress of its activities has been in no small measure due to his outstanding ability, initiative, and enterprise. His interests were not confined to business; he took a keen interest in public affairs and did much to promote gifts for war purposes in Bengal. He took a prominent part in the debates on the excess profits tax in the Imperial Legislative Council, and was instrumental in obtaining a number of amendments to that measure. His varied services received recognition in this year's Birthday Honours, a knighthood being conferred on him in the list published on June 7.

***

The value of organisation in the modern world is briefly touched on in an interesting article in a recent issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Morocco, in which it is pointed out that as regards Morocco, while in the future there will doubtless be many changes in the nature of the work required, and perhaps in the methods adopted, "there seems little likelihood that the need for the existence of a chamber will be lessened." That, of course, goes without saying, for, while even in British overseas possessions where the trade is, and always has been, mainly confined to the Empire, the local chamber of commerce is a *sine qua non* for the furtherance of British trade interests, it does not need emphasis that the need for such an organisation is far more urgent in territories outside the Empire like Morocco, where British traders are engaged in the uphill task of trying to obtain a satisfactory footing in a market where British trade was once of considerable importance, but where it was allowed to decline in the face of competition until before the war it was of comparatively little account.

***

In supporting British commercial interests in Morocco, and in helping, in common with other agencies, to make known in this country the openings for trade development within its sphere, the chamber has behind it a notable record of good work. But its labours are only commencing. The spade work has been done; British merchants and manufacturers are no longer unacquainted with the opportunities that, in circumstances such as I think we are justified in anticipating, will be presented to them in Morocco; but the development of trade on permanent lines will call for careful guidance, while it naturally follows that the larger British trade interests in Morocco become the greater will be the need for a body which can represent the views and interests of the British community in that country. And equally it follows that for the chamber to be of the fullest utility it must receive ample support from the community. In this connection the statement in the Journal that "the chamber certainly cannot complain of the extent of the support received from its members in Morocco, which has been much more consistent and hearty than, under the circumstances, could well have been expected," is most hopeful, and of excellent augury for the future.

***

The report of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for 1918, which has just been issued, shows a somewhat marked falling off in net profits as compared with the figures for 1917. There was a decrease of £1,638 in the gross receipts from the cattle markets, the figures being £31,058, but the gross receipts from the general markets were £1,364 higher at £23,188. The net receipts from the slaughter-houses decreased by £304, while the net profit from the trading account was £10,597, as against £19,896. The net revenue of the company amounted to £31,709 as compared with £46,894, and the balance available for distribution is £29,789, from which it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, which will take £17,470, and also, subject to the settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government and the amount of excess profits duty payable, to pay a dividend on the deferred shares at the rate of £6 2s. 4d. per share, leaving £10,483, as against £10,307 brought in. The deferred shareholders, incidentally, benefitted substantially as the result of the adjustment of the accounts for 1917, for, while the deferred dividend was estimated to be at the rate of £8 3s. per share, the amount divisible was £11 15s. 4d. per share.

***

At the recent general meeting of the Bank of Abyssinia the chairman, Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, was able to give a most promising review of the growth of this institution during 1918. The net dollar assets of the bank, on a valuation of seven dollars per £1, stood at £213,500 at the end of 1918, against £173,300 at December 31, 1917, when the valuation was 7.50 dollars per £1, and against £129,900 at the end of 1916, when the valuation basis was ten dollars per £1. Provision against this new valuation has been made to the extent of £22,000, making the reserve for this purpose £68,558, the net valuation rate thus working out at 10.31 dollars per £1, as against 10.24 per £1 in the previous year. As the exchange of 10.31 dollars per £1 is equivalent to an intrinsic value of the dollar at the rate of 28½d. per ounce standard silver, a rate which is little more than half the price of silver to-day, it will be realised that the bank's position in this respect is very satisfactory.

***

As regards the balance-sheet, it may be noted that the current and deposit accounts of the bank now stand at £372.500, as against £232,900 on December 31, 1917, and £142.200 at the end of 1916. The gross profits of the bank amounted to £45,150, and after allowing for general expenses and establishment and directors' fees, for the depreciation of premises, and after placing to reserve against the depreciation of the standing value of the bank's dollars the sum of £22,200, there remained a net profit of £6,720. Of this sum one-tenth was placed to the statutory reserve, £5,000 was devoted to the payment of a first dividend of 4 per cent. on the paid-up capital of £125,000, and £1,040 was carried forward. For the rest, the chairman specially referred in his speech to the aid and encouragement given by Her Majesty the Empress Zaouditou and the heir apparent, H.H. the Ras Taffari, who is a member of the board of directors.

***

Sir Henry Kimber, presiding at this week's general meeting of the Calcutta Tramways Company, gave a most encouraging account of the results of the past year's working. The passengers carried exceeded the numbers for the previous year by over four millions, and the traffic receipts increased by £24,800. Of the total receipts, which amounted to £278,300, a more favourable exchange accounted for £14,128, and the total increase in the figures for 1917 was £35,460. The gross profit was £151,100, and adding to this interest and the amount brought forward and deducting income tax there remained £143,704, and deducting £45,450 for debenture interest and dividends paid during the year there remained £98,253, out of which a final dividend of 6s. per share has been declared, making 8½ per cent. free of tax for the year, as against 8 per cent. for 1917. Once again £25,000 is placed to reserve, making that fund £120.500, £2,000 is set aside as a reserve against investment depreciation, and £28,600 is carried forward, as against £8,400 brought in.

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THE INDIAN COTTON PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION

I.—The Problem.

The whole position in regard to the production of cotton in India—actually the second, and potentially, perhaps, the first, of the world's sources of supply—has been thoroughly explored by the Indian Cotton Committee, a summary of whose recommendations appeared recently in these columns. The Committee was constituted on the approved Indian model, and was designed for business rather than talk. Each of the six members may justly be regarded as an expert on some aspect of the problem, which is too complex to be thoroughly grasped in all its branches by any individual. They went straight to work, lost no time, gave no pyrotechnic displays of the kind with which we are familiar in this country, developed no important differences of opinion, and produced a report which offers a clear and definite programme for immediate and sustained action. We may say at once that the result impresses us most favourably. The measures recommended by the Committee should go far to solve the problem, and lead to an increased production of greatly improved quality, and in view of the Indian Government's absorption in the question of constitutional reform, it is of great importance that commercial and industrial opinion, both in this country and in India, should be speedily and effectively mobilised in favour of the execution of the programme which has at last been provided. We must, however, admit that the report has the defects of its qualities, and, while it deserves serious study, its perusal cannot be recommended unreservedly to busy men who wish to obtain a general view of the problem without being overwhelmed in a mass of technical detail. In these articles we shall attempt to furnish materials for such a general view; to-day we endeavour to explain how the Indian cotton problem has arisen and where the difficulties lie, while in a subsequent article we shall discuss the main lines of the programme by which the Committee hope to reach a satisfactory solution.

How the Cotton Problem Arose.

India was growing cotton, spinning yarn, and weaving cloth long before Lancashire took any interest in the subject. Almost every part of the country clothed itself, the locally-produced cotton being spun and woven on the spot, while some particular types of cloth, woven for the most part on or near the sea coast, were exported to other parts of the world, and commanded extensive markets in Africa and throughout the Eastern seas. The Indian masses were in those days poorer than now. They wore fewer clothes, and what they wore were very coarse, roughly made from the hardy and indigenous fibre; fine goods were, indeed, produced in limited quantities for various special markets, but the bulk of the production would to-day scarcely find a sale. In these circumstances a large number of strains or races of the cotton plant grew up in different localities, a few of good quality, but most of them very inferior when judged by modern standards. From the seventeenth century onwards this ill-organised industry gradually came into touch with the more progressive West; the markets for fine goods were captured by other countries, the increased wealth of India enabled a large proportion of the population to buy foreign goods of better quality than the standard produce of their own country, growth of the superior cottons became unprofitable, and growers came to rely more and more on the hardy and prolific types, the fibre of which was still in demand for certain purposes. It was, and is, bad cotton, but its growth still pays the peasant, and so long as it pays he will continue to grow it until he is shown a better way.

So much for the agricultural side. The change in industrial conditions involved new developments in commerce; the fibre had to be transported over long distances, and this business fell, naturally, into the hands of Indian merchants, men whose traditional experience led them to take the shortest possible view. They preferred an immediate profit, however obtained, to the prospect of developing a sound and durable trade, and their methods in regard to cotton, as to some other staples, have in the past given rise to criticism. The final result of the change was that India was left producing cottons of the very lowest grades, selling them wherever she could, and buying a large proportion of her clothes from abroad. The change was inevitable in the circumstances: India might conceivably have developed her industry so as to retain and extend the markets she originally possessed, if she had commanded cheap power, mechanical ability, and *entrepreneurs* of the requisite calibre; but in the eighteenth century, at least, these essentials did not exist, and the industry was consequently beyond her reach. Of late she has made some headway, but, speaking broadly, she is still far behind the times.

What the Cotton Problem is.

The great question for India is now how to produce more cotton, and cotton of a quality better suited to modern needs. She wants such cotton for herself, and the world wants it also, for the world has not enough good cotton to meet the demand. The world at large does not care greatly whether India spins and weaves the cotton she grows, or exports it to be spun and woven elsewhere; that is a matter for India to settle, in competition with other countries, provided only that the cotton is produced. The Committee have very rightly laid down the fundamental principle that no measures are permissible which savour in any way of exploitation. The Indian grower cannot be forced to raise cotton in the quantity or of the quality required; it must be made worth his while to do so. This being admitted, the problem breaks up into two divisions; first, can Indian peasants grow more and better cotton? and, second, can it be made worth their while? The great merit of the Committee's report is that it examines these questions thoroughly and in detail, and sets out a programme which offers a reasonable prospect of a satisfactory solution; that programme will form the subject of a subsequent article.

YUGOSLAV FINANCIAL MISSION.

At the end of this month the Yugoslav Financial Mission to the Peace Conference in Paris is expected to arrive in Great Britain. This mission is authorised by the Yugoslav Government to make the necessary purchases for industrial and agricultural reconstruction for the devastated country of Serbia and for other districts of the new kingdom. This mission is headed by Dr. K. Stojanovic, formerly Secretary to the Board of Trade, and M. M. Savcic, former Minister of Agriculture. A certain number of authorities and experts will also accompany this mission, among whom are M. M. Pajevic, expert for machinery, and M. D. Tomic, expert on technological questions. The agricultural expert, Mr. R. Neshich, has already arrived to make the necessary preparations for the work of this mission.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which some time ago acquired an option on 10,000 square miles of supposed petroliferous territory in New Brunswick, has now received a cable reporting that a gusher has been struck at a depth of 2,660 feet, the gas pressure being of such force as to blow the oil over the top of the derrick.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

Third Wheat Forecast.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 6:—

General rain in Tenasserim, Assam, Bengal, Orissa, Konkan, Western Hyderabad, Madras, Deccan and Malabar. Local in Burma at Chota Nagpur, Bombay Deccan and Mysore.

All India third wheat forecast acreage, 23,566,000; yield, 7,407,000 tons. (Last year, similar forecast, 35,342,000 acres; 10,184,000 tons.)

Bombay Cotton Market irregular. Fully good broach, July-August, quoted 545 rupees. Piece goods market active, and general feeling optimistic. Calcutta Jute Gunny Markets unchanged.

Construction Tanakpur Barmdeo metre gauge railway, four miles; Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company sanctioned.

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Lord Reay, presiding at the annual meeting of the East India Association on June 16, stated that he considered that the industrial development of India ought now to be taken in hand very firmly, and that the Government should send to India the best representatives of her industry. They wanted a special staff of experts to start the industrial movement in India, and when once started he thought prosperity would be very different from what it had been in the past.

Two Cunarders and a P. and O. Liner are stated to be among the latest orders booked by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, of Newcastle.

A preliminary meeting of the recently appointed Indian Currency Committee will be held at the India Office on Monday next, when the course of procedure to be followed at the inquiry will be discussed.

Sir Frederick Black, K.C.B., Director of Navy Contracts, has, with the permission of the Board of Admiralty, resigned his office in order to take up an appointment as a managing director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Sir Frederick Black, who was appointed Director of Navy Contracts in 1906, joined the Ministry of Munitions in 1915, on its first formation, as Director-General of Munitions Supply, and subsequently he served as Acting Chairman of the British War Mission to the United States.

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THE FINANCIAL POSITION AT ALEPPO.

The Exchange Problem.

(From a Correspondent.)

It is to be hoped that the Government will shortly publish (and take action upon) the report of the Commission recently sent to Northern Syria to inquire into the question of exchange in that country. Although greatly improved, owing to the arrival of English goods in the Aleppo market, it is still far from satisfactory, and both the British public and our Army of Occupation are still losing over the exchange of the Egyptian note. It must be understood that all payments for requisitions and all payments to our troops are made in Egyptian paper, so that the Egyptian note stands for British credit. To appreciate some of the reasons for the loss which has occurred, it is necessary to consider the situation previous to our occupation of Aleppo. That the Germans intended to stay in Aleppo is abundantly proved by the fact that they treated the inhabitants remarkably well and paid gold for everything they bought. This not only established their credit but facilitated their dealings with the local Arabs, who invariably distrust paper money. Indeed, they will seldom trade for anything but gold, and generally all deals, including payments of rents, were carried out in gold. The rate of exchange of Turkish paper was £T5 paper to £T1 gold. Apropos of this it is admitted that some merchants made fortunes during the war by the simple expedient of buying Turkish paper in Aleppo and transferring it to Germany, where it was met at face value, according to the terms of the agreement between Germany and Turkey. This money was turned into merchandise, which was railed to Aleppo and sold in the bazaar for gold. They then repeated the process, and must have been deeply disappointed when our advent in Aleppo put an end to an exceedingly lucrative game.

Aleppo, it will be evident, was hardly the place to float the Egyptian 100 piastre note at 166 Turkish piastres, unless either gold or goods were imported to back it. If, in the early days of our occupation, £50,000 in British gold had been imported, it would probably have established the Egyptian note at par. It is also probable that the Bedouin, when once they found that they could exchange an Egyptian note for a golden sovereign, would have readily accepted them. The educated classes already knew that £E1 note would buy £1 worth of goods in Egypt. Gold, however, was not forthcoming, and, as the railway line had not yet been repaired and all available lorries were required for supplying the troops, it was impossible to import goods. At first merchants and shopkeepers freely exchanged 8 mejidies (20 P.T. Turkish silver piastres) for an Egyptian 100 P.T. note, but as time went on and no gold or goods were imported into Aleppo, the exchange dropped to 7 and then 6 mejidies. A further cause of the drop was that the food and forage contractors could not get the Egyptian paper, with which their contracts were paid, taken at the Government rate, especially by the Bedouin. The general result of all this was that the Government and our officers and men were losing 25 per cent. on every £1 they spent. At Aintab and places north of Aleppo Egyptian paper was not legal tender, and our requisitions and the troops were paid in Turkish paper.

Now, let us consider the steps taken to remedy this state of affairs. Shortly after our occupation a proclamation was issued by the Commander-in-Chief fixing the value of the £E1 note at 166 Turkish piastres. The proclamation went on to say that it was an offence against the law to change the note for less than its face value. Unfortunately, finance in Aleppo recked little of proclamations signed in Egypt, and continued its extortionate habits. True, one could summon a gendarme and incarcerate the shopman who refused to give the correct change, but as all law courts had been abolished, it merely meant that the shopman had to put his hand in his pocket in order to be loosed. Further, there was a simpler way of eluding the edicts of law and order—either deny that you had any change or put up your price 25 per cent. to cover your loss on exchange. The food and forage contractors naturally had to take payment at Government rates, and as the prices of various commodities were fixed by the local market rate, there were various means by which they could ensure that they should not be out of pocket over the transaction. On January 24 a proclamation was issued by the Arab Government forbidding the export of gold or silver from Aleppo to Adana, and also forbidding the import of German and Austrian securities. This, at first, caused large purchases of Egyptian paper on the Bourse, but intending passengers quickly learned that all payments north of Aleppo were still carried out in Turkish paper, and that this could still be taken. Consequently, the Egyptian paper was unloaded on the Bourse, with a corresponding fall in price. About mid-February Egyptian paper fell again to £76½ Turkish gold per £100 Egyptian notes. This fall was said to be due to the arrival from Constantinople of certain Aleppines, who left Aleppo early in January before the proclamation forbidding the export of gold. This party (twelve in number) brought back from Constantinople (partly on their own account and partly on commission for others) securities for a considerable sum, including a large number of British notes, which they bought in Constantinople at rates varying between £370-405 Turkish paper per £100 British notes. They therefore paid the equivalent of £74-81 Turkish gold for £100 British notes, and could only get £75 gold on their return to Aleppo! The result of the arrival of these securities on the Aleppo Bourse brought the rate for British notes down to £T72 gold and the Egyptian note to £T75 gold. Until the arrival of the first consignment of British goods in Aleppo in April exchange fluctuated between £T75 and £T80 gold, when it rose suddenly to £T98 gold. During this period the troops were losing 30 per cent. on every sovereign they expended in the town. Canteens and stores were sent up as soon as rail transport permitted, and matters improved. It is to be hoped, however, that the Commission will put forward some proposals for reimbursing the troops for the loss they have had to incur. It is understood that the Army of Occupation of the Rhine is paid in German money, and so loses nothing over the exchange. It is only fair that some similar steps should be taken for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Syria.

THE NILE LEVEL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 25.

The Nile has been rising much more satisfactorily during the last few days. In three days the Blue Nile has risen at Rosaires by 1¼ metre, and the White Nile at Malakal ¼ metre. This rise was quite unexpected, and the more welcome because the last note of the P.W.D. stated that the flow of the Nile below Assouan was considerably below normal, and "the prospects were not good."

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY

The estimated traffic receipts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin (by telegraph) for the week ended May 31 amounted to £14,848.

India's coal output in 1918 was 19,847,039 tons, compared with 17,642,798 in 1917.

Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, the managers, announce that negotiations have now been concluded whereby approximately one-half of the monthly production of gold by the Mysore Gold Mining Company, Limited, the Champion Reef Gold Mining Company of India, Limited, the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India, Limited, the Nundydroog Company, Limited, the Balaghat Gold Mining Company, Limited, and the North Anantapur Gold Mines, Limited, will be disposed of to the Indian Government in India, the value of such proportion representing approximately the local monthly expenditure, and that the companies will thereby be relieved of the heavy loss suffered in making remittances from England to India.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Nicosia Water Supply.

The waterworks have always been a source of trouble and complaint. A new law (XXII. of 1919) provides that the supply—derived from two sources—shall henceforth be managed and controlled by a Water Commission of six members, two being appointed by the High Commissioner, two by the Municipal Council, the others being the delegates of Evkaf (one British and one Turk). The Commissioner of Nicosia is president. Such a law has long been needed, for municipal control has not been altogether successful. It is hoped that the citizens of the capital will do all they can to assist the new Board. The Commissioner, Mr. Cade, has appealed strongly to all inhabitants to avoid waste. The Nicosia supply is brought in and distributed by means of masonry ducts, which are liable to contamination and are frequently damaged. These should be replaced as soon as possible by iron pipes, the cost of which would be not less than £7,000. That the supply should have been left so long in the present unsatisfactory state is one of the many examples of the slow state of progress in the island. Had a more energetic spirit prevailed, and had the municipality been more alive to its most pressing duties, Nicosia should long ago have enjoyed a far better supply of drinking water than it now possesses.

New Tobacco Company.

The new tobacco company at Limassol appears to take a favourable view of the situation and prospects as regards tobacco cultivation, notwithstanding the not too successful results of last year's crop in various parts of the island. At a recent meeting of the company it was decided to proceed with its operations, and to purchase all the necessary equipment for launching the enterprise. The start is made with a capital of £5,000, which, it is hoped, will be largely increased.

ROUMANIA.

Control of Shares in Enemy Undertakings.

In the *Moniteur Officiel* of May 6, the Roumanian Government has published a Decree with the object of preventing the transfer of shares in enemy undertakings. According to the terms of the Decree, holders of shares in companies, associations, etc., placed under sequestration or control must have these shares stamped within ten days. Failure to comply with this will involve seizure by the Roumanian Government. As regards holders of shares living abroad, the visa will be given by the Roumanian Legations within ten days from the date of publications of the Decree in the countries in question.

ROUMANIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information from H.M. Legation at Bucharest to the effect that most of the restrictions on importation, which have been in force in Roumania, were removed as from May 15. From that date imports of merchandise, except articles of luxury, were not to be subject to any formalities beyond those relating to Customs, etc., which were in force before the war. An additional *ad valorem* tax of 2 per cent. is, however, imposed on all goods arriving in the country. The Roumanian Government reserves to itself the exclusive right of purchasing and selling direct to the population cereals, rice and sugar. Exporters should note that it is necessary for all invoices to be viséd at the Roumanian Legation in London, and that firms must produce a certificate from a British Chamber of Commerce certifying that the goods are of British origin and that the prices set forth in the invoices were the current prices ruling in the United Kingdom. A list of the goods which are classed as luxuries, and in respect of which an import permit is necessary, may be inspected by British traders interested on application at the Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence).

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Marseilles—Antwerp Waterway.

The question of the construction of a waterway between Marseilles and Antwerp, connecting the Mediterranean with the North Sea is at present attracting considerable attention in France. The scheme, if carried out, will, of course, greatly improve the French inland shipping, and will afford immense economic advantages to French industry and commerce in connection with the future promotion and development of trade in Central Europe and the ports in the North and Baltic Seas. The supposition, however, that this waterway will, as a traffic route, present the best means of transport between the Near and Middle East and Central and North-Western Europe cannot be well sustained; for apart from the technical difficulties which its construction, as well as its navigation will present, if carried out according to the proposals in the scheme, its traverse geographical position places it at a disadvantage when compared with other existing schemes for the same purpose in which the route is proposed in a more practical and direct line via the Danube, the Morava, and the Rhine.

The proposal for the construction of a Marseilles-Antwerp waterway was made over two years ago before the Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale. The line of navigation would be the Comprin Canal, the Rhine, and the Saone, and then the Rhone, which would be connected with the Saone by another side canal. This canal system would be navigable by ships carrying 6,000 tons of actual cargo. The origin of the proposal lies in an improvement in the design of vessels which has diminished the amplitude of the angle of rolling. It is claimed that vessels provided for this purpose with projections just above the water-line present a much larger surface, and when loaded will draw less water. The application of this method to the vessels which have to pass through the Suez Canal would enable 15,000 tons to be carried with a draught of 28 ft., while the actual depth of the channel is 29½ ft. Adopting a similar design it would be possible to build good seagoing vessels of 10,000 tons, carrying 6,000 tons of actual cargo and drawing only 14½ ft., which could cross Europe by a suitable ship canal from Antwerp to Marseilles without breaking cargo, if the canal had a depth of 16½ ft. It is said that a design for such a vessel has already been prepared. If the cost of the canal, which is not mentioned in the various reports, should be considered prohibitive, then it is proposed that the canal should follow a different route utilising some of the existing canals in France, but this would limit the depth to 11½ ft., in which case there would be transhipment at Antwerp and at Marseilles.

The scheme will undoubtedly present great difficulties, and will cost much. How practical or possible it will be to construct such a canal by which sea-going vessels of 10,000 tons could cross Europe from Marseilles to Antwerp is a question which gives rise to considerable scepticism. The Eastern Mediterranean, the Ægean Sea, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea are the distributive centres of the Near and Middle East; and with the completion of the Danube-Rhine waterway, which will have as a branch the Vardar-Morava-Danube waterway, which has already found much support on the part of the Moravian Czechs, and with the proposed canal connecting the Caspian and Black Seas, the Near and Middle East will have the best, cheapest and safest commercial route for trading with Central Europe and the United Kingdom. Sea-going vessels of 1,000 tons, and for some parts of the waterway more, will be the carriers entering the Vardar from Salonika, the Danube from Sulina in the Black Sea, the Caspian and Black Sea canal from Astrakhan, going through Europe and out into the North Sea and the Baltic.

Poland's Resources.

The special attention which Poland at present receives from all quarters—economic, commercial, as well as political—is not a matter of surprise. Poland is to-day the only country in Europe without a national debt, and the tax revenue is immense. Nature, capital, and work are three indispensable agents for production, and Poland has a good geographical position, a good climate, and fertile soil; great spaces sufficient to supply corn for home and foreign consumption; and her network of waterways needs only a certain amount of regulation of rivers and canals. Her mineral wealth is immense—in oil, salt, coal, iron, and lead. As regards industry, Lodz has been rightly named the Polish Manchester, and other parts of Poland are highly developed industrially. The forests are rich enough to become a foundation of various branches of industry and to employ hundreds of thousands. Poland in 1910 had 10,953 manufacturing concerns and over 400,000 industrial workmen. In short, Poland has all the necessary qualifications for the making of a prosperous and progressive State, whilst the country may be termed virgin soil for capital for the development of all classes of industry.

The rebuilding of the large Polish workshops destroyed during the war will necessitate the importation of a great quantity of workshop engineering equipment, machinery, tools, belting, etc. Railway engines and wagons will also be required. The proposed development of the Polish electrical industry will only be made possible by the importation of turbines and motors. In the meantime, it is remarked that few British firms have hitherto displayed any eagerness to accept Polish orders for agricultural machinery. Probably they wait for a definite settlement of the political affairs of the country. But, on the other hand, certain French and American houses are not averse, it is stated, to taking what is sometimes something of a risk in the hope that hereafter they will reap full benefit for their courageous step.

BULGARIAN TRADE.

Control of Imports.

A dispatch from the British Military Mission, published in the *Board of Trade Journal*, states:—Notices have been appearing in the Bulgarian Press in regard to the suggested operation of the control over imports into Bulgaria which it was proposed to entrust to the Department of Social Insurance. The Council of Ministers have authorised the Department to purchase and import, either direct or through local merchants, all kinds of foodstuffs and clothing. In accordance with this authorisation, the Department has issued a notice to traders to the effect that they are prepared to purchase or to receive offers for any of the following classes of goods:—Grain and flour, rice, salt, olives and olive-oil, soap, petroleum, benzine and other mineral oils, cotton tissues (English Nos. 8-22), sewing threads, sateens, Oxfords, longcloth, calicoes, and materials for men's clothing, leather and hides, and oak-bark extracts.

The Direction may add other articles to this list, as occasion demands, but in the meantime articles not included in it can only be imported with the previous authority of the Direction, and also of the "Devizna Tzentral" (Centrale des devises), at the Bulgarian National Bank, which will grant or withhold permission according to the importance of the goods from the point of view of national economy. The Direction accordingly warn intending importers of the necessity of arriving at a clear understanding with them on the subject before placing orders for goods abroad.

In submitting their proposals to the Commercial Section of the Direction of Social Insurance, where they will be examined and dealt with in the light of all existing circumstances and of all the information in the possession of that Department at the time, merchants are recommended to furnish the fullest possible particulars in regard to:—(1) The nature and quality of the goods, with samples of each; (2) the price at which they are offered for delivery ex Custom House, which price should include freight, insurance, landing charges, Customs and other dues, and the merchant's profit; (3) the date at which the applicant is prepared to guarantee delivery; (4) the manner in which the goods are packed; (5) the method of payment proposed, bearing in mind that preference may be given to offers which do not involve the necessity of application to the "Devizna Tzentral" for permission to remit in foreign currency. In cases where it is proposed to import on the basis of compensatory exportation, the nature and amount of the native produce to be exported in exchange should be fully specified.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C., announce the numbers of Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway 3 per cent. bonds drawn for repayment at par on July 15.

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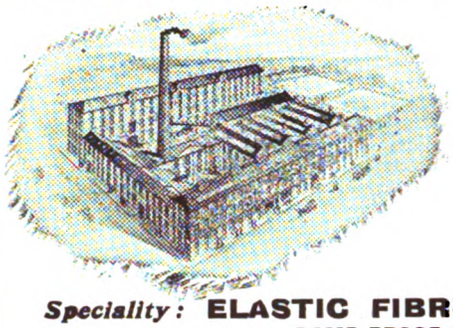
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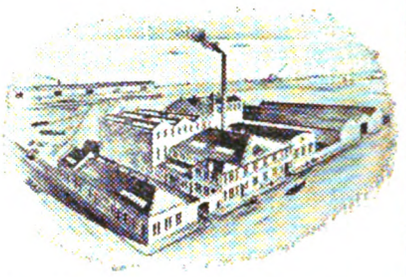
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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Scottish Assam Tea.

The report of the Scottish Assam Tea Company for 1918, states that estimating the unsold portion of crop on what is considered a safe basis, the total revenue amounted to £33,007 and expenditure to £27,681, leaving a surplus of £5,326; £1,358 was brought forward, making £6,684. The directors recommend a dividend at 5 per cent. less income tax at 5s. 9d. in £, and to carry forward, subject to income-tax and managers' and assistants' commission (amounting in all to about £2,850), £3,848.

Bombay Baroda Railway.

The report of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway includes the audited home accounts for the half-year ended March 31 last and also the detailed accounts of the working of the railways in India for the six months ended September 30, 1918. The detailed accounts prepared in India for the half-year ended March 31 were not completed before the end of May, and will be presented at the general meeting in December next. The total length of railways worked was 3,836.80 miles. Capital expenditure charged off during the half-year ended September 30 was Rs5,85,482 for the broad gauge and Rs5,95,546 for the metre gauge, of which Rs92,476 and Rs2,78,574 respectively are on account of rolling stock. Gross earnings were Rs4,84,73,450, increase Rs89,53,262; expenditure Rs1,97,03,607, increase Rs26,46,828; net earnings Rs2,87,69,843, increase Rs63,06,434; percentage of expenditure to gross earnings 40.65, decrease 2.51. Coaching traffic shows an increase of Rs13,38,953 on the broad gauge and of Rs13,20,520 on the metre gauge; goods traffic, an increase of Rs22,05,744 on the former and of Rs39,66,640 on the latter; sundries, an increase of Rs.1,13,790 on the broad gauge and a decrease of Rs17,927 on the metre gauge; and telegraph, an increase of Rs12,170 on the former and of Rs13,372 on the latter. Passengers carried numbered 25,904,973, against 25,810,410. The number of train miles run was 3,435,667 on the broad gauge and 4,214,443 on the metre-gauge, as compared with 3,498,840 on the former and 3,729,096 on the latter. The results of working for the whole year, as cabled from India, show that the total net earnings amount to Rs5,33,48,843 (which compares with Rs4,51,51,718 earned in the previous year and Rs4,25,00,591 in 1916-17), and the share of surplus earnings accruing to the company under the terms of the contract with the Government, in addition to the guaranteed interest, amounts, after the deduction of Indian income-tax and also the amount due in respect of advances for capital expenditure made from the provident fund, to approximately Rs13,53,625. Of this Rs1,40,625 was received in December last as an interim payment of ½ per cent. on capital, and was utilised in payment of the interim dividend to stock-holders in January last. The balance now available is Rs12,13,000, which will produce about £100,000, subject to English income-tax and excess profits duty. The directors recommend the payment in July next of a final dividend of 1½ per cent., together with a bonus of 1½ per cent., making (including the guaranteed interest for the half-year) 4½ per cent. Including the interim payment of 2 per cent. in January last, this makes a return of 6½ per cent. for the year against 6½ per cent. for the previous year and 5¾ per cent. for 1916-17.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LTD.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of EIGHT SHILLINGS AND NINEPENCE per £5 Share on Coupon No. 61 is PAYABLE on and after June 16th, 1919, at Barclays Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W. and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C. or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

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

Alexandria, Egypt.
3rd June, 1919.

Calcutta Trams.

The report of the Calcutta Tramways for the year ended December 31 last states that revenue, including interest on investments and deposits, less income-tax, amounts to £135,271; £8,434 was brought forward, making £143,705. Deducting debenture interest, preference dividend, and interim dividend on ordinary shares, there is left £98,254. The directors propose a final dividend of 6s. per share, making 9½ per cent. for the year (against 8 per cent. for 1917), free of income-tax; to transfer to reserve for depreciation, etc., £25,000; to reserve for depreciation of investments, £2,000; to staff provident fund, £1,331; and to carry forward, subject to English excess profits duty and Indian super-tax, £28,639. The reserve for depreciation, etc., at the commencement of the year stood at £100,358. Deducting £4,836 written off for renewals during the year, and adding the proposed allocation, the reserve will stand at £120,495. The total receipts show an increase of £35,460, of which £24,803 is due to traffic and £10,657 to sundry receipts, after including a profit on exchange of £14,128. As regards expenditure, the Indian working expenses show an increase of £8,082. Of this amount £5,637 is represented by a bonus of one month's salaries and wages paid to the Calcutta staff, the balance being due to the increased cost of materials, etc. Small debits and credits to capital account leave that account about the same as last year.

Ruston and Hornsby.

The directors of Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., announce that for the year ended March 31 last, after providing £40,697 for depreciation on buildings, plant, and machinery, they recommend the payment, on July 10 next, of a final dividend of 5½ per cent. subject to income-tax on 902,132 ordinary shares, which, with the interim dividend of 2½ per cent. paid on December 2 last, is equal to 8 per cent. per annum, and a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, subject to income-tax, on 316,200 ordinary shares for the three months ended March 31 last, to place £40,000 to reserve account and to carry forward £41,001.

Rangoon Electric Trams.

The report of the Rangoon Electric Tramway and Supply Company for 1918 states that the cars travelled 1,494,544 miles, a decrease of 63,112 miles, and carried 21,202,591 passengers, an increase of 5,468,389, or of 34.75 per cent., the total receipts being Rs.10,79,573, an increase of Rs.167,427, or 18.35 per cent. In order to meet the expansion that the City of Rangoon demands, the directors have arranged for a considerable extension of the present tramway system. In the private lighting and power department gross receipts for current supplied of all descriptions, amounted to Rs.9,71,733, an increase of 5.28 per cent. Gross receipts of the house wiring and supply department amounted to Rs.1,24,527, the profit realised being Rs.20,173, as compared with Rs.19,778. A revised agreement with the Rangoon Municipal Committee for public lighting of the city and suburbs has been signed. This agreement dates from January 1, 1919, to December 31, 1930 (twelve years), the terms of which the board consider to be mutually favourable. The gross profits were £77,661, which added to transfer fees and interest on deposits and investments in London, £2,912, makes £80,573. Deducting interest on debenture stocks (£12,457), provision for redemption of Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock (£7,320), depreciation on sundry assets in Rangoon (£1,753), transfer to reserve for renewals account (12,500), to special reserve for cables, etc. (£12,500), income-tax (balance of) (£6,595), fees for directors, managing director and trustees and expenses in London (£2,598), and employees' provident fund (£811), net profit is £24,039; £4,258 was brought forward, making £28,297. The directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. for the year, free of income tax, and to carry forward £4,447. Warrants will be posted on June 30. The warrants for the half-yearly payment of interest on debenture stocks and those for interim dividend on preference shares on account of profits to December 31, 1919, payable July 1, will also be posted on June 30.

Egyptian Markets.

The report of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, states that the gross receipts from the cattle markets, exclusive of slaughter houses, show a decrease of £1,638 as compared with the year 1917, the total being £31,058 against £32,696. This decrease is due to the increased closing of the markets above referred to. The gross receipts from the general markets for the year under review were £23,188 as compared with £21,824 for the year 1917, an increase of £1,364. This is considered satisfactory. The net receipts from the slaughter-houses worked during the year were £1,256 against £1,560 during 1917, a decrease of £304. The expenses in the trading account show an increase of £2,991, which is practically all attributable to war bonuses on salaries and wages necessitated by the increased cost of living in Egypt and of travelling. The net profit derived from this source is £10,597 as compared with £19,896 for the previous year, a decrease of £9,299. This decrease is largely due to the contracts with the Egyptian Government for the supply of fodder (dries and tibbin), not having been renewed, the authorities having decided to carry out the work themselves. Great difficulties have been experienced in dealing with goods consigned to the company under agency agreements, owing to export restrictions, the lack of shipping facilities and the uncertainty created by the termination of hostilities having seriously impeded business. The final settlement of the Government share of profits and the excess profits duty left an additional amount of £1,035 9s. 11d. for distribution to the Deferred shareholders, for the year 1917. The dividend distributable on the Deferred shares for that year was subject to the adjustment of the above accounts, estimated to be at the rate of £8 3s. 0d. per share; the actual amount divisible was £11 15s. 4d. per share. The increases in the amounts disbursed have been adjusted in the accounts under review. The net revenue from all sources for the year 1918 amounted to £31,709 13s. 6d., as compared with £46,894 12s. 0d. during the previous year, a decrease of £15,184 18s. 6d. After deduction of the amount of £4,098 17s. 3d. which it is estimated will be required to meet payment of the Government share of profits for 1918, a balance of £27,610 16s. 3d. remains, which, with the amount of £10,307 6s. 11d. brought forward from 1917, makes a total of £37,918 3s. 2d. to be dealt with. After meeting the fixed charges of the annual premia for the amortisation of the share capital and debentures, amounting to £3,789 1s. 6d., debenture interest £2,840, and carrying the sum of £1,500 to reserve, a balance of £29,789 1s. 8d. remains available for distribution. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend (No. 29) on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 1918, of 5 per cent., making with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in December, 1918, a total of 10 per cent. for the year, absorbing in all £17,470, and in accordance with the terms of the memorandum of association of the company, and subject to the settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government and to such excess profits duty, if any, as may be payable, the payment of a dividend (No. 9) on the Deferred shares at the rate of £6 2s. 4d. per share for the year 1918, which will absorb £1,835 4s. 11d. and leave a balance of £10,483 16s. 9d. to be carried forward, which balance is also subject to the settlement above referred to. In conformity with the company's articles of association Sir John P. Hewett, G.C.S.I., C.I.E., and G. H. Redwood, Esq., will retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The proprietors will be asked to elect auditors for the ensuing year. Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., offer themselves for re-election. The directors desire to record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. C. E. Duffield, the general manager, and by other members of the company's staff in Egypt. Meeting 43, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., June 26, at 12 noon.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Société Générale Egyptienne pour l'Agriculture et le Commerce.—The profits for the period 1914-1918 amounted to 1,024,723 francs.

British Indian Tea.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester House on June 27, at 2.30 p.m. Transfer registers will be closed from June 14 to 27, inclusive.

The directors of the Pundaloya Tea Company of Ceylon recommend a dividend of 7 per cent., less tax at 5s. 9d. in £, on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31 last.

The directors of the Jhanzie Tea Association have declared a final dividend of 9 per cent. less income-tax, making 13 per cent. for the year ended December 31 last, payable on and after July 8.

The directors of the Upper Assam Tea Company have declared a dividend of 12½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per share), less income-tax at 5s. 9d., for 1918, payable June 30. This is the same as for 1916 and 1917.

The directors of the Eastern Assam Company recommend a balance dividend and bonus of 10 per cent., making with the interim dividend 15 per cent., free of tax, for the year ended December 31, 1918.

The directors of the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company have declared a dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making, with the interim dividend, 20 per cent. for the year, against 22½ per cent. for the previous year.

The directors of the Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 15 per cent., subject to income-tax at an average of 5s. 9d. in £, on the ordinary shares, payable on and after July 10 next, making 20 per cent. for 1918.

The preference transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway will be closed from June 23 to July 5, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to the shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

The directors of the Central Travancore Rubber Company announce that the sum at credit of profit and loss account (including the balance brought forward) is £13,475. A dividend is recommended at the rate of 5 per cent., less tax, carrying forward £9,880.

The directors of the Burmah Oil Company, after placing £80,000 to field reserve, £20,000 to insurance reserve, £186,695 to general reserve, recommend a dividend of 5s. per share, carrying forward £1,776,229, subject to excess profits duty, estimated at £1,580,000. Total profit, £3,305,078. Depreciation, £491,021.

The directors of the Assam Railways and Trading Company have declared the following dividends:—Pre-preference shares at 8 per cent. per annum, new six per cent. preference shares at 6 per cent. per annum, both for half-year ending June 30, payable July 4; and on "A" stock a dividend of 4 per cent. for half-year ended December 31 last payable June 21.

The directors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway have declared an interim dividend of 15s. per cent. and a bonus of £1 10s. per cent. on the capital stock in respect of the half-year ended March 30, payable on July 1 next to holders registered 30th proximo, together with the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent. then due, making a total distribution of £4 per cent.

ON 'CHANGE.

THROGMORTON STREET, Thursday.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

There has been a fair amount of activity this week; but, in a general way, prices are somewhat lower, owing to local sales on behalf of investors in order to obtain money for subscribing to the new British Funding Loan and Victory Bonds. Egypt has been more or less taking the stock offered at reduced prices, but the enormous delay in telegraphic communication is very seriously interfering with business.

Egyptian Unified stock has relapsed 1½ to 86, and the 3½ per cent. loan one point to 73.

In Bank shares, Agriculturals are 1-16 down at 5 15-16, and Nationals have dropped ½ to 20 1-16. On the other hand, Anglo-Egyptian banks are ⅛ firmer at 15⅝, and Land Banks are firm and unaltered at their ex. div. price of 6 29-32.

In Railways there is no change to record.

Amongst Land shares, Aboukirs are fractionally lower at 23s. 9d., and Béhéras are ⅛ down at 12⅜. A fairly large turnover has again taken place in Egyptian Consolidated, at about 2s. 6d. Delta Lands, after being 6d. down, close unchanged. Foreign Trusts have receded 6d. to 14s. 9d. New Egyptians are fractionally quieter at 24s. 9d. Sudan Plantations are closing 1-16 firmer at 7 1-16, after having been somewhat lower.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Waters have been dealt in to some extent in the neighbourhood of 12 9-16 x.d. Salts and Sodas are 1-16 firmer at 2 15-16.

Amongst Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B, after being up to 6 7-16, close ⅛ lower than last week at 6 3-16. Roumanians have dropped 6d. to 19s. 6d., but, on the other hand, Traians are 6d. firmer at 13s. 6d.

Amongst Greek securities, the 1890 Loan has recovered a good portion of the dividend recently deducted, and is quoted at 74½ x.d. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are both a point up at 72. There is no change to record otherwise.

BULGARIA'S COAL OUTPUT.

The average yearly output of coal mined in Bulgaria before the war, says a report from the British mission at Constantinople, was about 250,000 tons. This might have published in the *Board of Trade Journal*, been considerably increased with better transport and organisation. During the war the output of the Pernik Mines alone was raised in 1916 to about 600,000 tons (50,000 tons per month) by the employment of large numbers of Serbian prisoners.

The following are the principal coal districts: The Pernik-Bobovdol Basin, the Trevna Planina, and the Haskove district mines. The Pernik-Bobovdol basin lies to the south-west of Sofia and contains the most productive coal mines of the country. The principal mines are at Pernik, Kalkas, Moshino, and Bobovdol. The coal is lignite of fair quality, but it contains about 2.5 per cent. of sulphur. The Pernik mines are worked by the Bulgarian Government, under the supervision of a British officer. The mine is 10¾ miles from Sofia, with which it is connected by rail.

The latest report shows that there are 5,500 men employed at the mine, of whom only about 850 are engaged at the coal face, and 1,500 men are employed on development work. The output of coal for the week 5th-11th April inclusive was 9,066 tons, equivalent to 39,000 tons per month (as against 50,000 tons per month produced in 1916); this apparently includes 4,000 tons from Bobovdol. The average coal produced per man was only just over ¾-ton per day. The Bulgarian Government is apparently only trying to produce sufficient coal for its own railway requirements, and uses most of the labour on development work in order to put the mine into good order for its own use later on. There is, moreover, a certain shortage of plant, rolling stock and material. Proposals have been made by which it is expected that the output will be raised to 60,000 tons per month. Coal obtained from these mines is distributed to the town of Sofia and the Bulgarian railways.

The main supply of coal from the Trevna-Planina district is obtained from the Prince Boris mine, near Radevati, between Gabrovo and Slivno. The coal is easily extracted by means of open workings and adits driven into the hillside, and the mine is now linked up with the railway by a narrow-gauge line. Latest figures give a production of about 3,000 tons per month.

The lignite is of good quality and is used in local factories which have boilers specially adapted to meet the defect which this coal has of crumbling. It is doubtful whether this coal could be used for general purposes. Other mines worked in the Prince Boris group are: Budeshte, Bouroushstitza, Hadji Dimitri, Nadiezhda, Vulcan and Spolouka, and eight others. The total output of these mines is about 3,800 tons per month, which is consumed locally.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Prices in the market have tended to harden, and demand has been on a large scale. There was undoubtedly an important accumulation of business during the Whitsuntide holidays last week. At the time of writing a very serious position of affairs has arisen in connection with the labour dispute on the mill hours and wages question. The master spinners refused to attend the conference at the Ministry of Labour on Wednesday last. Important developments may take place during the next day or two, but there is not much time to be lost, as the strike notices expire on Saturday. Any stoppage of machinery will be very regrettable, as the two sides are not far apart. The advices relating to the Egyptian crop are not very satisfactory. The growth is said to be two to three weeks late, and irregular weather conditions are prevailing. In Egyptian yarns the undercurrent of demand continues healthy and some spinners have sold freely, especially in fine counts. A big demand has been reported in piece goods for Egypt and the Near East generally. Sized shirtings, printing cloths and miscellaneous fabrics of various kinds have been sold on an encouraging scale at top prices. Operations for India have been rather irregular, and more has been done for Bombay, Madras and Karachi than for Calcutta. Trade for China has been active, further buying of a healthy character having occurred. Manufacturers are more independent than ever, and increased difficulty is now being experienced in arranging delivery terms. American yarns have hardened in quotation, with steady buying from day to day. Some fair lines have been put through in export bundles for India. Plenty of demand has been about for the countries of Northern Europe.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	June 11	June 18
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87⅞	86
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	73
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	71	72
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	71	72
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	59½	59½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	54	54
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	74½xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	86	86
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	83	82¾
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15½	15½
Bank of Athens	£2	72/6	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7¾	8
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	77	77
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9⅛	9¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7⅛	6⅝xd
London County and Westminster	—	17	17
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅜	20⅛
National Bank of India	43	53	53
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅞	7⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	87	—	50
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	101½	—	45
Piræus, Athens, etc. Rail. 4½%.	90	67	67
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	24/-	23/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	12½	12⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	—	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/6	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/3	14/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25/-	24/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	7	7⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	13	12⅜xd
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅜	25/-	25/-
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	2⅞	2⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6¼	6¼
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4¼	4½
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	⅜	6⅛	6⅜
Anglo-Persian	1⅜	27/-	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	—
Roumanian	1⅜	20/-	19/6
Traian (Roumanian)	—	13/-	13/6

The directors of the Amalgamated Tea Estates Company have declared a dividend of 10 per cent. for the year, the same as for the previous year.

The ordinary transfer books of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., will be closed from June 22 to June 28, both days inclusive, for the preparation of dividend warrants.

Khedival Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.—On July 1 an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares—namely, 1s. per share—less income-tax at 6s. in the £, in respect of the year ending June 30, 1919, will be paid at the bank of Glyn Mills Currie and Co., London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria. Holders of Ordinary share warrants to bearer are therefore requested to present coupon No. 14 for payment on that rate. The transfer books will be closed from June 23 to July 1 inclusive.

British Burmah Petroleum.—An interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, is payable July 31 next to holders registered July 15, 1919, in respect of the profits for the first six months of the company's current financial year. The transfer books will be closed during July 15. The dividend being for six months only will amount to 5 per cent., or 4 4-5d. per share, and the relative warrants to shareholders on the Colonial registers established in Bombay and Rangoon will be issued from the company's offices located in those cities respectively; while shareholders on the London register will receive their warrants direct from the London office.

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

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

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

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £2,400,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

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

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

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

Head Office: ATHENS.

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

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

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

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

GREECE.

Area (1914), 25,128 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 24·37½ Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: PIRÆUS, SYRA.

CAPITAL - Drs. 10,000,000.

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

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

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

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

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

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

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

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

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

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

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

Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN ALL CITIES OF BULGARIA.

The Bank effects the following transactions:—

1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
2.—Receives private deposits for fixed periods or on current account. 3.—Discounts commercial effects and allows quarterly loans.
4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
6.—Buys and sells country and foreign cheques, etc. 7.—The Bank is entitled to the exclusive privilege of putting in circulation gold and silver banknotes. The telegraphic address for the Head Office: **Nationalbank**, and for the branches and the agencies: **Bank.**

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£120,000*

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£850,000**
RESERVE - - - - - -	**£220,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agencies at Busreh and Baghdad

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	**Rs.2,00,00,000**
Reserve Fund	**Rs.1,61,00,000**
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	**Rs. 25,00,000**

Head Office: Strand Road, CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, PATNA, RANGOON, SIMLA.

Agency: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE, BOMBAY.

Sub-Agencies: NARAINGUNGE and SECUNDERABAD.

Pay Offices:

CHANDPORE, SERAJGUNGE } Usually open from July to December.
PARBHANI (DECCAN) ,, November to March.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.

Government and other Securities received for safe custody. Purchases and sales effected.

Interest collected and **Remittances** made.

Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.

Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches, Sub-Agencies or Pay Offices.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	**Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund - - - -	**Rs.52,00,000**

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

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Remittances to Belgrade, Uskub and Monastir can now be effected through

THE BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE,

27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2. | Telephone: 1110 LONDON WALL

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital -	**£2,000,000**	**Called-up Capital** - -	**£580,000**
Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER . LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. **MANCHESTER.** **NEW YORK:—** 100 BEAVER STREET.

EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.

MOROCCO:— CASABLANCA, FEZ, MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, SAFFI, TANGIER.

CANARY ISLANDS:— LAS PALMAS.

WEST AFRICA:— THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£2,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,000,000**
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each ..	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,550,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq. SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
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HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

BRANCHES.

Calcutta	Cawnpore	Tuticorin	Mandalay	Kandy	Mombasa	Entebbe	
Bombay	Lahore	Cochin (S. India)	Aden	Nowera Eliya	Nairobi	Kampala	Uganda
Madras	Amritsar	Chittagong	Aden, Steamer Point	Zanzibar	Nakuru	Jinja	
Karachi	Delhi	Rangoon	Colombo		Kisumu		

British East Africa

OCCUPIED TERRITORY GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 425.—Vol. XV. FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Germans have not yet signed the Peace Treaty, and doubts are expressed in some quarters of the imminent probability of their doing so. A new Government has replaced the old, but whether it will finally decide to take the plunge—or, rather, be permitted by its opponents to do so—is, at the moment, uncertain. In the circumstances, comments upon the situation, though freely and confidently offered on all hands, would, obviously, be of little value, and must be withheld for the present.

As the result of what was in effect a vote of no confidence, the Orlando Cabinet has fallen, and Signor Orlando has been succeeded by Signor Nitti. Whether the change will have any immediate effect upon Italy's Near Eastern policy remains to be seen, but it appears to be the case that this policy played no small part in bringing about the change. Had Signor Orlando been able to announce a settlement, even an only moderately satisfactory settlement, of the Adriatic question, he might have carried the Chamber with him when he moved that the House should go into secret session in Committee; as it was the motion was rejected by a large majority (259 to 78 being the actual figures of the voting). This being a virtual refusal of that "most complete confidence" for which Signor Orlando had asked, he had no course open to him but resignation.

With regard both to the Adriatic question and to her "claims" in Asia Minor, Italy's policy has been severely criticised, even by her friends, and it has been widely felt that, like another nation in past days, she has shown an inclination to give too little and to ask too much. As to the Adriatic, it must be admitted that she can make out quite a strong case; though that is not necessarily to admit that we endorse all her claims, or, indeed, the greater part of them. But to territory in Asia Minor she has no shadow of claim outside the terms of the Pact of London. If she elects to stand on her rights under that agreement her co-signatories will, presumably, have to support her, and in that case they must assuredly share her moral disgrace. The only satisfactory way out of the difficulty would seem to be for Italy voluntarily to abandon all claims in Asia Minor and for France and Great Britain to compensate her for her very natural disappointment, either by territorial concessions elsewhere, or in some other manner to be agreed upon. Will Signor Nitti and his Cabinet have the courage to make the position clear to their countrymen, and to take the necessary steps to put Italy right once more in the eyes of the world?

The situation with regard to the Hungarian Bolshevist Government and the Allies continues to puzzle the plain man. Especially perplexing is the restraint that appears to have been put upon Roumania, who shows a laudable disinclination to have any truck with Bolshevism in any shape or form; and it is not surprising that the Roumanians, who already felt sore about their treatment at the hands of the Allies, should now be evincing a certain restlessness, not to say irritability. Thus, the Roumanian Press refers indignantly to "the incomprehensible policy of the Allies" in preventing the Roumanian Army from advancing against the Bolshevists, and even forcing them to retire. The latest development, brought about by an exchange of Notes between the Entente and the Hungarian Bolshevist chiefs, appears to be that Roumania has sent delegates to Budapest, and that they are to evacuate Hungarian territory as soon as the Hungarians have left Czecho-Slovakia. If Paris would condescend to explain what looks like an extraordinarily foolish recognition of the powers of anarchy, it might be possible to deprecate Roumania's impatience: as it is, we can only share it.

The dissatisfaction in Roumania with the treatment accorded to her at the Peace Conference is, according to latest reports, rapidly becoming acute. M. Misu lately travelled to Bucharest to inform the King and Government regarding the situation, and according to a communication issued by the Roumanian Press Bureau, his report produced a most painful impression. The Roumanians (the message continues) feel that their country has reached a decisive point in her history, and that fresh sacrifices are imposed upon her; and "demonstrations and meetings have given place to a profound silence." Until Paris enlightens us, we cannot form a trustworthy estimate of the situation, but it appears to be highly probable that M Bratianu may decline to take the responsibility for signing the Treaty, and that it may be necessary to form a new Cabinet. In that event it is thought that M. Take Jonesco may be called upon by King Ferdinand to form the new Ministry.

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As must have been foreseen, the Turkish opposition to the Greek occupation of Smyrna and the surrounding region has stiffened considerably, and strong Turkish forces are reported to have been driving the Greeks before them at some points. According to a Reuter message, official advices received in Paris at the beginning of the week described the situation in western Asia Minor as "extremely serious," and Turkish forces were threatening "to oust the Greeks from Asia Minor altogether." The message further spoke of the Greek General Commanding having "decided to make a first stand in defence of the line Pergamos-Magnesia-Nymphaion-Aidin," while other messages referred to the evacuation of Pergamos owing to an attack by superior Turkish forces. These reports may well have been somewhat exaggerated, and in view of the presence of a Turkish delegation in Paris, it is not altogether impossible that they were coloured by political considerations; but it is still strange to find the Turks able to assemble and supply "with good artillery and plenty of ammunition" a force reported to be four times as strong as the Greek army of occupation.

Should the reports referred to be substantially correct, they would seem to reflect unfavourably upon the Allied military control. Probably, however, the alternative hypothesis is the right one, for a later message announces that Pergamos was reoccupied by the Greeks. Nevertheless, the fact that Turkey has been able to put into the field a force sufficient to justify alarm is in itself disquieting, for by the terms of the armistice she was to demobilize her army with the exception of such troops as might be required for the protection of her frontiers and for the maintenance of internal order; and the number of effectives and their disposition were to be determined by the Allies after consultation with the Turkish Government. On the other hand, while specific mention was made of the evacuation of certain regions, and of the right of the Allies to occupy any part of the six "Armenian" vilayets, nothing definite was said regarding the Smyrna region. The Turks may, therefore, feel themselves doubly aggrieved by the appearance of the Greek troops in the Aidin vilayet; and nothing can be more certain than that they will oppose the cession of Smyrna and its hinterland to Greece by every means in their power. Therefore, if the Allied and Associated Powers have definitely decided, as is generally understood, that this region is to go to Greece on the ground of nationality, it would surely be better, in the interests of Turkey, as well as of the rest of the world, to announce the fact at once, and to provide sufficient force to make good the announcement.

Malta has been suffering from an ebullition of disorder similar to those which have been taking place in so many other parts of the world. As our Malta Correspondent indicates, the trouble seems to have been brought about chiefly by the dearness of food and the lack of employment; but the political agitator has certainly had a finger in the pie; while the student class has seized the opportunity to vent certain grievances in connection with the granting of degrees. A rumour had got abroad that the University of Malta was to be abolished, and this had greatly exercised opinion in circles which are particularly sensitive regarding Italian culture and tradition. The rumour, we understand, was quite baseless, but it served well the purpose of those who set it afloat, and in the rioting which took place much property was destroyed and several persons were killed and wounded. The new Governor of the island, General Sir Herbert Plumer, has arrived at a somewhat inauspicious moment, but his influence appears to have made itself felt already, and it is hoped that the island is settling down to a normal condition once more.

The latest news from Malta is that the National Assembly are about to draft a project for the reform of the Constitution. This step has been taken in accordance with instructions received by General Plumer from Lord Milner. The new Governor has also declared that the possibility of the people of Malta sharing in the administration will, if it does not affect Imperial interests, be considered by the Secretary of State.

Whatever view America may finally take with regard to assuming responsibility for the rejuvenated Armenia that we all hope to see very soon, there can be no doubt that the Armenians themselves would welcome America as mandatory. A writer in *The Times* recently pointed out that by acceptance of such a mandate America would be able to do a splendid and unselfish work for the world, and Boghos Nubar Pasha, in the course of an interesting letter, endorses this view, and adds: "I think I am not mistaken in assuming that this would be the best and strongest argument to induce the United States to accept it." He also gives some interesting information regarding Armenian views as to the requirements of the new State in the way of an army for its protection during its infancy. According to General Antranik, who, after fighting in his own country throughout the war, should be a good judge, two divisions of 15,000 men each, of the mandatory Power would be sufficient, supported by Armenian volunteers. Boghos Nubar Pasha points out that the Armenian Republic of the Caucasus could raise an army over 30,000 strong, and that thousands of Armenians have been fighting with the Allied forces in Palestine and even with the Americans in France. General Antranik is of opinion that the forces of the mandatory Power might be gradually withdrawn and replaced by Armenian troops under officers supplied by the mandatory Power.

The days are past when the news from Mesopotamia was consistently bad, and when such surprises as it gave us were nearly always of an unpleasant character. General Maude set the fashion of making the unpleasantness of the surprises felt by the enemy; General Marshall has kept the fashion flourishing and enhanced British prestige; and the treatment of the trouble at Suleimania must have been a revelation to the Kurds, after their inefficient handling by the Turks. The War Office announced last Saturday that all the British prisoners who had been captured by an over-ambitious Kurdish chieftain had been rescued, and that Suleimania had been occupied by our cavalry. Earlier in the day a fight had taken place at the Bazian Pass, to the north-west of Suleimania, where a force under General Fraser came upon and defeated the Kurdish levies of Sheikh Mahmud—as we learn, from the announcement referred to, was the chieftain's name. Our losses were slight, and we had the satisfaction of taking 100 prisoners and three machine-guns.

At the first blush the presence of machine-guns with a highly irregular Kurdish force is somewhat startling; for though the town used, before the war, to have quite a reputation for the manufacture of *martlis*—i.e., imitation Martini-Peabody rifles, and not at all bad imitations either—it is unlikely that it had reached the stage of constructing machine-guns. It is, indeed, much more probable that Sheikh Mahmud obtained these weapons from the Turco-German agents, who, it seems, still hope to be able to stir up trouble for us and our Allies in the region of the Turco-Persian frontier. A month ago we referred to unrest among the Jangalis, in the Kazvin-Resht region; and the account of the activities of the German Consul in Tabriz, sent us by a correspondent in that city, throws an interesting sidelight upon the origin of these troubles. Whether the truculent Prussian at Tabriz has any responsibility for the trouble across the Turkish border we cannot pretend to say, but it is at least permissible to point out that the Turkish Suliemania is about the same distance from Tabriz as is Resht.

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In any case, it is to be hoped that Herr Consul Wustrow will be compelled to hand over his arsenal to some body that will prevent its being turned to use against ourselves.

The state of affairs not only in Tabriz, but throughout Azerbaijan, is, and has been for a long time, abnormal. First, the Russians, with their peculiar methods of peaceful penetration, and latterly the Turks and a host of German agents have contrived to reduce this north-west portion of Persia to a condition but little removed from anarchy. In the circumstances, it would be unfair to blame the Shah's Government very severely for what has been taking place at Tabriz. But, obviously, if Persia is to progress, she cannot tolerate such a state of affairs in her territory. She must set her house in order now, when her neighbours are about to undertake a similar task, and since she will certainly require help, help must be given her according to her requirements. What form that help should take and who should give it are largely matters for herself to decide; though it must be recognised that Great Britain, now more than ever, must be profoundly interested in the matter, and could not stand idly by and see any other nation acquiring an influence over Persia, which might eventually operate to her own detriment.

As a matter of fact, the best opinion in Persia recognises that Great Britain really has no other desire regarding that country than to see it strong enough to protect itself against aggression from any direction, and willing and able to advance with the times in the matter of commercial development; and now that the overpowering dread of Russia has been removed it may be that Persia will be willing to accept the help which Great Britain would be only too ready to give her. But if real progress is to be made, it will be necessary for the Persians to develop a faculty for looking facts in the face and dealing with them as they are, rather than endeavouring to substitute for them fancies which may be highly attractive but are quite unrealisable. We do not suggest, of course, that the amiable weakness thus hinted at is peculiar to Persia; but certain claims that have been put forward on her behalf seem to indicate that she may waste in aerial castle building energy that could be usefully employed in laying solid foundations for future political growth. With nations, as with families, a great past may prove a serious drawback if time be spent in contemplating it rather than in working for the present and the future. Similarly, to grieve over old injustices, or even over admitted injustices that are not very old, is apt to sap one's energy disastrously. Persia would do well to get to work without delay on the reconstruction of which she, like other nations, stands badly in need.

The trial of those arrested in connection with the rioting and disturbances at Minia has been completed, and all the accused, numbering over eighty, have been found guilty. We do not yet know what their punishment will be, their sentences having been submitted to the higher authorities before promulgation; but it is to be hoped that no sentimental considerations will have prevented the Court from meting out strict justice, and that if heavy sentences are called for they will have been awarded. Any leniency would certainly be misunderstood by the bulk of the Egyptians, and would inevitably be turned to account by the agitators who lately succeeded in leading the usually placid Fellah into such regrettable excesses. But while the rank and file of the rioters, looters, and assassins must meet the fate they deserve, much more important is it to bring to justice those who have stirred them up to folly. Some of these people are utterly unbalanced, others utterly unprincipled, and Egypt would be well quit of the lot. To try them by the ordinary processes would be a long business, and might give them an advertisement and an opportunity to pose as martyrs, of which they would make the most. To deal with them by the Summary Military Courts would be a much more satisfactory method, and it would be a great pity if the opportunity of so dealing with them were thrown away.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 31.

The New Ministry.

The first week of Mohammed Pasha Said's Ministry has not been a peculiarly easy one, either for the Cabinet to live through or for the chronicler to describe. The installation of the new Ministers was ushered in with cries of "Treason," and the most kind death predicted for them was that of the bullet. Nevertheless the first blasts of the storm have been weathered, and the general situation is to outward seeming more hopeful than it has been for many a long week past. Although the Azhar has been buzzing like a hornet's nest, the only disturbances worth mentioning have been at Alexandria. The amount and quality of the abuse that has been levelled at Mohammed Pasha would be hard to match in the story of any country, for no language is richer in this respect than Arabic. But, in spite of it all, the Minister has disappointed his adversaries somewhat by not displaying any vicious or revengeful tendencies towards his political opponents, or using any oppressive or repressive measures towards the Independentists. On the contrary, he has heaped coals of fire on their heads by begging off a number of leaders in recent rioting who had been arrested and sent away by the military; and does nothing but exhort the opposition to refrain from violence, so as not to give the British an excuse for continuing to employ military forces for the maintenance of peace. Mohammed Pasha's previous tenure of office left rather painful memories to those who resisted his rules and regulations, and it was feared, if not expected, that his return to power would be illustrated with even severer and more inflexible upholding of all constituted authority, whether British or Egyptian, but especially, perhaps, the former. Consequently it has come as a mild surprise to Egypt in general to find that this time the ferocious Mohammed Pasha roared no louder than a sucking dove, and instead of going about like a hungry lion seeking for Nationalists to devour, seems more inclined to lie down with the Independence lamb.

However this may be, the result so far is more or less encouraging, and attempts at getting up demonstrations against the Cabinet are meeting with less and ever less success; while it has even been reported that outsiders have laughed at and abused the feeble little processions that have been trying to excite public opinion against the Ministry. How long this may last, however, and whether Mohammed Pasha may succeed in making good by a change in his methods, it would be rash to prophesy. The month of Ramadan is always rather a trying one to Mohammedan feelings, and much evil has been predicted for the period of the Fast on which we have just entered. The Ministry, however, does not show any signs of apprehension, having, on the contrary, persuaded the military authorities to relax several of their pet regulations for the Ramadan period by allowing mosques and *cafés* to remain open all night, private houses to rejoice in as much illumination as they please, and the population in general to congregate when and where they may elect to do so as long as they behave themselves, instead of being arrested when more than five of them collected in a group. Possibly the country is growing a little tired of the fictitious agitation against the British, who have hitherto always been acknowledged as the best benefactors of Egypt; and it may be also gradually returning to sanity after its fit of temporary aberration.

Egypt and the Conference.

Meanwhile popular interest is again turning to the Peace Conference and to European pronouncements as to the future of the Near East. The newspapers that have arrived during the past week were filled with news of schemes and projects for settling the fates of Egypt and its neighbours. Lord Curzon's declaration that it was hoped to make Egypt "take her rightful place as the leading Moslem Power" has, of course, created much curiosity, and local newspapers are reproducing the whole of the debates in both Houses. Hitherto the Ottoman Empire has been the leader of Islam, and the

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only Moslem State that had any pretension to rank as a first-class Power or possessed any appreciable material forces to back up a claim to spiritual supremacy. The downfall of Turkey has therefore been a severe blow to Islam as a world-factor, and there is no other political entity at present that is at all competent in Moslem estimation to replace her. For these reasons no surprise or dissatisfaction is expressed here at the rumour that Turkey has suggested retaining some of her provinces under a British Protectorate.

Moslem Feeling.

Probably all Egyptian Moslems would prefer to see the Ottoman Empire retain as much as possible of its old possessions under a British Protectorate rather than to watch portions going to England and France, Arabia to the Hejaz, and, worst of all, the Dodecanese to Italy, Smyrna and Adana to Greece, and her European provinces to Serbia and Bulgaria. The Greek inhabitants of the Dodecanese, who are probably in the proportion of 85 or 90 per cent., are now protesting against being handed over to Italy in despite of all ideas of "self determination," and they would far rather remain under Turkey. In the same way, although the preponderant urban population of Smyrna and a few coast towns thereabouts may be Greek, none of the other races of the districts forming the hinterland but would infinitely prefer Ottoman rule to Greek. So, it is argued, if the Greeks complain of the Italian rule of the Dodecanese how can they expect the Turks of Asia Minor patiently to endure a Greek occupation? The question of the partition of Turkey has, in fact, given rise to considerable sympathy throughout the Moslem world, and undoubtedly in Egypt the feeling is exceedingly strong in favour of Turkey being less ruthlessly despoiled.

Such news as is brought from Syria is naturally tinged with the ideas of the informants. It does not seem, however, that the inhabitants are at all agreed in their opinions as to future government or mandatory Powers, and any authorities who proceed thither to determine their wishes will have a knotty problem set them.

Nationalists' "Grievances."

As for the Egyptian Commission, its task will be colossal. Already the Press is beginning to allude to questions that may be brought before it. The *Bourse*, for example, exhorts Egyptians not to bring forward any grievances that cannot be substantiated as such. It instances one of the favourite complaints of the Nationalists, *i.e.*, that the British bought up compulsorily the cotton crop at over £8½ the kantar, whereas the sellers might have obtained a much higher price at that time in neutral countries. The *Bourse* points out the weakness of this theory, inasmuch as for lack of transport neither would banks have advanced money, nor buyers have come forward to purchase goods that might have lain for an indefinite period in store. Thus, instead of £8½, the cultivators would scarcely have been likely to obtain more than half that price. This cotton question is a fair sample of the "grievances" of the grumblers, who throughout the war have enjoyed a peace and prosperity in Egypt that probably have not been equalled in any other country.

Patriotism and Profit.

The Nationalist agitation has led to the creation of a number of medals, brooches, and other signs and symbols, the latest of which appeared to-day in the shape of a cleverly designed medal, sold in four qualities. On one face it bears a large crescent and three stars—the Egyptian emblem—and under this, crossed flags, one of which has the same crescent and stars as above, and the other a crescent enclosing a cross between its horns. On either side of the flag are written "Long Live the Mother Country," and "Long Live Unity," with the date "1337 of the Hejira." On the reverse is a view of the Nile with the Pyramids and a palm-tree in the distance, and the inscription across the sky, "Long Live Egypt." This medal is struck by the "Camel Society," and the two cheap forms of silver gilt are on sale at twenty-two shops for 4 and 8 piastres (about 10½d.). The next quality ("for gentlemen") is at 60 piastres, in 9-carat gold, and the best is "for ladies" in 22½-carat gold for 225 piastres (about £2 6s.). This is the most ambitious medal yet sold, and seems to be one of the purely commercial undertakings that are so much deprecated by inventors of less taking objects which are advertised to be sold "without any personal profit, and solely for the benefit of the poor." This medal makes no pretence, however, of benefiting anybody but the manufacturers by its sale.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Births and Deaths.

According to recent returns, the population of Cyprus was 306,997 at the end of 1918. The births in that year are given as 9,637, but too much reliance cannot be placed on village returns. As regards the death-rate, the district of Kyrenia, in the north of the island, would appear the healthiest, the rate being considerably lower than all the other five, and larger, districts.

Be this as it may, the charm of this part of the island is incontestable, and no traveller willingly misses its many attractions, which include romantic scenery and ruins of various periods. The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, now in Cyprus, has been paying a visit to Kyrenia, and, like others, has been delighted with the place.

Conservative Cyprus.

Weather has been capricious. High winds and inclement intervals have done some damage to gardens and fruit trees. The barley harvest in the wide Mesaoria plain has been abundant, but of comparatively poor quality. Government tithe on all cereals is being taken, as for many years past, in kind, and all must be delivered by September 30, at the different Government stores.

In spite of the encouragement given by numerous prizes at agricultural shows and of the readiness of Egypt to take Cyprus produce, there is still a lamentable want of enterprise in market gardening and fruit culture. Excellent vegetables can be grown in the island, and the quality of many kinds of native produce could be vastly improved with very little care, and good prices would be realised; but the Cypriot clings to the old order. In the late harvest labour has been scarce and dear in many parts, and yet there is no introduction of hand-saving machinery, for which there are such manifest openings.

An order of the Acting High Commissioner cancels a proclamation of April, 1918, which regulated the slaughter of he-goats, and the requisition of goats throughout the island. This gives great satisfaction, as it is believed that it will tend to reduce the high price of meat.

Officials' Leave.

In spite of the difficulty of obtaining passages, and of frequent delays in Egypt, there has been a steady exodus of British residents homeward bound. Among those who have recently left are Lady Tyser: Mrs. Russell, wife of the King's Advocate; Mrs. Cade, wife of the Commissioner of Nicosia: Mr. W. Williams, Acting Director of Public Works, with his family; Mr. G. Jeffery; Mr. Barrett, Director of the Government farms, and Mrs. Barrett. Many others will be leaving in July and August. The season at Troodos is now very different from what it was in the "old days," and visitors will find the place much changed.

Official Appointments.

M. Izzet Effendi has been appointed Turkish judge at Famagusta, in succession to Mustafa Raïf Effendi, who has retired on pension.

The Order of the British Empire has been conferred on Mr. H. P. McLaughlan, Chief Clerk in the office of the Chief Secretary, and on Mr. A. Merrifield, Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest (undated).

A Bolshevist Plot.

Up to the moment of writing the Bolshevists have not resolved to desist from their periodically recurring incursions into Bessarabian territory, in spite of every one of their raids across the Dniester having resulted in disaster. Open methods failing, they have tried to introduce their ideas by means of secret agents, who mingle with the inhabitants of towns and villages. Fortunately their headquarters have been discovered, and all the members of the "Central Bolshevist Committee of Bessarabia" arrested. Registers, correspondence, and a large number of incendiary manifestos have been confiscated, together with a printing plant, which had been functioning secretly in the precincts of a Russian church in Kishinev.

A Royal Journey.

The Sovereigns are proceeding on their course of triumph through Transylvania. Never since Michel the Brave, who held the scattered fragments of the race together for a few short months, have all its constituent parts been united under a common sceptre. Never have such grandiose manifestations been seen as those prepared by the Transylvanians. Hundreds of thousands assemble to greet the Sovereigns at every stage of the journey. The scenes which take place everywhere, even the anxious questions addressed to the King on the subject of the Banat, serve to emphasise the sense of ethnical unity which the Transylvanians are known to possess to a superlative degree, and their determination to rally to a man about the person of their new ruler, whose name will be handed down to posterity as the emblem of national unity. This unity of the Roumanian people, presenting such a pleasant and encouraging spectacle beside the dissensions of some of her immediate neighbours, manifests itself in the movements of the masses rather than in the activities of its ephemeral, selfish, self-constituted representatives, who vituperate against each other, all unconscious of the morrow's oblivion; this homogeneous solidarity constitutes a guarantee for the future course and conduct of the nation. The Powers of the West, bearing in mind the synthetic work carried out in a part of the world where destruction and anarchy prevail, would do well to lend support to a State organisation destined to become ever more firmly welded, ever more qualified to safeguard the fruits of civilisation amid the shifting sands of Eastern Europe.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, June 12.

Discontent in the Island—

A series of apparently unassociated and disconnected circumstances has just come to a head in the island. To those in the know, who were able to estimate events and local feeling at their proper worth, it has been evident that for some considerable time past discontent has been rising. The passing of the Bill for the paying of Succession Duty was taken with the worst of grace by those affected.

The following are the chief points in the causes of the serious state of things that has arisen:—(1) Malta, in comparison with other countries, has suffered little from the war, but the poor countrymen have had to pay more for their bread and oil—the staple food of the labouring people. (2) In accordance with the usual aspirations of small nations, there has been expressed a desire to have a more liberal form of local government. (3) Merchants have suddenly grown rich from the war, and profiteering was suspected, and no doubt existed.

—and its Results.

Demobilisation has begun locally, and the number of workers employed in the Royal Dockyard has been reduced. This was a further cause of the dissatisfaction, which came to a head on Saturday last, June 7. A meeting had been arranged to discuss the national situation, but much more occurred, and rioting took place, with some looting. The offices and the plant of the most important English daily paper here, the *Daily Malta Chronicle*, were completely destroyed. Why this journal should have been attacked is difficult to discover, as it has always been to the fore in propagating wide views. The greatest sympathy is felt for the editor and proprietor, Mr. A. Bartolo. The Lyceum, the chief elementary educational institution, was also attacked. Then came the demolition of the palatial houses and mills of the millers and wheat owners. The damage done in these cases amounts to hundreds of thousands of pounds. For a time the mob had control of Valetta, until charged by the military, when some of the rioters were killed and many wounded. A strong anti-English feeling then manifested itself in the crowd, and a "national" funeral was arranged for the slain Maltese. A day of national mourning was instituted on Monday last.

At this juncture the new Governor, General Sir H. Plumer, arrived, and by his forceful and frank handling of the situation the island has been reduced apparently to quiet. The general and intelligent public opinion is that the ebullition has done, and will do, more harm than good. But if the political disabilities are not removed, the price of bread has immediately fallen from 5¾d. per rotolo (1 lb. 12 ozs.) to 4½d.! This seems the chief concern of the mob responsible.

Whilst there are those who think that the outburst was spontaneous, there are others who hold that the ignorant were goaded on by a class of better well-to-do with axes to grind. With an open mind on this point, there are one or two significant phases which cannot be overlooked, and which should form a basis for future treatment of the island and its Government. There is no compulsory education, and the looters were of the type of youth who would profit by the discipline of a strictly conducted Juvenile House of Correction. If self-government be a *desideratum*, let it be shown that there are men in the island—and we believe that there are—who can keep their own house in order. The further aspects of the situation must be dealt with in my next letter.

ARMENIA AND THE SETTLEMENT.

On June 19 a public meeting was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., to express sympathy with the Armenian cause. Viscount Gladstone presided, and, in opening the proceedings, said that the Turkish Government had deliberately settled on a policy of exterminating the Armenians by degrees. He recalled an old phrase, "Bag and baggage." Viscount Bryce, O.M., moved a resolution expressing satisfaction at the prospect of Turkish rule over Armenia being extinguished, and read a telegram from Nubar Pasha sending greetings to the meeting from the Armenian delegation in Paris. He said that the Powers at Paris appeared to have finally decided that Turkish rule was to vanish for ever from all the Armenian countries. In settling the future of Turkey three questions arose: What should be done with Constantinople? What should be done with Anatolia? What are we to do with regard to Armenia itself? As regards Constantinople, this city was neither Turkish nor sacred to the Moslems, and very little regard need be paid to those who said that if it was taken from the Sultan offence would be given to the Mohammedan population of India and the rest of the world. As to Anatolia, a large part of the interior of Asia Minor was inhabited almost entirely by Moslems, and there seemed to be no reason why a Turkish sultanate should not be allowed to exist there. This State would have a population of no more than five or six millions. Armenia should be a State stretching from Adana to Yelizavetpol. Around Erivan an Armenian republic had already been established by General Antranik, present at the meeting that evening. The population of the new State would include other elements besides the Armenian, and liberty and equality must be extended to every one of those elements; but among all these people the most educated, industrious, and reliable were the Armenians, and to them belonged the leading place. The only trouble to be apprehended was from the Kurds, and the difficulty from this quarter during the last sixty or seventy years had been almost entirely due to the incitements of the Turks. The Turkish Government being gone, the Kurds would settle down, and a gendarmerie of a few thousand men would be sufficient to maintain order. He hoped, therefore, that if the offer was made to the United States to be the protecting power of the new State, that offer would not be declined from fear of the difficulties of the problem. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, in seconding the resolution, recalled the history of Armenian agitations in this country. Other speakers followed, including Dr. Burrows, Dr. Clifford, Mr. Aneurin Williams, Mr. Noel Buxton, Mr. G. P. Gooch, Mr. Athelstan Riley, an Armenian bishop, and the representatives of a party of Americans who had recently visited the Turkish Empire. The resolution was carried, as was also another appealing to the British public to continue its support to the funds being raised for the relief of Armenian refugees.

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FROM BUSREH TO BAGHDAD.

(From a Correspondent.)

Baghdad, April 2.

I left Bundar Abbas in the transport Muttra, and arrived off the Shatt-el-Arab on March 20. This lower reach of the Tigris is a replica of the great Indian rivers. Its winding banks are lined with palm trees and pierced by creeks running far into the cultivated plain. The latter being several feet below bed-level, one has the impression of steaming along a vast aqueduct. We anchored at dusk off Mohammerah, where Outram inflicted a crushing defeat on the Persian army at the very eve of the Indian Mutiny; and next morning pursued our journey to Busreh, passing rows of huge buildings, all run up since the war; endless paddle-steamers at anchor, beautiful white hospital ships; cranes, derricks, I.W.T. dockyards, and six forty standards belonging to the aerial wireless service. Two hours later we made fast to one of the quays at Magil, which is Busreh's riverside quarter. After breakfasting on board I motored to the residence of Major Meek, our Military Governor and Political Agent. It stands on Ashar Creek, with other bungalows occupied by his European staff. The road thither runs through a maze of camps, Red Cross hospitals, and store-sheds. Busreh has its own railway system, a network of lines on the two-foot gauge, along which miniature trains spin merrily to and fro. It also possesses splendid metalled roads, which were carrying a procession of motor-lorries and "caterpillars." The sky overhead bristles with telegraph wires—I counted 144 on a single set of standards. The whole city was humming with activity, for demobilisation is in full swing. Steamers packed with troops start every other day for Europe, and 175,000 rations are issued daily to concentrations awaiting transport. After being entertained for four days with the lavish hospitality which prevails throughout Mesopotamia, I took out a "Movement Order" for Baghdad.

The journey up-stream was performed in 4½ days in a paddle steamer 200 ft. long, which once plied on the Brahmaputra. With a roomy barge—"flat" it is called in India—on either side, she found some difficulty in breasting a four-knot current. After the first novelty has worn off life in a deck cabin of these unwieldy craft is not very exciting. Various landmarks of the 1916 campaign were pointed out by passengers who had been through the mill; but the only traces of war that remain are trenches marking the British and Turkish positions at Sannayat. We passed only four villages in the 153 miles between Amarah and Kut, and yet the plain on either side of the brimming river was green with crops and pasturage; while the Persian mountains loomed hazily in the eastern background. On reaching Kut we exchanged our comfortable cabins for a hot and dusty rest-house, where we literally had to fight for our dinner with myriads of flies. After sunset we walked to the town, 2½ miles from the landing-place. General Townshend's headquarters are now occupied by the Assistant Political Officer, and not far off stands a mosque, heavily pitted with little shell and shrapnel craters, which the Turks used as an observation post.

Baghdad was reached on March 24. Everybody had warned me that the old capital of the Khalifs would prove disappointing. It was not so, because "everybody" had conjured up Tennysonian visions of fairy palaces, mosques, and gardens, while I anticipated an oriental city of the type so familiar to Anglo-Indians. Baghdad has no outstanding architectural feature except the British Residency, now G.H.Q., a huge castellated building which does not harmonise with its environment. But Baghdad has its glorious river, with a wonderfully picturesque front, a fine covered market, and innumerable narrow streets lined with latticed windows, which remind one of illustrated editions of "The Arabian Nights." Our Military, Revenue, and Political departments are housed on the left bank of the Tigris, and the Chief Commissioner's residence is one of a long line of Turkish houses occupied by officials. They are mostly connected by a covered corridor on the first-floor level. The Revenue administration is officered by Indian civilians, and works like a well-oiled machine, thanks to the organising genius of the Chief Commissioner, Brevet-Colonel H. T. Wilson. His substantive rank is captain in the Indian Army, seconded for the Political Department. But by dint of hard work he has fairly won the D.S.O., C.M.G., and C.I.E., and at 35 he is the most outstanding figure in the Middle East. I was sorry to miss an introduction to Colonel Wilson, who had started on March 14 by aeroplane, in order to attend the Peace Conference.

The *Basrah Times* of May 22 announces that post offices have been opened at Table Mountain and at Baghdad West Railway Station; and that Kurna Branch Post Office has been converted into a combined post and telegraph office, dealing with paid inland telegraph traffic.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Land evictions in the West are not unknown in these days, but are far less frequent now than formerly. But a case which I have seen in the *Englishman* shows that these things are not dead in the East. Indeed, complaints of the high-handed actions of Indian landlords are on the increase. A correspondent of the *Englishman* sent the following example of the way in which he received intimation that he could either pay rent at 50 per cent. more than in the past, or quit: "I do hereby give you notice to quit and deliver up possession of the above place, with the expiry of May 31, 1919, failing which I shall file a suit for ejectment, and will also claim from you damages at the rate of Rs. 225 per month so long as you continue wrongful possession after the expiry of the month of May, 1919."—The journal lightly comments: "Quite a nice, friendly, sportsmanlike little note, isn't it? And this was 'the first and only intimation.'" This reminds one of the bad old days in Ireland, when, however, the ejected would not have dared to take refuge in the gentle bosom of the Press.

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A week or two ago I gave a rather amusing example of how the Russian soldier acts when under great excitement. Then it was a subaltern clawing in rage at his commandant's neck. Now there is another story, told by Dr. Harold Williams in his dispatch from Ekaterinodov on General Denikin's army. In speaking of the gratitude which Russians feel towards Britain for what she is doing in providing them with means of war, he writes:—"The gallant Kuban Cossacks of General Shkuro, the 'Stewart of Kuban,' as the Russians call him, simply fell in love with the whippets. They flung themselves from their horses and kissed the sides of the baby Tanks." The habit of prostrating oneself in reverent delight before mechanical things is not an uncommon one; for I well remember how an Indian in France, when he had a new machine gun given him, almost licked the thing all over! He was an excellent gunner, and when he had orders to leave his machine gun it was like a human parting. And even the unostentatious Tommy, you know, when told finally to hand in the rifle which a thousand times he has fired and pulled through, feels that an old friend has gone out of his life.

***

When a subject people takes to its bosom the idea of independence, strange things nearly always occur. Such occurrences commonly end in tragedies, but comic elements can often be extracted from them. One of the best of these comic stories that I have heard for a long time is the recent narrative of how some ignorant Egyptians surrounded a house and demanded that the cupboards in all the rooms should be opened. They understood that the owner of the house kept locked up the thing called independence, and was withholding it from them as if guarding some treasure! It is true that the majority of people can conceive of an idea only when they see it in concrete form, but this Egyptian conception is surely an unique one! What can one do with such a people? I will not hazard an opinion, lest some of the misguided papers in this country should make the ignorant but obvious comment that Imperialism is to be found even in these columns.

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The plain facts are, of course, that nationality, as representing the idea of the independence of one united people, does not exist in Egypt or in India; nor will it exist until long after you and I have been buried. Of late I have been reading, with sad amusement, the curious English of some Indian "nationalist" newspapers. It is obvious that the blame lies largely at the door of some men who were born in England, but who have little claim else to be called Englishmen. Their sweet, blind love for other countries is equalled only by their bitter, piercing hatred of their own Motherland. Into India they have imported, f.o.b., ideas wholly alien to the mentality of the natives, and used by them either for the purpose of causing trouble (a purpose always prevalent) or of commercial gain.

Corsair.

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"KULTUR" IN TABRIZ.

THE AMMUNITION AT THE GERMAN CONSULATE.

By "Mirza Firooz Khan."

TABRIZ, April 17.

There has been a lull in the situation during the last few days. Apparently the result of the negotiations so far has been in favour of the German Consul, who seems to have had matters his own way up to this morning. At any rate, the Persian authorities have given up pressing their demands, and have declared (so it is reported) that they will have nothing to do with this "foreign affair," which is not their concern. This declaration, it appears, has soothed the Consul so far that he has ordered the removal of the two machine-guns from the roof of the Consulate. But the gates still remain closed, and no one is admitted to or leaves the Consulate, except the *ghulam*, even the doctor not daring to show himself in his office for fear he might be taken a prisoner and thus be used to compel the Consul to yield to the Persian demands.

It was rumoured that the local authorities had altered their attitude after consulting the Central Government, who informed the Tabriz Government, it is stated, that the matter was one for the French and British Consuls. This morning, however, affairs took a different turn, and the news now is that the Central Government have ordered that the German Consul must give up all his ammunition to the local authorities, and that he himself must leave Tabriz for Germany under the protection of a Persian escort.

The origin of the ammunition in the German Consulate is naturally an interesting point. Where did it come from, and what was its intended use? During the summer of 1918, when the foreign consuls and the European and American colonies left Tabriz for Teheran, Tabriz was gradually filled with Turkish troops, whose number, it is generally said, reached one division, extending from Urmi, Salmas, and Khoi, on the West, to Tabriz, Miana, and Zenjam on the East. In Tabriz itself there were anything from 5,000 to 8,000 Turkish troops last August, besides about 40 German soldiers, with more officers than were needed to command 40 men. These officers were here to organise, from Persian volunteers, an expedition which, it is believed, was intended to march from Tabriz to Resht, to assist the notorious Kuchik Khan, who, in the woods of Mazandaran, in the neighbourhood of Resht, first attacked and harassed the Russian Army and then in 1918 the British troops. The ammunition now in the Consulate was transferred here from Constantinople, and was intended partly to arm the Persian local volunteers, so that they might be organised as regular Turkish troops (under German command), and partly to arm the forest men of Kuchik Khan, whose arms were few and old-fashioned, and who were extremely short of ammunition.

During that time, very early one morning an aeroplane appeared in the sky and circled over Tabriz, especially over Bagh-Shumal (the southern garden of the Crown Prince) and over Koum Baghi, which was the headquarters of the Turkish troops. The Turks fired a few times at the machine, which rose higher and higher until it was out of sight. A few days later another machine appeared about 9 in the morning, at the eastern end of Tabriz—both this and the former machine were said to be British—and this second "sky boat," as the Persian cabbies called it, dropped large numbers of leaflets; but the day being windy, the leaflets were all scattered in one direction, and not a copy fell into the hands of the citizens for whom they were intended. The Turkish Commander at once demanded from the Governor-General, Mohta Sham es-Saltaneh, that every single copy of those leaflets should be collected at once and handed over to headquarters. So the services of the entire police force were enlisted, and every copy was picked up and sent to the Turkish Commander.

Not very many days afterwards the Turks posted notices in every part of the city to the effect that it was "Soulhi Imumi" (general peace), and that they were "going to leave Persia for their own country." Their departure began at once, and regiment after regiment left Tabriz, *always by night*, until every man and every wagon had come back from Zenjam and Miana to Tabriz and had left for Turkey. It must be admitted that this retreat of the 30,000 was carried through in a most masterly manner, for it was accomplished with extraordinary secrecy, promptness, and good order. One incident shows how thorough was the retreat. The Turkish Commander had in his room a broken chair, and he also kept a large red hunting dog which had become lame through an accident. In the retreat the lame dog and even the broken chair were not forgotten. What a difference there was between this retreat of the Turks and the retreat of the Russians a year earlier! In the one case it was an orderly movement and in the other the opposite. In the one case, as I have mentioned, nothing was forgotten. In the other, war material and ammunition and many millions of roubles were left behind.

It was only after the retreat of the Turks that we had any authentic information of the real position of affairs. Then we also learned what the printed matter was on the leaflets which were dropped from the aeroplane. The contents, briefly, were that the Bulgars had deserted the Germans, that Constantinople had been occupied by our Allies, that the Turkish Army now in Azerbaijan would soon leave Persia for Turkey, etc., etc. The Turks, when they posted the notice about the "general peace" and about their returning to their homes, of course, knew all this.

With the departure of the Turks the 40 Germans and their officers also went away, their scheme of organising an expedition consisting of Persian volunteers to Resht to aid Kuchik Khan thus coming to an end. The ammunition and war material brought to Constantinople for that purpose, and which was stored in the "late" Imperial German Consulate remained there without serving its intended purpose. It is that ammunition and war material which the Persian authorities are now demanding of the German Consul, basing their demand on the legal ground that as Persia is a neutral state and that the German Consulate is not a barracks or an arsenal, the Consul has no right to have such a large amount of material at his Consulate if he has no evil designs in view. The Persian authorities are afraid lest Consul Wustrow should present the war material to the democrats, but at the same time they probably have no special desire to compel the Consul to submit, in view of his threats. Were there no such things as death or dying, the authorities would easily deal with the Consul and would fight to a finish.

ARAB CHARACTERISTICS.

At the School of Oriental Studies, London, on June 18, in the course of an address dealing with the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Mr. Campbell Thompson said that the ordinary Bedouin was a sparely made, short man, who could go long distances on poor food, that food consisting chiefly of flat cakes cooked in the ashes, rice, dates, and the inevitable coffee. If one were going to deal with the Arabs one wanted an extraordinary amount of common sense, patience, and sympathy—not meaning by sympathy a sloppy sentimentality, but an understanding of their feelings on such matters as eating the flesh of the unclean animal. In religion they were as conservative as ourselves. Fanaticism was a different matter in peace from what it was in war, and some of the tribes of Arabia itself were far more fanatical than those of Mesopotamia. But the ordinary Arab would accept a man for what he was worth, though there were certain old irreconcilables in the towns who would spit after everybody as they went by. He (the lecturer) thought the Arabs' intelligence was somewhat dulled by their religion, which put a bar to scientific progress, though this remark did not apply to the open-minded dwellers in the towns. These were perfectly ready to accept modern improvements. The ordinary characteristics of the Arab were great simplicity of manner and life, a philosophic habit of mind in time of trouble, dignity, hospitality great gravity, and superstition. They were more pious and kinder than the Turks. Many people said the Bedouin were dishonest, but he personally did not think they merited a sweeping condemnation in that respect. There was a difference in physique between cultivators and nomads owing to the cultivators getting more and different food, but he had found that Bedouins and cultivators could do a very fair day's work. The cultivator, as representing civilisation, despised the nomad, and the nomad reciprocated this feeling. He (the lecturer) had employed two groups, one of nomad Arabs, the other of cultivators, to dig for him. They got on very well together, but each group maintained a kind of academic superiority over the other, and when set to dig in the same trench they would allow a wall of earth about six inches wide to grow up between the two groups as the pit went down. The Arab was a great exponent of melodrama. His bravery was a little bit of the kind described in Gilbert's "Mountebanks," where a robber band proclaimed as its motto "Heroism without risk." His extreme conservatism was seen by comparing life in Mesopotamia to-day with that shown on the sculptures of many centuries ago. At times he would take up an attitude of pig-headed obstinacy, out of which nothing could move him. For this there was no remedy but patience. In dealing with him coffee was the best peacemaker, and it was the best intelligence agent, for it was a great loosener of tongues. On the other hand, the flesh of the pig in any form could do much more harm than coffee could do good.

The lecturer concluded with a word of advice for the traveller who got into trouble with a crowd: "A quiet and dignified attitude is the only one of the least use. Get hold of the oldest man you can see. Don't begin to talk too quickly, but try to talk to him quietly, and you will find that curiosity will silence the crowd."

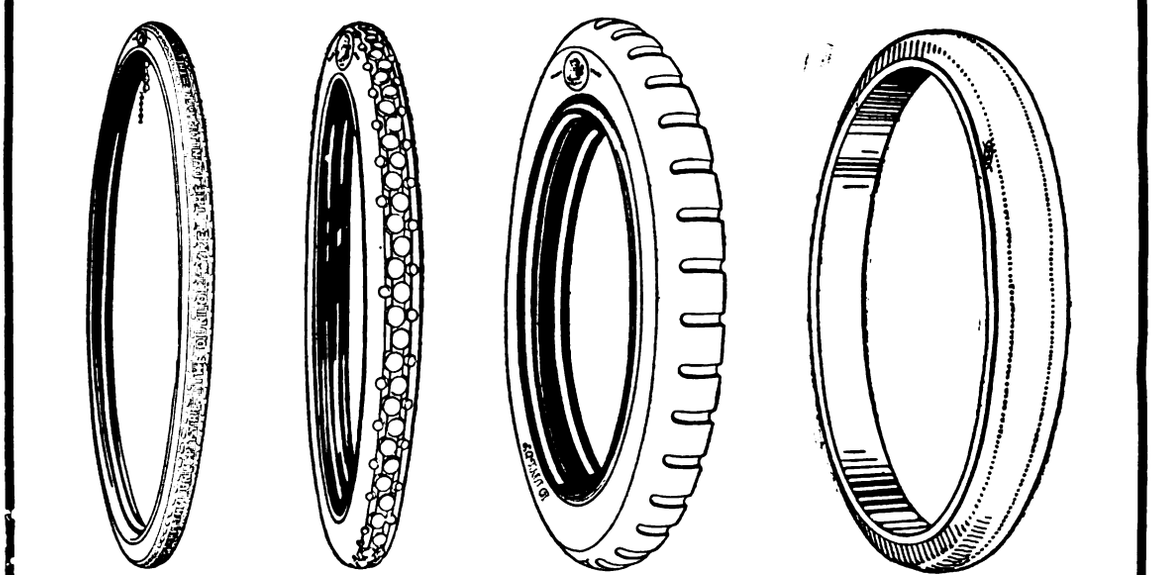
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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ARMENIA, TRANSCAUCASIA, RUSSIA.

It was a wise proceeding of the United Russia Societies Association not to limit their attention to Russia itself, since Russia impinges on the affairs of many neighbours; and in the first volume of *Proceedings* of the Association, which has been published by David Nutt, there are papers on the Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Armenia, as well as on the more obvious subjects of the Revolution in Petrograd and discussions of the character of Kerensky and Bolshevism. The papers on Armenia (which was contributed by Mr. Brayley Hodgetts, the Secretary of the Association) and on the Caucasus (by Mr. Ghambashidze) are, in fact, particularly valuable for a special reason that hardly applies to the remainder of the proceedings. What has happened in Russia these last two years has been exhaustively described in the newspapers, and several books have already been published on the subject; but only the most scanty information has reached England as to affairs in the Caucasus, and we are not in much better case as regards Armenia. These two papers and the subsequent discussion, throw light on obscure subjects, and will do good. The best of all the contributions, from a general point of view, is Mr. Robert Wilton's, late Petrograd correspondent of *The Times*, analysis of affairs under Kerensky and Lenin. It is a ruthless and able collection of facts and criticisms, done in masterly fashion. One or two papers on Russian music do not impress us very favourably, although the subject was rich enough to have been better treated; but there is a thoughtful account of Tolstoy, and the effect of his teaching and doctrines—by no means altogether beneficial—on the present generation in Russia, by Mr. Aylmer Maude, which well repays reading more than once. It is a significant fact that every leading doctrine of Bolshevism is to be found in Tolstoy's ethical writings.

A. W. T.

IMPASSIONED IMPOTENCE.*

A few of these poems were written on and of the fields of battle, but they are not the best things in the book. Most of the verse is dedicated to the poet's love, who, if she indulged in telepathy, cannot have led an idle life. The author does contrive to inform his work with a certain amount of passion, but it is of rather a frothy nature, and it does not take him out of the known tracks of the ocean of poetry, nor enable him to get beneath the surface. Mr. Solomon is too easily contented, and has not troubled to learn those secrets the key of which this book shows him to possess. He could not have written so excellent a thing as "The King's Song" from "Cleon's Choice" had he been what the majority of these verses would lead one to suppose him to be. The possibilities of immense improvement are his, and we hope he will realise them.

* "Rhymes from an Eastern Battlefield." By W. E. Gladstone Solomon. (W. Thacker and Co.)

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BOOK NOTES.

John Murray announces a volume containing the "Memoirs of Edward, Eighth Earl of Sandwich, 1839-1916." The book includes various subjects—travels in many lands, State visits to Russia, and missions to Fez.

Messrs. Allen and Unwin announce "Mineral Resources of Georgia and Caucasia," by D. Ghambashidze.

"Four-Fifty Miles to Freedom," written by Captain M. A. B. Johnston and Captain K. D. Yearsley, and published by Blackwood at 7s. 6d. net, is the collection in book form of the well-known articles which appeared originally in *Blackwood's Magazine*.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Annual of the British School at Athens." No. XXII. Sessions 1916-1917; 1917-1918. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 25s. net.)

"Hindu Achievements in Exact Science." By Benoy Kumar Sarkar. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 5s. net.)

"Aram and Israel; or, The Aramæans in Syria and Mesopotamia." By Emil G. H. Kraeling, Ph.D. (New York. Columbia University Press. 6s. 6d. net.)

"Social and Industrial Reform." By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart. 6th Edition, Enlarged. (Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes.)

"The Spirit of Russia: Studies in History, Literature, and Philosophy." By Thomas Garrigue Masaryk. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2 Vols. 32s., or 16s. per volume.)

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Censorship of India. JUNE 25.

Lord SYDENHAM asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether it was the fact that there was a double censorship in India, at Peshawar and at Simla; and, if so, whether a competent censor could not be found to do the work at Peshawar, and thus prevent delays in the transmission of news to the Press.

Lord SINHA (Under-Secretary of State for India) said he regretted that the India Office had no information on the point referred to in the question; but it might give the noble lord some satisfaction to know that inquiries were being made. It had already been arranged with Reuter that messages regarding the Afghan situation would have Government priority of transmission.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Mission to Egypt. June 25.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to Captain Wedgwood Benn, said:—His Majesty's Government, acting upon the advice of the Special High Commissioner, have decided to postpone the despatch of the Mission to Egypt until the early autumn. In the meantime, General Allenby is appointing a Commission in Egypt to collaborate and collect such evidence as may be useful to the Mission upon its arrival. The composition of the Mission has not yet been definitely determined.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Motors have always been beyond my reach, and I do not know enough about them to quarrel with your opulent parable of the *chassis*. But if it means that the franchise question is more important than that of the subjects to be "transferred" to Indian Ministers who are to be responsible for them to Indian electorates, I must be allowed to disagree. The two questions are so intimately connected that I do not see how the one can be considered more important than the other. The new electorates must be so constituted as to be competent to form a judgment on the way in which the Indian Ministers use the powers and discharge the responsibilities about to be devolved upon them in regard to the "transferred subjects," and the "transferred subjects" must, therefore, be chosen with due regard to the very limited horizon of the new electorate, so as to bring the issues upon which the Indian voter will have to record his judgment within the range of his own practical experience. The usefulness of the voter and of the vote depends upon the voter's recognition of the connection between his vote and his ultimate well-being in matters that directly affect him.—I am, etc.,

VALENTINE CHIROL.

34, Carlyle Square, Chelsea, S.W., June 23, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—On opening your issue of June 20 I note with satisfaction that my *ballon d'essai* of the 13th has been reasonably successful. "Foresight," endorses my opinion. Dr. Lanitis admits that his confidence that Britain will transfer Cyprus to Greece is based solely on that "principle of self-determination of national groups which has been adopted by the Allied democracies as the basis of a new world." Is self-determination an infallible panacea? The world has already gauged the efficacy of self-determination. To Mr. T. D. Mosconas I tender my thanks for the intelligence that "the Italians have now proclaimed, *urbi et orbi*, that they will only leave the good harbours of the Dodecanese when England abandons Cyprus and Malta." That "future" is too distant even for contemplation. Greece is under a very heavy debt to Britain. It is Greece that so unhinged the British Government that it offered Cyprus as a bribe to King Constantine. Britannia still blushes at the memory of it. Greece must pay the penalty of having brought that blush to her cheek.

I have just received from Dr. A. Maiuri, the Director of the Italian Archæological Mission at Rhodes, a copy of his "Guide to the Monuments and to the Archæological Museum of Rhodes." I have not yet had time to study it, but it tends to confirm the belief of Mr. Mosconas that Italy will not quit Rhodes. During the last six or seven years much correspondence about Rhodes has passed through my hands, and my experience is that the cession of Rhodes to Greece is generally viewed with disfavour. Mr. Mosconas talks of "these poor Auberges," but he will find that chivalrous memories and affections are wound around them, and that the example set by M. Bompard seven years ago, when he acquired the Auberge de France and gave it to his nation, will be followed by the representatives of the other time-honoured *Langues* of the Hospitallers. I acknowledge with thanks Mr. Mosconas' tribute to me as "an excellent authority on Iran and Turkestan," and while deploring my shortcomings "concerning the Hellenism of Cyprus and the Dodecanese," I must maintain my conviction that the time has not yet come for their transfer to Greece.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE.

The Athenæum, June 22, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—After reading the admirably exhaustive and practical letter of your correspondent "Foresight" in your last issue, I hesitate to trespass further on your valuable space. "Foresight," however, omitted to point to the singular fact that those Greek politicians who are so insistent in their demands for the cession of the island, never offer the smallest amount of evidence to show that the union would be beneficial to the Cypriots. The arrangement would doubtless serve the interests of Greece, but Britain is under no obligation to that country, which is still in a condition of bankruptcy, and whose claim for the union on purely ethnological grounds is untenable.

According to my own experience, which has extended over a period of forty years, the Cypriots have been contented and comfortable, and when Dr. Lanitis states, as he does in his last letter, that England is pledged to hand over Cyprus to Greece, I think he is mistaken. I would remind him that the acceptance of the principle of "self-determination," or of any principle, does not commit one to its exaggerations or corruptions. In a word, the inference he has drawn with reference to the cession of Cyprus would appear to be unwarranted.—I am, etc.,

CYPRIOT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The letter of "Foresight," in THE NEAR EAST of June 20, is an almost literal reproduction of a letter published with the signature "Vigilant," in the *Globe* of May 31. The Cypriot Mission—and it is difficult to see the grounds on which "Foresight" questions its claim to represent the Greeks of Cyprus, seeing that it consists of the Archbishop of the island and all the duly elected Greek members of the Legislative Council—answered "Vigilant's" letter at some length. Nevertheless, it may be permissible for us to summarise yet once more the essential facts of our case.

Is "Foresight" aware, and does he attribute no importance to the fact, that four-fifths of the population of Cyprus are Greeks who have on every occasion affirmed unmistakably their will for union with Greece? If so, "Foresight" might be urged to look backward a moment and recollect that Great Britain has given her solemn adhesion to the principles of self-determination, and proclaimed by the voice of her Prime Minister that "Equality of right among nations, small as well as great, is one of the fundamental issues this country and her Allies are fighting to establish in this war. . . . We feel that government by the consent of the governed must be the basis of any territorial settlement. . . . A territorial settlement must be secured, based on the right of self-determination or the consent of the governed. . . ." (Mr. Lloyd George, on January 5, 1918.) "Vigilant," then, in pleading that Cyprus should not be ceded to Greece, is clearly asking for the right of self-determination to be denied to a population of a quarter of a million. I take it he does not deny that Cyprus is ripe for self-determination, for he himself approvingly quotes the description of the island as "an outpost of civilisation." Yet he is for what would constitute not only an act of injustice but a breach of Britain's plighted word.

"Foresight" admits that the alleged British "interests which militate strongly against abandonment are very material." One reason for retaining Cyprus, which it is unnecessary to take seriously, is found in the qualities of Cyprus as a sanatorium. Carried to its logical conclusion, as "Foresight" would say, this principle would threaten the rights of the Swiss Republic to Davos, which is certainly visited by more convalescent Britons than Troödos. The other argument against the cession of Cyprus is the old unreasoning comparison with Heligoland. The whole point of criticisms of Lord Salisbury's cession of Heligoland to Germany is, I take it, that a point of vital strategic significance was handed over to a dangerous rival of the British Empire. It was like handing a loaded revolver to a personal enemy in the midst of a quarrel. The analogy drawn with Cyprus breaks down hopelessly because (1) Cyprus has no strategic importance—the best proof is that it was not used as a base during the war, and (2) because to suggest that Greece will ever become a dangerous rival of the British Empire is to show a deplorable lack of a sense of humour. "Foresight" refers to Corfu, an island for whose strategic importance we have the word of Napoleon. No doubt, then, "Foresight" would have opposed its cession to Greece if he had been old enough (as I hope he was not) to send letters to the Press in 1863. Yet, would any sane person consider that that cession has become "cause of regret and of censure upon those responsible for such a blunder". The true analogy for Cyprus is Corfu, not Heligoland. As "Foresight" recognises, the Greek Government is ready to meet in every way the exigencies of the defence of British sea-routes to the East. "The hands of Britain, indeed, need to be strengthened in the Mediterranean," but they will be strengthened better by tightening the bonds between the Empire and its natural allies through the cession of Cyprus than by staining the fair name of the British people for the sake of a *place d'armes* which has proved a "white elephant."—We are, etc.,

THE CYPRUS DEPUTATION.

2, Lancaster Street, Lancaster Gate, W.2.
June 24, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In a letter published in your paper of May 2 by a certain Nejmi Bodamializade of Paphos, under the title the "Future of Cyprus," appears the following paragraph:—"A few months ago I myself was insulted badly by a Greek

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guardian before the statue of Venus in the Cyprus Museum." This statement, I think it my duty to say, is quite incorrect. Hundreds of persons, both Greeks and Moslems, are visiting the museum, and nobody has ever made even the slightest complaint against the conduct of the guardians. In the present case, as I can recollect, Nejmi Bodamializade had been forbidden in a polite manner by the Turkish guardian (and not the Greek one, as he incorrectly states) to enter a room prohibited to visitors. Surely this does not mean that he was badly insulted, and, what is more, for national reasons, as he leaves one to suspect.—I am, etc.,

MARKIDE, Curator, Cyprus Museum.

Nicosia, June 4, 1919.

"A FREE GIFT."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Dr. Dillon has authoritatively announced that this island will be ceded as "a free gift" to Greece. One can only wonder at the perverseness of the remark. Perhaps Dr. Dillon is unaware that 60,000 contented Moslems will be included in this free gift. Sixty thousand British subjects are to be governed from Athens. —I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, June 4.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Question of Constantinople.

The *Sunday Times* of June 22 contains a vivid despatch from Mr. Crawfurd Price. He pleads very earnestly for a high, ideal line of treatment for the difficult questions with which the Peace Conference has to deal, especially that of Constantinople.

The reasons why the Turks should leave Constantinople and retire to their homesteads are manifold. History calls for this solution, for if the possession of Saint Sophia was the gage of victory in 1453, its loss will be the only effective sign of defeat in 1918. To act otherwise will be to persuade the Turks that they have not been beaten, perpetuate the Pan-Touranian propaganda, which has possibly more to do with the Indian agitation than pure religious sentiment, and create a dangerous belief that the threats of Islam are more to be feared than the sword of Christianity. Political expediency demands a settlement—a settlement to-day, when the world is yearning for peace as it never yearned before. And there will be no settlement if we leave the Padishah at Constantinople. The native Christian races will carry on the old struggle, the Turks will continue to reduce the *giaours* by massacre, great nations will develop their intrigues for the possession of the heritage, and the guardianship of the Straits will be in feeble hands. Turkey is undoubtedly a very rich country, and if we, for example, were charged with its exploitation we could make a lot of money out of it. Possibly this idea has occurred to other people. But has President Wilson retained a copy of his Fourteen Points?

The Position of the Khalifate.

The *Correspondance d'Orient* of May 30, in an article on "La Liquidation Orientale," has strong words on the uncertain attitude which the Peace Conference is adopting towards Turkey. All sorts of providential doctors, it says, have visited the "Big Four" in their efforts to save the sick man; but the Four are quite unable to make up their mind.

At the present moment they are weighing all the claims and measuring off most carefully the zones of influence; they do not wish to displease Greece; they attempt to satisfy Italy, the which is not always easy. And this is how the question of the liquidation of the East does not advance a single step.

We ourselves have always been firm supporters of the integrity of Turkey, not for the same reasons as the maharajahs from India, but first of all because the equitable principle of nationality must be unreservedly applied to all peoples; and next because the maintenance of the Sultan's sovereignty at Constantinople constitutes the most favourable solution to the freedom of the Narrows and for the interests of the Black Sea coasts. To base this Turkish integrity upon the opinion of Hindus, which is in no way that of the majority of the Moslem world, is a great error. For Islam, taken as a whole, does not recognise the spiritual suzerainty of the Ottoman Khalifate. To give to this Khalifate an importance which it does not possess would end in awaking dangerous ambitions and in facilitating the birth of a veritable Pan-Islamic peril.

Constantinople and Islam.

In the *Pall Mall Gazette* of June 18, Dr. C. Yamvakas writes on Constantinople, which he calls an Islam illusion. He scouts the idea that this city is a true centre of the Mohammedan cult.

The maintenance of the Sultan in Constantinople is even against the interests of the Mussulmans themselves. Owing to the atrocious policy of his advisers, Old and Young Turks, he has in recent times lost all religious prestige. Mecca, Medina, Baghdad, Yemen, and Syria have never recognised the preponderating influence of the Ottoman Khalif. A single example is sufficient to illustrate the truth of this. It is already known that the Sultan's religious powers have passed to the Sheik-ul-Islam, just as his political powers have been delegated to the Grand Vizier. By virtue of the Mussulman law, all the judgments, sentences, decrees, or decisions of the religious chiefs of the Ottoman Empire require to be invested with the *exequatur* of the Sheik-ul-Islam.

The Arab religious functionaries have never admitted the indispensable necessity of obtaining the Khalif's authority, through his representative, the Sheik-ul-Islam, on religious questions. That is because they have not recognised the religious supremacy of the Sultan. If proof of this were required, it would only be necessary to try to instal him at Mecca or Medina. The result would be that they would refuse him access to these places on the ground that he is not the chief of the Mussulmans, but simply a usurper of the Khalifate.

In conclusion, the writer suggests that the value of the Sultan and of Constantinople is not great in the eyes of Islam.

As Mecca and Medina, the headquarters of Mohammedanism, refuse to recognise the religious supremacy of the Sultan, is it possible to admit that certain Mussulmans, who are to be found outside the former Ottoman Empire, have good foundation for asserting the contrary? Their attitude is due to the Pan-Islamic propaganda of Abdul Hamid, followed, at the instigation of William II., by that of the Young Turks. From the point of view of the cult, Baghdad must always be the objective of Indian Mohammedans. It is to Baghdad that they go in their thousands each year as pilgrims. Have Indians, Algerians, or Tunisians ever been known to go to Constantinople to render homage to the Padishah, as Catholics from all parts of the world go to the Pope in Rome?

What is needed to-day is the removal of the Sultan from Constantinople, once and for all, to a truly Turkish sphere composed of the vilayets of Konia, Angora, and Castamoine, and a large part of the vilayet of Broussa. This sphere should be converted into an Ottoman State. It would be half as large as France, with a population, however, but one-tenth the size of that of the Republic.

Constantinople.

The *Evening Standard and St. James's Gazette* recently contained an article on the future of Constantinople by "A Statesman from the East." The writer pleads for a clear vision on the matter, and his opinion is that both the Russian and the Turk should be ousted from any possible control of Constantinople.

For two centuries the policy of Russia has been entirely perverted by the dream of Constantinople. For two centuries the peace of the world has been repeatedly disturbed by that political perversion. Now, Russia once restored—since restored she must and will be, sooner or later—she is certain to be hypnotised anew by the self-same vision. And, if we should entrust Constantinople to the Turk, a mere stop-gap, Russia would inevitably strive to evict him, and eventually succeed in so doing. A new conflict in the Balkans 'twixt Greek and Bulgar, or in Asia Minor 'twixt Greek and Turk: a fresh massacre of Christians—that would be ample to warrant Russia's intervention, and the history of the Orient would be re-written.

It is impossible to imagine any genuinely national Russian Government capable of resisting the temptation to seize Constantinople, were the Turk still enthroned there. . . . One thing, but only one thing, could cure Russia of this traditional ambition, which has misshaped her entire history as well as that of the other European States—to see installed at the Golden Horn a Power too strong to be attacked or even challenged without courting grave responsibilities and risks. If we do not wish to see Russia at Constantinople, we must put there not a sick man, but a full-blooded one; and I cannot conceive of any but a Western Power or a group of Western Powers being sufficiently strong to fill such a rôle.



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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. June	1919. June		1337. Ramadan.	5679. Sivan.
27	14	Friday	29	29
28	15	Saturday.....	30	30
			Shawal	Tamus
29	16	Sunday	1	1
30	17	Monday	2	2
July				
1	18	Tuesday	3	3
2	19	Wednesday	4	4
3	20	Thursday	5	5

The Raja of Kapurthala has returned to London from Paris.

The King and Queen of Roumania are expected to pay a visit shortly to Bessarabia.

M. Nicolas Misu, son of the Roumanian Minister, returned to London on June 19 from Paris.

M. Take Jonescu, who left Paris in response to an urgent summons, has arrived in Bucharest.

The Indian Empire Club hold dances every Saturday at the Knightsbridge Hotel from 8 to 11.30.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, arrived in Paris on June 21 and dined with Mr. Lloyd George.

King Peter is expected to return to Serbia in the course of this month. He has been staying at Kastel, near Athens.

Major-General the Maharaja of Bikanir, with the Maharaj-Kumar, were received by their Majesties on June 19.

Queen Alexandra received the Special Mission to the King from the Empress of Abyssinia at Marlborough House on June 23.

Sir John Woodroffe, of the Calcutta High Court, has been granted furlough from November of this year to August, 1921.

Captain Boteissis, of the Royal Greek Navy, has arrived in London to represent the Greek Government at the Hydrographic Congress.

Mr. E. A. Richardson, officiating Director of Public Instruction, has been appointed a member of the United Provinces Legislative Council.

Sir John Stavridi, Consul-General for Greece in London, has been called to Paris by an urgent message from M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister.

Commander Boeresco, of the Roumanian Naval Mission, has left London for Paris for the purpose of conferring with the Allied Transport Commissions.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, and Mme. Costiesco-Ghyka returned to London on June 20 from Paris.

General Danglis, Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army during the conclusive offensive on the Balkan front, arrived in London on June 24 from Paris.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Arion, has left Eton for Brighton, where he will stay for some days in order to recover from his recent illness.

The Ukrainian Minister, M. Georges de Gassenko, who has been acting as Chief of the Ukrainian Diplomatic Mission at Bucharest, has arrived at Berne on his way to Paris.

Mr. T. K. Johnston, I.C.S., Sessions Judge of Agra, is to proceed on long leave. Babu Gopal Das Mukharjee, Small Cause Court and Subordinate Judge of Agra, will act for him.

The marriage of Captain (Acting Major) Robert Cecil Christie, M.C., 102nd K.E.O. Grenadiers, and Miss Eileen Pickering took place at St. Stephen's Church, Twickenham, on June 21.

Mr. R. H. Williamson, I.C.S., on return from Mesopotamia, will be posted as Collector of Agra, relieving Mr. S. H. Thompson, who reverts as Joint Magistrate in the same district, but shortly proceeds on leave.

The marriage was celebrated on June 14, at St. Stephen's Church, Bournemouth, by the Rev. G. P. Trevelyan, assisted by the Rev. R. C. Bond, C.F., between Captain H. L. Richards, Tank Corps, eldest son of Mr. H. M. Richards, I.C.S., and Mrs. Richards, of Colombo, and Christine Mary, daughter of the late Major C. W. Carrell and Mrs. Carrell, of Bournemouth.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has remitted to M. Lebrun, Minister for the liberated regions, through the British Ambassador in Paris, the sum of 15,000 francs in aid of the unfortunate people of those districts.

Sir Francis Elliot, lately British Minister in Athens, and his Excellency M. J. Gennadius, G.C.V.O. (honorary Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Greece), have become joint Presidents of the Anglo-Hellenic League.

The marriage was celebrated on June 9, at All Saints' Church, Bulkeley, Egypt, by the Rev. L. Fry, between Lieut. F. H. Abell, R.A.F., son of the late F. H. Abell, of Cape Town, and Gertrude I., daughter of John T. Atkin, of Bulkeley, Egypt.

While Sir James Meston is in this country to represent the Government of India before the Joint Select Committee on the India Bill, Mr. H. F. Howard, C.I.E., Secretary in the Financial Department, is acting as Finance Member of Government.

The marriage was celebrated on June 20, in London, between Major S. Haughton, I.M.S., son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Haughton, of Clyde Road, Dublin, and Marjorie Winifred, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everard Porter, of Haddenham, Cambs.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, who has been appointed a Commissioner of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, has left London for Yugoslavia, where she will make arrangements on behalf of the Serbian Red Cross for the opening of wayside dispensaries.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, had arranged to come to England on June 24 for the purpose of receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Law at Oxford, but owing to the need of his presence at the Peace Conference in Paris he was obliged to cancel the engagement.

Lady Chelmsford is leaving for India to-day by the P. and O. steamer Manora. She is being accompanied by Captain Denny, Grenadier Guards, Captain the Hon. Alexander Agar-Robartes, Grenadier Guards, and Captain the Hon. Donough O'Brien, Rifle Brigade, A.D.C.s to the Viceroy.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Wilson-Johnston, C.I.E., D.S.O., 36th Sikhs, and Edith, second daughter of the late Captain Francis Gilbert-Jones, R.N., and Mrs. Gilbert-Jones, of 55, Lime Grove, New Malden, Surrey.

The marriage arranged between Captain C. M. S. Manners, D.S.O., 104th (Wellesley's) Rifles, and Maisie, eldest daughter of John J. Calder, of Ardargie, Forgandenny, Perthshire, and 45, South Street, W., will take place at St. Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, on July 10, at half-past eleven o'clock.

An engagement is announced between Captain John de la Hay Gordon, O.B.E., M.C., Indian Army, third son of the late Alexander Hamilton Gordon, D.L., and Mrs. Gordon, of Delamont, Killyleagh, Co. Down, and Esmé Violet Bevan, of The Elms, Appley, Ryde, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bevan.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieut. Redvers Holland-Pryor, R.N., H.M. Submarine R.8, son of Brigadier-General P. Holland-Pryor, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., D.S.O., Secunderabad, and of Mrs. Holland-Pryor, and Helen Sybil, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Nairn, Forth Park, Kirkcaldy, N.B.

The marriage was celebrated on June 14 at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, by the Rev. E. C. Kirwan, between Captain James Desmond Gabb, Indian Army, third son of Dr. J. P. A. Gabb, Povle Mount, Guildford, and Constance Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. S. Davids, Hillier House, Guildford.

The Maharaja of Bikanir, accompanied by his staff, left Charing Cross on June 21 for the Peace Conference. He has been absent from his State since last November, and is anxious to return to India as soon as possible, in response to urgent requests. Hence it is not likely that he will be in London again before sailing.

The marriage was celebrated on June 12, at the Church of St. Edward the Confessor, Golders Green, by the Rev. W. A. Bendon, between Rudolph John, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Agnew, of "Royston," Hampstead, and Pamela, youngest daughter of the late Mr. I. D. E. Campbell and of Mrs. Campbell, Roses Mount, Naini Tal, V.P., India.

The marriage was celebrated on February 22, at Christ Church, Rawal Pindi, India, by the Rev. — Dixon, Chaplain, between Major Edward Cyril Boutflower, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, son of E. C. Boutflower, Esq., of Hale, Cheshire, and Violet Eleanor Dunlop, only daughter of the late Arthur Percival Hinde, Esq., late of Beaumont Hall, near Lancaster, and of Mrs. Hinde, of Eastbourne.

The marriage of Captain Richard Hassell Sheepshanks, D.S.O., 12th Cavalry, I.A., formerly A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India, son of the late Rev. T. Sheepshanks, of Arthington Hall, Leeds, and the Hon. Bridget Mary Thesiger, third daughter of the Viceroy of India and Lady Chelmsford, took place on June 24 at Canford Parish Church. The Vicar of Canford, the Rev. G. J. J. O'Shea, officiated, and was assisted by the Rev. M. F. Alderson, Rector of Bemerton, Salisbury, a cousin of the bride. The bride was given away by the Hon. Percy Thesiger, brother of Lord Chelmsford. Captain Yates Brown, 17th Cavalry, was best man.

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Colonel Wedgwood, M.P., is leaving England on a private visit to Eastern Europe. He expects to be away about three weeks.

M. Venizelos, who has been elected Foreign Associate Member of the French Academy of Moral and Political Science, took his seat on June 20, when M. Lyon-Caen, Permanent Secretary, presented the Member's Medal of the Institute to the great Greek statesman.

Roumanians in this country born in 1898, as well as those born between the years 1877 and 1898, who have previously been temporarily exempted from joining the Army, are asked to present themselves to the Roumanian Military Attaché at 88, Kingsway, W.C.2, between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon.

The marriage was celebrated on June 17, at Warblington, Hampshire, between Colonel A. M. Moens, C.M.G., D.S.O., 52nd Sikhs F.F., son of the late S. M. Moens, I.C.S., and May, widow of the late Captain Dermot Attleck Graves, R.E., and daughter of Captain A. J. Douglas, R.N., of Roxburgh, Emsworth, Hampshire.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Major C. L. Brereton, R.F.A., only son of Mr. R. H. Brereton, C.I.E., late I.C.S., and Mrs. Brereton, and Leila Macdonald, second daughter of the late Dr. Edward Horsey, M.P., North Grey, Canada, and Mrs. Horsey, 55, Albert Hall Mansions.

The marriage was celebrated on June 21, at St. Margaret's Church, Lee, by the Rev. Francis Helm, M.C., assisted by the Rev. H. E. Whately, between Roland Howard Crooke, eldest son of Dr. William Crooke, C.I.E., and Mrs. Crooke, of Langton House, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, and Edith, elder daughter of the late Mr. J. R. C. Nicolls, Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., India, and Mrs. Nicolls, 31, Blackheath Park, S.E.3.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on June 22 at Chagford, Devon, of Henry Richard Farmer, Indian Civil Service, retired, of Gatacre Park, Bridgnorth, in his seventy-fourth year.

The death occurred on June 13 of Captain Frank Sinclair, late First Class District Commissioner, Nigeria, son of the late Principal Sinclair, Madras, in his forty-fifth year.

The death occurred on June 16 at 4, Linden Road, Bexhill, of Mr. Charles Wapshare, second son of the late Major W. H. Wapshare, H.M. Madras Army, in his seventy-sixth year.

The death occurred on June 21 at 3, Lansdowne Terrace, Eastbourne, of Haroutune Nishan Mosditchian, of 2, Broad Street Place, London E.C.2, Member of the Armenian National Delegation.

Lieut.-Colonel Peter Robert Bairnsfather, late of the 14th Bengal Lancers, died on June 17 at Baldinnie, Coupar Angus, at the age of sixty-nine. He served with the Jowaki Expedition in 1877-8 and in the Afghan War in 1878-80.

The death occurred on June 5 at Pachmarhi, India, of John Edward Hance, M.A. Oxon, Indian Civil Service, eldest son of the late Edward M. Hance, LL.B., and Mrs. Hance, of 305, Woodstock Road, Oxford, formerly of Liverpool, aged forty-two.

Captain the Hon. Reynolds-Reynolds Moreton, late Royal Navy, died on June 19 at St. John's, Bishopstoke, at the age of eighty-four. Captain Moreton served in the Burma War and in the Black Sea during the Russian War, and received the medals for both campaigns and the Turkish medal.

The death has occurred in India of the Rev. Dr. John F. Steele, one of the missionaries of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland since 1883. Dr. Steele was the author of several commentaries in Gujarati on the books of the New Testament, and was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind medal of the first class for distinguished public services.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of June 9 announces the death of Captain Eustace Macartney Parsons-Smith, Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to the Egyptian Army, which took place on May 24 in Khartoum Civil Hospital after a brief illness. Captain Parsons-Smith joined the Egyptian Army on May 11, 1911, as Bimbashi, and was promoted Kaimakam on May 5, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel Gronow John Davis, of the Indian Army, Military Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, has died in London at the age of forty-nine. He was a son of the late Major-General Gronow Davis, V.C., and served on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-8, when he was present at the relief of Malakand and during the operations in Bajaur. He also served at Tirah, and received the medal with two clasps.

DEATH.

RAMSAY.—On May 24, 1919, at St. Roma's Hospital, after a very short illness, the only son of the late Mr. Gregor McGregor Ramsay, of Constantinople, Allan Ramsay Ramsay, aged 17½ years.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain appeal for the gift of a touring motor-car for the use of their commissioners in Serbia.

In the course of the trial for high treason of M. Mercouris and others, which is now proceeding at Athens, the ex-Premier, M. Zaimis, stated in the witness-box that he always believed Greece's place was on the Entente's side.

At a meeting held at Salonika the delegates of thirteen Zionist societies from the various Greek provinces decided on establishing a federation of all Zionists in Greece, and on publishing in Greek a monthly organ of the federation.

Certain Jews and Moslems of Strumnitza, who took refuge with the Greeks in Greek territory, have telegraphed to the Peace Conference stating that they are in agreement with their Greek neighbours in asking for the inclusion of the Strumnitza district in Greece.

A Bolshevist wireless message says that a Soviet Republic has been proclaimed in the Mugan Province, the southern part of the Baku Government, which has 300,000 inhabitants, of whom 17 per cent. are Moslems. The new Republic is to become federated with the Russian Soviet Republic.

A Moscow wireless message reports that a steamer on the Caspian Sea, carrying a courier with certain documents from General Denikin to Admiral Koltchak, has been captured by a "Red" torpedo-boat. The contents of these documents, says the message, will be published shortly.

THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

The following communiqué was issued by the India Office on June 21:—

The Ameer's reply to the Viceroy's letter proposing terms of armistice, while it is thought to afford a basis for negotiations for peace, has raised points which required careful consideration by the Government of India and His Majesty's Government. The Viceroy was authorised on Thursday to address a further communication to the Ameer agreeing, on certain conditions, to receive at Rawal Pindi the Afghan delegates whom the Ameer proposes to send as soon as the fast of Ramadan is over.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1919.

ELECTIONS IN EAST AND WEST.

Philosophers have been known to argue that the true line of cleavage between East and West must be sought in the region of political institutions, and that while Western ideals have pointed steadily in the direction of responsible self-government, Eastern countries have aimed rather at the perfection of that bureaucracy of which despotism is merely an occasional incident. Without adhering formally to that theory, we may still recognise that it gains point from the coincidence that at the time when the West was making hasty experiments with bureaucracy, various Eastern nations developed a sudden appetite for constitutional changes involving the creation of representative institutions, and consequently requiring the introduction of a system of popular elections It would perhaps be dangerous to assert that the East knows nothing about elections, seeing that some prehistoric ballot-box may be lying even now concealed in an Egyptian tomb or preserved in the mud of Mesopotamia, but we are justified in saying that her recent practical experience is exceedingly slight, and that the framing of a reasonable and workable electoral system is in consequence a task of considerable difficulty, calling for a greater amount of hard and clear thinking than impatient idealists are ready to admit. The Eastern politician is interested for the moment chiefly in checks and balances, or in powers and budgets; he seeks very naturally the maximum of authority, and is apt to take for granted the source whence that authority must spring; he knows that any nation can make its own ballot-boxes from imported patterns, and he assumes that electoral law and procedure can likewise be borrowed ready-made. Such an assumption is at once fallacious and dangerous, and now that the scheme of constitutional reforms for India has brought the whole question of popular election into practical politics throughout the East, it is time to sift the matter with some care, and endeavour to reach some guiding principle which may serve to minimise the undoubted risks of the present situation, and facilitate advance towards the ultimate goal of responsible self-government.

The fallacy underlying the idea that electoral systems can be imported ready-made arises from regarding old-established institutions as products of the intellect, when they are in fact expressions of the national character; the corresponding danger springs from the fact that while it is easy to appropriate codes and regulations, it is impossible to import the conventions and understandings by which codes and regulations are interpreted in practice. The point may be illustrated by examining the probable result of introducing into India the accepted English methods of placing the issues before the electorate. As the law now stands, a candidate may offer nothing to any individual, but (libels and sedition apart) he may promise anything he chooses to the mass; the gift of a single glass of beer will imperil his success, but he may with impunity hold out the prospect of free beer for all, and the electors are left to exercise their own judgment as to the chance of such promises being fulfilled. Candidates may thus in theory appeal to reason, to interest, or to passion, and if in practice their appeals are ordinarily innocuous, the cause must be sought in the conventions and understandings which have grown up, and which set fairly definite limits to the activities of individuals. Let us suppose that India starts with equal theoretical freedom, but necessarily without old-established conventions. According to the present arrangements, there will be two simultaneous elections in an ordinary Indian constituency, the Moslems voting among themselves, and the rest of the community (almost wholly Hindus) having to choose a representative independently of the Moslem vote. What will be the result if a Moslem candidate stands for liberty of sacrifice, while a Hindu is seeking a mandate prohibiting the slaughter of cows? Everyone who knows the country will answer that the masses will rally to the roll of the drums ecclesiastic, and the chances are that the ballot-boxes will be submerged in a torrent of blood. We do not assert that this danger is a permanent feature of the situation, but we are quite certain that it exists at the present day, and so long as this is true, no Government can possibly take the risk that any election may serve to unchain religious passions in their most destructive form. It will doubtless be urged that no candidate would incur a responsibility of such magnitude, but we are by no means confident on that point; the drum ecclesiastic is occasionally heard even now in English electoral campaigns, and it is tolerated because it does little harm, and is not on the whole remunerative; but in India the predominance of conflicting religious ideals makes it highly probable that the appeal to passion will be made, if not by candidates then by their eager partisans, and, whoever makes it, the result is bound to be disastrous.

We contend, then, that in existing circumstances the introduction of the English system into India, or into countries where similar conditions prevail, would be fatal to the realisation of that orderly progress towards self-government to which the Empire stands committed; at the outset some limitations must be imposed on the activities of candidates and their partisans, sufficient to ensure that the main object shall not be defeated, and that the untried device of popular elections shall be given a reasonable chance. It is not enough to say that a candidate who should provoke a riot would be liable to the ordinary criminal law; the riot will have taken place before the law can get to work, and the situation calls for prevention, not for punishment. We do not know whether this aspect of the question has yet been considered by the Government of India, and it may be that the necessary measures have already been taken in hand, though we can find no allusion to the subject in the despatches which have recently been published; but it is due to the public in India as well as in this country that a definite statement of policy should be made, and that prospective candidates and nascent political organisations should know from the start the limits within which their programmes or platforms must be framed, and the responsibility which will attach to them for any transgression beyond those limits. We do not suggest that this responsibility should necessarily be of a penal nature; the matter is political, and political disqualification is the obvious resort. Let it be made clear from the outset that a candidate who, either personally or through his agents, goes outside the wide field left open to legitimate electioneering, shall thereby put himself out of politics, either permanently or for a term of years, and we believe that the danger of illegitimate activity can be brought within reasonable bounds. A candidate offers himself for election because he is desirous of securing a seat, and the knowledge that a certain course of action will render this desire unattainable will suffice to restrain any tendency to transgression which may otherwise exist. Regulations of this nature would not, of course, be designed for permanent adoption; they would form part of that elaborate scaffolding without which no great permanent edifice can be erected, and which is removed when it has done its work. The Dyarchy of which we hear so much from India is itself merely scaffolding, and, if it comes into existence, will be meant to serve for only a limited period. Just as India needs the Dyarchy for a time, so do India and various other countries need some temporary provisions of positive law to allow time for the growth of the conventions and understandings, without which an imported electoral system is foredoomed to failure.

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THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

By "BETA."

Presumably the League of Nations has already mapped out the boundaries of the territories in Mesopotamia and Palestine to be assigned to Great Britain as its mandatory, but one doubts whether the strength and composition of the military force needed for the maintenance of order in these territories have yet been definitely laid down. Does the decision in such matters rest with the League or with the mandatory Power? This is a question which will most certainly be asked in Parliament sooner or later, and the Government would be well advised if, anticipating it, they could furnish the necessary information on the subject without further delay. Then, again, on the question of cost, the Government have hitherto been silent, although it is a matter of vital concern to the taxpayer. A British garrison, even when a portion of the troops composing it is drawn from India, is a costly affair, infinitely more so than a Turkish garrison, for instance, and if the cost of the protecting army assigned to Mesopotamia by the League is to be charged against the revenues of the country in addition to the cost of the no doubt efficient but most assuredly costly civil administration to be provided for its benefit, it is quite safe to prophesy that there will be murmuring in the land. This country has never sought to derive revenue from the Crown Colonies and Protectorates it administers. In the past, only too often the reverse has held good, and the House of Commons has had to make grants in aid of the administration of these territories. But since they all formed part of the British Empire, and their commercial development was to the advantage of British trade, this expenditure has been hitherto sanctioned without much opposition having to be met. If, however, as seems highly probable, the taxpayers of the United Kingdom are called upon to provide large sums of money to make good any deficits in the budgets of countries placed under British administration by the mandate of the League of nations, considerable trouble is likely to result. Good-natured people are still found willing to undertake the thankless office of trustee for other people's property, but while they are ready to do so without receiving any remuneration for their labours, they would certainly decline to act if they were called upon to find even a fraction of the money needed for the upkeep of the estate out of their own pockets, and it may be noted that the Public Trustee makes a charge for his services.

If Mesopotamia had been annexed and formed part of the British Empire as a result of this war, Parliament would probably think it well worth the country's while to finance it during the years which must necessarily elapse before it reaches the stage of establishment as a "going concern," but saddled with the responsibility of administering this ex-Turkish province in the interests of humanity in general and its inhabitants in particular, it is difficult to see on what grounds the British taxpayer could be called upon to lend his assistance. As a matter of fact, millions of British money have already been sunk in Mesopotamia in harbour improvements, railway construction, and irrigation during the past four years, and all of this money has come out of the pockets of the people of the United Kingdom, either in the form of taxes or of loans to the State. The public works so provided are calculated greatly to benefit the inhabitants of the province, and many people would like to know whether they are going to be called upon to pay for them or whether they are to enjoy them as a free gift. In the case of the railways, the lines constructed during the war represent to all intents and purposes the terminal section of the so-called Baghdad Railway; and the linking up with a port on the Mediterranean littoral and also with the main line of the Turkish railway system in Asia Minor is urgently called for. Who is to undertake the work, and who is to pay for it? The mandatory Powers or the League itself? These are only a few of the questions the Government must be prepared to answer before long, and it is surely not too much to ask that they should, without further delay, enlighten us concerning them. Incredible as it must seem to most people, it is nevertheless a fact that there are individuals not lacking in ordinary intelligence, and whose loyalty to the Allied cause cannot be called in question, who have very grave misgivings as to the wisdom of dismembering the Ottoman Empire. They are even inclined to think that its reorganisation on a federal basis might well have been considered before it was portioned out among the Allied Powers without the slightest reference to the wishes of its inhabitants. Western Arabia having effected its own liberation, is apparently to be left to work out its own salvation as an independent kingdom; Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia are to be placed under foreign administration; but large territories in Asia Minor which were never really conquered by the victorious Powers are to be assigned to Greek and Italian supervision.

It is difficult to discover even a suspicion of statesmanship in this fatuous scheme for the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, which ignores the feelings of millions of Mohammedans in Asia and Africa, and disregards the fact that the majority of them are either British or French subjects. The Young Turks of the Committee of Union and Progress, having betrayed the cause of their country by selling her military power to Germany in 1914, deserve no consideration at the hands of the Allies; but whatever we may think of these men, the fact remains that they at least made an attempt to give the Ottoman Empire parliamentary government, and that in the National Assembly they set up, all the races and religions of the Empire were represented. They aspired to raise Turkey to the level of a great Power, and believed that it was within their capacity to establish prosperity and contentment within her borders. That they were not equal to the task is now a matter of history, but that it might not even now be accomplished if directed by more experienced brains is a question still worth considering. If the task of restoring order in Turkey had been assigned to Great Britain by the Conference one doubts not that it would have been rapidly accomplished with the loyal co-operation of the Turks themselves. Failing Great Britain, France would have been equally competent to undertake it, her work facilitated by the fact that the majority of educated Turks have a fair knowledge of the French language. All that is needed is a resident physician for the "Sick Man" willing to undertake to stay with him until he is restored to health; but for the post only gentlemen with Mohammedan experience need apply. Such experience cannot be acquired either in Washington or in Rome, but it is possessed by thousands of Englishmen and Frenchmen, not a few of them capable administrators who have spent most of their lives in intimate contact with Asiatics and Africans, who regard the Sultan as their spiritual leader. Such men would readily undertake the task of governing Turkey and her subject provinces with the co-operation and assistance of the local officials, provided they were allowed a reasonable amount of discretion in the carrying-out of reforms dear to the Western, but not always quite to the taste of the Oriental, mind. What has been poetically described as "the blasting tyranny of the Turk," translated into plain language means an inefficient and corrupt administration. The Sultan's subjects, Turks no less than Syrians and Arabs, have often in the past been robbed by dishonest civil officials. In addition to being most of them dishonest, these officials were practically all utterly incompetent, but their unpopularity is to be ascribed to the former and not to the latter defect, efficiency making no appeal to the Oriental mind. The popular belief that the unhappy victims of Turkish misrule are crying out for improved sanitation, compulsory education, and what are called comprehensive reforms in the everyday life of the community is quite at variance with the facts. The Oriental cares for none of these things, and a meddlesome administration, no matter how efficient according to Western standards, is his *bête noir*. His conception of good government does not rise beyond the impartial administration of justice, the protection of life and property, and the minimum of direct taxation. Good roads he, of course, appreciates, provided he is not called upon to make them himself, or to pay for their construction, but it is ridiculous to represent him as crying out for improved communications. All the things really wanted by the people of the Ottoman Empire could be easily and cheaply provided by a good native administration, adequately supervised by specially selected European officials, preferably Englishmen of the public school type, kindly sportsmen who might be counted on to see that their native associates and subordinates "played the game." But all these matters have probably been settled long ago by the "Big Four," and it is doubtful whether Parliament will ever be allowed to discuss them. One hopes for the best; but one fears that when the Turkish Empire has been partitioned and the inhabitants come under the benevolent sway of the lofty idealists we will import to make them good, there will be "unrest" in the Mohammedan world.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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Elsewhere in this issue will be found the prospectus of the Levant Company, which, as my readers know, has been established to develop trade relations between Great Britain and the Levant and the Near East, and will aim at reviving in a modern form the commercial side of the activities of the old Levant Company. The undoubted prospects for British trade enterprise in the Near East, of which new evidence is forthcoming almost daily, offer a wide and unique scope to an organisation of this nature, and it does not need imagination to realise that the Levant Company should have a great future before it. The company is one of the subsidiary undertakings of the British Trade Corporation, whose general manager, Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, a director of the Levant Company, has recently concluded a tour of the chief commercial centres of the Levant and the Caucasus, which has provided the company with first-hand knowledge of the commercial and industrial potentialities of each district.

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The Levant Company, which was formed some months ago, has a capital of £1,000.000, divided into 800,000 ordinary shares and 200.000 deferred shares, each of £1. The British Trade Corporation holds the deferred shares, and the issue just made consists of half the ordinary shares at par. Profits are to be distributed on the basis of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, then a similar dividend on the deferred shares, after which both classes of shares participate equally. The company, I may point out, has already a very substantial nucleus for its operations, for it has acquired the business of general merchants carried on by Messrs. Henderson, Lane and Co., the whole of the share capital of Henderson's (Manchester), Ltd., and a large holding of shares in J. W. Whittall and Co., Ltd., which was formed in December, 1918, to acquire and develop the business assets and undertaking of the firm of J. W. Whittall and Co., of Constantinople. The capital of J. W. Whittall and Co. consists of £350.000, in 15.000 preference shares of £10 each, and 200 000 ordinary shares of £1, of which 10.000 preference and 150.000 ordinary have been issued, and the Levant Company's holding is 7,000 of the preference shares.

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It would only be a disservice to Greece to attempt to disguise the fact that in Smyrna itself there is another side to the shield in regard to the rejoicings over the occupation of the port and the adjacent territory. Both Greek and foreign merchants realise that the definite incorporation of this district in the Hellenic kingdom followed by the immediate application of the Greek tariff, with its somewhat severe discrimination, might impose a serious set-back to the trade of Smyrna. It has been the port of entrance and egress for a large part of Asia Minor in the past, and the trade of these territories is bound to forsake it if it is called upon to bear heavy duties when the sea can be reached by another route without passing a tariff barrier. I see no grounds, however, for sharing the pessimism of some Smyrna residents, and strongly advise them to "wait and see." The Greek Government is bound to be alive to the pitfalls of the situation. It does not want to take over a moribund port, and will be obliged to adjust its policy to the peculiar position of Smyrna.

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If I were to believe all that my Greek friends tell me, I should be forced to the conclusion that the old city-rivalry in Greece is as acute to-day as it was when Thebes, Athens, and Sparta represented different States. No doubt the Greek is an individualist, but he is intelligent as well, and he can hardly fail to recognise that, whether he belongs to the Piræus, to Smyrna, or to Salonika, he is going to benefit in the long run by the progress of each port. What is, perhaps, lacking is a tendency to long-sighted views, at least as far as the Greek public as a whole is concerned. It is only necessary to read a Greek paper to appreciate this failing. The average Greek newspaper seems to publish without the slightest hesitation the most improbable statement, and to insert just as cheerfully a *démenti* a few days later. Both statements provide the cafés with food for conversation, and apparently the sole aim of that newspaper is served. It would have been thought that the mere possibility of having to publish a contradiction would have led to the original statement being checked.

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The Greek Government, however, has to tread more warily. It is bound to take long-sighted views, and by common consent there is no statesman in Europe more capable of moulding his policy to the real needs of his country, as distinct from the desire to study his immediate reputation, than M. Venizelos. Consequently, with regard to Smyrna, there is no need yet for any firm to put up its shutters. There may have to be an adjustment of business methods to meet the altered situation, but who will doubt that the transfer from Turkish maladministration to Greek jurisdiction will not ultimately produce commercial advantages that will amply compensate for the trouble in changing over from practices which were suited to the Turkish régime, but now promise to become obsoleto?

***

The annual report of the Suez Canal Company, presented at the recent annual general meeting in Paris, shows that in 1918 the total receipts amounted to 92.969.910 francs, an increase of 20.950.883 francs, while the total expenditure for the year was 36.615.776 francs. At the commencement of the year, traffic conditions showed an improvement, and this continued up to the Armistice, when there was naturally a further marked improvement. Transits through the Canal in 1918 totalled 2.522 ships of 9 251.601 tons, an increase of 169 ships and 882.683 tons as against 1917, but a decrease of 2,563 ships and 10,782,283 tons on the figures for the last normal year. It may be noted that the annulment of the reduction in the tariff of 2 francs 50 centimes to vessels in ballast came into force at the beginning of 1918, and this and the advances previously made have to be taken into account in estimating the receipts.

***

During the present year there has naturally been a great increase in transits through the Canal, and while the average monthly tonnage in transit in 1918 was 770,966 tons, each month in 1919 has shown an increase, the last monthly figures giving an average of 1,123,538 tons—figures still far below those of 1913, of 1,669,490 tons—but all the same very satisfactory, as showing quite the expected rate of progress. If the increases in rates imposed during the war are maintained, it can be foreseen that before very long the receipts from the Canal will reach a record level. But against that it has to be noted that the report calls attention to the need in the future for increased expenditure, and it is stated that from now onwards the relation of net profits to receipts will differ from what it was before the war. "Expenditure will go upwards, and the pressure ever exercised to limit its growth cannot any longer be maintained. The life of the Canal must resume its normal activity, and in the present economic conditions there must necessarily be a notable increase in expenses."

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A most welcome departure is marked by the announcement that the Board of Trade War Risks Insurance Office will give facilities for the insurance of inland risks on British goods imported into Russia, and on goods bought by British firms for export from Russia. The insurance will cover goods against loss or damage arising from war risks, riots, civil commotions, and other risks usually included in an ordinary Lloyd's policy. In the first place, policies will only be issued for the area in South-Eastern Russia and the Northern Caucasus, including the ports of Taganrog, Rostov-on-Don, Novorossisk, and Tuapse, which, however, will afford ample scope to British merchants who desire to enter the Russian market. Many of the leading banks are giving special attention to the question of Russian trade development, and it is hoped that one of the effects of the provision of insurance facilities will be to enable banks to give advances in the ordinary way of business to traders in respect of shipments from the United Kingdom to Russia, and in respect of goods lying in Russia available for export.

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INDIAN COTTON PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION.

II.—The Lines of a Solution.

In the former article we explained how an Indian cotton problem came into existence, and how it falls naturally into two main divisions, which may be described as agricultural and commercial. To-day we propose to examine the measures recommended by the Cotton Committee under these two heads; the recommendations are numerous and detailed, and we shall not attempt a complete enumeration, but shall concentrate our attention on those which go directly to the heart of the problem.

Agricultural Measures.

First, as regards the agricultural side of the question, the Committee make it plain that the lines of work hitherto pursued by the official experts are essentially sound, but that the scale of operations must be greatly extended. Most parts of India can grow more and better cotton than now, and some of them can grow cotton of really high quality, but it is by no means easy to find the right cotton for each locality. The rough-and-ready methods of the nineteenth century will not suffice to solve this problem: in some cases a foreign variety can be acclimatised, in others an indigenous type can be isolated by selection, in others, again, a new type must be produced by hybridization, but in every case highly skilled workers are essential to success, and the crying need now is for many more experts. The modern Agricultural Departments were started in 1905 with just enough money for immediate needs, and they were already seriously undermanned when the war broke out, and now, after five years of enforced economy, an immediate and vigorous effort is needed to bring them abreast of requirements. The Committee have indicated the extent of these needs so far as cotton is concerned, and we hope that everyone who is interested in the supply of the fibre will exert any influence of which he is capable to secure that their recommendations are promptly carried out.

Trade Malpractices.

Given men and money, the Agricultural Departments may be trusted to solve their branch of the problem. The commercial side calls for different treatment, because, whatever the experts may do, good cotton will not be grown unless the grower gets a fair price, and the Committee are quite satisfied that the price he now gets is very much less, while the introduction of better qualities is rendered almost impossible by the existing organisation of the trade. This point needs a word of explanation. Raw cotton—that is, cotton with the seed attached—is too bulky to be transported for long distances. It must first be "ginned," which means separating the lint from the seed, and then the clean fibre must be "pressed" into bales. Apart, then, from local consumption, the whole crop must pass through the ginning and pressing factories, which exist in all the principal cotton-tracts, and some of these factories, speaking broadly, have been carried on in a most unsatisfactory manner. We would refer readers in this connection to Chapter XVI. of the Report, where they will find that in some factories the use of false weights is quite common, and that every conceivable form of adulteration is regularly practised. On the one hand the grower is directly cheated, on the other the spinner, but in both cases it is on the grower that the loss eventually falls, since the spinner soon learns not to pay the full price for bales made up of water, dirt, seed, waste, and a mixture of various grades of fibre. The case for drastic action in this matter is overwhelming, and we hope the Government will lose no time in adopting the recommendations made by the Committee and bringing these factories under control by a system of licences which can be revoked in case of deliberate and persistent misconduct.

The Middleman.

Assuming that the gins and presses can be put on a better footing, spinners will be assured of honest bales and will pay on that basis, while we may hope that under stress of competition sellers will get their fair share of what the spinners pay. There remains the problem of the middleman. The Committee propose to eliminate him as far as possible by a system of open markets, where grower and ginner will meet face to face, and as markets of this kind have worked well in the Central Provinces, their extension will doubtless be useful in tracts where the local conditions permit; at the same time it must be recognised that the immediate effect of this measure can only be partial, and that the complete elimination of middlemen must come gradually as the result of changes in the economic environment, particularly the growth of co-operative marketing, which is now only in its infancy. Given open markets and honest ginning and pressing, the result should be that when a new type of cotton is grown in any area it will be passed on to the spinners as such, and will stand or fall by its own qualities, not by those of the dirt with which it has been mixed; while the actual growers can hope almost from the outset to get a reasonable share of the premium which spinners are prepared to pay for fibre of a profitable type.

Such are the main features of the Committee's programme. Make it worth the grower's while to produce plenty of good fibre, by seeing that he gets a fair price for his produce, and at the same time bring all the resources of science into play to provide him with the types which the world needs most, and which will consequently command the highest price. If this programme is carried out the existing position would undergo a gradual but rapid amelioration, and as time goes on we should expect the world to draw its supplies more and more largely from India, at prices which would lead to a substantial improvement in the financial resources of the growers. It is a large programme, but the work is well worth doing, and the sooner it is done the better for all the interests concerned.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 11:—

General and beneficial rain obtained.

All India, final winter oil-seeds forecast: Rape and mustard area, 4,833,000 acres: yield, 758,000 tons. Linseed area, 1,972,000 acres; yield, 229,000 tons. Last year's forecasts yield this time were 1,111,000 and 507,000 tons. Prospects jute crop, excellent.

Bombay Cotton Market weak. Fully good broach, July-August, Rs. 527. Piecegoods active, and prices steady. Raw jute, market dull. Gunny market steady.

A later cable received by the India Office, despatched 17th, reads as follows:—

Rainfall.—Excess: Bay Islands, Lower Burma, Chota Nagpur, Central India West, Berar, and Central Provinces. Normal: Upper Burma, Assam, Bengal, Orissa, and Madras North Coast. Fair: Bihar, United Provinces (West), Bombay, Deccan, and Hyderabad (North). Scanty elsewhere. At present both monsoon currents are weak.

Canal workers and coal heavers in Port Said have returned to work.

A notice has been received from the Tangier Port Authorities stating that the black bell buoy, with cylindrical topmark, on the eastern side of Almirante Rock, in the approaches to Tangier, has been replaced in position about 1,400 metres north, 26 deg. 5 min. west of the Malabata Tower.

In reference to the issue of 1,366,198 £1 shares at 35s. per share to holders of £20 shares in the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, registered January 31, 1919, at the rate of one share of £1 in respect of each £20 share held, shareholders entitled to an allotment are reminded that the price of 35s. per share is payable at the head office of the bank, 41, Lothbury, E.C.2, on July 1, after which date the right to an allotment will be forfeited.

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SERBIA'S RECONSTRUCTION.

A Survey of the Position.

The issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* of June 19 contained an article prepared from the interim report of the First Section of the British Economic Mission to Serbia, which reached Belgrade early in March, and from accompanying documents. The members of this mission, it is pointed out, were not able to extend their personal examination beyond the Northern districts of Old Serbia, but were able to obtain from official and other sources a good deal of material and to map out lines of inquiry for the guidance of the members of the full mission. The article, which summarises the requirements of reconstruction, runs as follows:—

Serbia has suffered from much more than the destruction which inevitably accompanies military occupation. It has been wrecked and looted deliberately and systematically. The enemy, before retiring, did his utmost to make hard and long the work of economic recovery. The railway stations, equipment, and bridges have been destroyed generally and in detail; horses and live stock have been reduced to a fifth of their pre-war numbers; carts, wagons, and agricultural implements have been taken away; in some districts the houses have been stripped of all furniture and household fittings. Serbia at present lacks almost every necessity of civilised life. It has to begin again, and to begin under very great difficulties at a time when Belgium and France are urgent for restoration, and most European countries, even those which have not suffered actual invasion, are short of almost every kind of goods and materials.

Communications.

The first need is a restoration of communications, by rail, road, and river. From the absence of means of transport springs the universal economic disorganisation, the scarcity, and high prices. Until the great bridge over the Save at Belgrade and the Morava River Bridge are rebuilt, the main line will remain out of action, and the whole Serbian railway system, both internal and external, be paralysed. It is hoped that the Save Bridge will be restored by the end of June; the piers and abutments are intact, and the new steel spans are being made in what were formerly the works of the Hungarian State Railways. The Morava Bridge has been entirely destroyed, and the Serbian engineers have decided to put a temporary bridge on the up-stream side of the old structure. This, also, it is hoped to complete by the end of June. It will thus be possible to reopen the Belgrade-Nish-Salonika main line, and the worst of Serbia's railway isolation will be over. But much will remain to do before anything like full railway communication can be restored. Every station yard, junction, and siding has been systematically destroyed; station buildings and goods yards have been burnt; all locomotive sheds and shops have been made useless, and their pumps and water tanks blown up; engines and rolling stock in the sheds have also been blown up, and stocks of coal drenched with petrol and then fired. Turntables, turnouts, signal posts, telegraphs, telephones—all those means of equipment necessary for railway working—have been wrecked or carried away. There is a brighter side to all this tale of devastation. Much of the damage done can only gradually be made good, but the locomotives and wagons handed over by Hungary and Bulgaria under the Armistice conditions should, with those still in the country and with others provided by the Yugoslav Government, suffice for immediate needs. Coal, however, is very short, and wood fuel insufficient in quantity. The lines themselves, other than at every station, siding, and bridge, are reported to be in good running order.

Roads near Belgrade were found to be in fairly good condition, but in the country districts the heavy military traffic had cut the surface to pieces. Most of the bridges have been destroyed. The greater number of the existing roads never were capable of carrying heavy traffic, and if motor transport is to be developed to relieve and supplement the railways, good roads will have to be made. Stone for roadmaking is plentiful in Serbia, and it is understood that labour will be available after the Army is demobilised. When the report was written most of the labour upon which the country depends for restoration was still in barracks. But stone and labour are not enough. All the plant which goes to the making of roads—rollers, scarifiers, cars, and tools—must be provided from outside Serbia.

Water Transport.

Serbia is well supplied with natural resources for water transport, and the existing waterways are capable of great development. For the moment the shortage of coal has hung up the traffic on the Danube and Save, and steamers, lighters, and barges lie idle when their services are most needed. But this stagnation will pass; the waterways remain, and under a system of canalisation and dredging may be very greatly improved. Admiral Troubridge, in the course of an interesting report on Serbian waterways, points out that the favourable position of Belgrade marks it out as "one of the greatest ports of the future in Central Europe." The Danube flows past at its junction with the Save, a river which comes down from Zaghreb (Agram), the capital of Croatia. The important River Theiss, which drains a large part of Hungary, joins the Danube some twenty-five miles from Belgrade, and is navigable for a long distance. The Save could, in Admiral Troubridge's opinion, be made navigable nearly up to Agram, and by means of a short canal could be connected with the Kluda, and thence with Baccari, near Fiume. Belgrade, though at present lacking wharfs, depôts for goods, and dock equipment generally, stands at the centre of a great natural river system which must be an increasingly important factor in the commerce of Europe. The development of this system must offer considerable opportunities to British constructors.

Reconstruction Difficult.

It will be the more difficult to reconstruct and develop Serbia because of the industrial backwardness of the country before the war. Factories existed, but very few of them had an annual production of more than £50,000, and most of them are incapable, through damage, of being quickly re-started. The country, mainly agricultural, is short of skilled supervision and skilled labour, and is deficient in most of the materials necessary to modern industry. It was, before the war, industrially dependent upon our enemies, and even now is in some danger of being forced to obtain from Austria, Hungary, and Germany those goods which the people would more willingly buy from their Allies. Geographical nearness to its enemies is a very considerable economic factor in Serbia. There has been great destruction of buildings, and their repair and reconstruction are the more urgent because, under the conditions existing before the war, the people in the towns were very badly housed. Some 62 per cent. of the families in Belgrade lived in single-room dwellings. If congestion was great then, it is greater now. No building material, except stone and timber, exists at present in Serbia. Timber cannot be used to any great extent because all the sawmills have been wrecked. Bricks cannot be made because the brickyards have been wrecked and the plant removed. No machinery for stone working exists. The cement works cannot resume work because their plant also has been damaged. The country does not contain any steel or iron for construction work. For the means to rebuild the houses and to re-equip its small factories, Serbia must look to the world outside her borders. It is the same with almost everything.

Of labour in the wide sense Serbia is almost as deficient as in materials. When the Army is freed from duty there will be workers for the fields and unskilled labour for reconstruction. But expert technical and professional men are few in numbers, and are not capable without foreign assistance of handling the problems which press for solution. It is stated that there are not more than seventy constructional engineers, architects, and surveyors in the whole of Serbia. It is much less difficult, however costly it may be, to reconstruct a country like Belgium—before the war the most highly-organised for its size in Europe—than to rebuild Serbia, a country in which industrial development had scarcely passed the stage of infancy. The French have already done much to place technical officers at the disposal of the various public departments in Serbia, and similar help from England would be gladly welcomed. The point which requires emphasis is that Serbia is quite unable, without skilled assistance from the Allies, to re-establish normal life in the country. If that assistance is not forthcoming, Serbia must inevitably, when peace is signed, turn for help to the countries which have been enemies. Orders, it is reported, are already going to Austria for necessary goods.

Serbia's Financial Position.

What Serbia needs Serbia is able to pay for. This may seem strange, but it is a fact that, apart altogether from indemnities for the damage done during the war, the peasant population and shopkeepers have plenty of money—in dinars and Austrian crowns. The explanation is simple. The people in the country during enemy occupation spent little or nothing on luxuries, and all the while were receiving high prices for their goods and produce. They have sold but not bought, and are now in a position to buy largely. Payment in a form acceptable to British manufacturers would be a difficulty, and, so far as our interests are concerned, much benefit would follow the establishment of a local British bank. Such a bank could make all the arrangements under which the Serbian purchaser, with his dinars and crowns, could pay in London for his British-made goods. At present a considerable quantity of goods, sometimes of British origin, are being distributed in Serbia through military and charitable organisations. The Salvation Army, the American Red Cross Society, and the French Bureau Militaire are all running stores, and have been of much help to the Serbian people. The Italians are working in similar fashion by way of Salonika. Before the war there were four foreign banks in Serbia: The Franco-Serbian Bank of Paris, the Serbian Credit Bank in Belgrade, with Austrian capital; Andreivitch and Co., of Belgrade, with Austrian and German capital; and the Prague Credit Bank, with Czech capital. There was no British bank. The Mission was informed that it is the intention of the Government to withdraw at an early date enemy paper money from circulation, and to replace it with State paper money of the Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia, and Slavonia (Yugoslavia). This State money will be in dinars, and be under Government guarantee. The rate of conversion will be 30 dinars per 100 crowns. The total value of Austrian crowns now in circulation in the new Kingdom is estimated at about 8 milliards. Other arrangements are being made in regard to a central exchange office.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Produce.

Gum.

The C.E.B. report for April states that during the month 1,780,537 kilos of hashab gum, of the value of £E50,648, 37,874 kilos of bleached gum, of the value of £E1,297, and 60,100 kilos of talk gum, of the value of £E1,269, were exported via Port Sudan. Exports via Haifa amounted to 10,226 kilos of hashab gum, of the value of £E314, and 10,180 kilos of talk gum, of the value of £E231. 14,877 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid Market, as against 26,628 kantars in the same month last year, at an average price of 943 m/ms. per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 3,643 kantars, as against 6,529 last year. At Um Ruaba 2,895 kantars were sold, as against 5,423 kantars in the same month last year. The average price was 950 m/ms. Arrivals were short during the month on all the markets as compared with last year, and there is no doubt that the output this year will be considerably below the average of the last two years. This is mainly due to the early cessation of the rains. Trees had practically no water in September, with the result that they have dried up earlier than usual. Prices also have been very low in comparison with those of recent years. With camel transport rates still high, natives have not found it worth while to bring in gum from long distances.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: The arrivals in the cotton market still continue to be most disappointing, the total amount sold during the month being only 2,740 kantars. The crop will be a very small one. The price remains excellent, the highest reached being P.T.805 per kantar of 315 rottles (141.52 kilos) and the lowest P.T.724½ for grade one, of which the bulk of the cotton consisted. The annual agricultural show was held on April 10, and was most successful.

Kassala Province.—Cotton is still coming in in fair quantity, and the year's total should be very near that of last year, and some 1,900 kantars in excess of the original estimate. The quality is rather lower, however, due to a brownness of fibre rather than to dirtiness or presence of dead cotton. Disease is little, and almost entirely caused by Egyptian boll-worm.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in May:—

Cotton.

The weather all the month was very abnormal, the mean temperature at Giza being 0.9 degrees less than the previous lowest recorded in the last 18 years and 2.3 degrees less than normal. Showers fell on the 7th, 14th and 21st in the northern Delta. Water supply has been generally sufficient, except in Faiyûm, where it has been somewhat scarce at the tailends of canals. Cut-worm, mole-cricket, sore-shin, aphis, thrips and wilt are prevalent in a varying, but generally slight, degree in all the provinces of Lower Egypt and in some parts of Middle Egypt, but have not caused much material harm. Cotton-worm egg-masses appeared in most provinces of Lower Egypt towards the middle of the month, but so far the attack has not been severe. Thinning, hoeing, watering, resowing and manuring are in progress, but in all provinces of Lower Egypt operations are much later than usual owing to the weather. The cotton plants are looking quite healthy, but the whole crop of Lower Egypt is from 20 to 30 days later than the normal. If the cald weather continues, the effect on the crop in Lower Egypt may be serious. The very early sown crop is not so much affected as the later, and buds have already appeared in a few places. Very much depends now on the temperature during the month of June.

Wheat.

Harvesting is at an end in Upper Egypt, and well advanced in Lower. Threshing and winnowing are in active progress everywhere. Reports on the crop are rather conflicting. In Middle and Upper Egypt the crop appears to be nearly an average one, especially where the Beladi variety has been sown. In Lower Egypt it is very disappointing, rust being responsible for almost failure in some places planted with Hindi, and a poor yield is expected. It is, however, impossible at present to make an accurate estimate, as threshing is not sufficiently far advanced, nor are there figures available giving the area of each variety sown. Unsuitable weather and shortage of manure have had a bad effect upon the crop. The Beladi variety in Sharqîya, however, appears to have escaped to a considerable extent the effects of rust.

Barley.

Harvesting and threshing are at an end, and winnowing is advancing in a satisfactory manner. The yield is fairly average everywhere. In the Maryût District, where the rainfall was even less than last year, the yield is expected to be very low.

Millet (Sefi).

Weather not favourable. Water supply sufficient in general, except in the basins of Asyût. No enemies have been reported. The area under this crop will be smaller than last year in the basins of Upper Egypt, owing to the lack of fuel for irrigation by lift, to low water in the new canals of the Asyût basins, and to the disturbances. Sowing is completed, and manuring, hoeing and watering are in progress. The condition of the crop is in general satisfactory.

Sugar Cane.

Weather favourable except in Minya. Water supply sufficient. Planting is at an end: hoeing, watering and manuring are being carried on. The growth of the plants is satisfactory, and the crop is in good condition.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

International Competition.

Emphasis has frequently been laid in these columns on the fact that British manufacturers put forward in the past very small efforts compared with what their competitors did to capture foreign trade; and attention has been drawn to the necessity for collective as well as individual action in order to forestall foreign competitors, particularly in such important markets as those of the Near and Middle East, where those first in the field will have an undeniable advantage. And now that it is becoming increasingly manifest that American as well as Continental and even Far Eastern competitors are bent on serious rivalry with each other and with British interests in those markets, it may be hoped that no efforts will be spared not only to preserve, but also to extend and develop, British trade in that region. In this connection the efforts of the Federation of British Industries in the Near East are very encouraging; nevertheless individual efforts are essential to attain complete success. The task before the directorate of a great trade association is not to regulate the activities of its members in detail, but to co-ordinate them and to indicate their objective. Success, therefore, depends upon the energy and ability with which each member pursues the common policy agreed upon. The great war has left almost every part of the world destitute of many of the essentials for life and progress. Engineering manufactures, such as engines, motors, power-plants, internal combustion engines, pumps, industrial and agricultural machinery and implements, dynamos, lamps, wire, and countless other products of the engineer, have suffered most during the war and are badly needed in almost every part of the world. This is particularly evident in the East. It is essential therefore that British manufacturers individually should inform buyers there of their ability and desire to serve them; and as in the circumstances the despatch of trained and expert salesmen there for the purpose is somewhat difficult and costly, to meet this difficulty it is advisable to resort to judicious advertising. Oriental buyers, as a rule, mistrust agents and middlemen, and an opportunity to communicate direct with manufacturers is much appreciated. Advertisement, therefore, will be found very effective in the East, and of this fact Americans and Germans are well aware.

Progress in Mesopotamia.

Very large schemes of cultivation have been undertaken in the various areas of military operations, and as food is produced abroad a corresponding amount of valuable tonnage has thus been saved. The larger schemes undertaken by the army are in Mesopotamia, where, by skilful irrigation, very large areas can be put under cultivation and made to yield results far greater, and at less cost, than anywhere else in the world. It is estimated that 850,000 acres were under wheat or barley in 1918, and this will be increased to 1,500,000 acres this year. In 1919 it is estimated that 100,000 tons of grain will be available for the forces operating in that theatre of war, besides large amounts for the native population. It is evident that a very great saving of tonnage is thereby effected at a time when this is of the utmost importance. Besides these schemes, vegetables are grown on a very large scale for the troops, and dairy farms have also been started. It is very gratifying to know that the development of agriculture in Mesopotamia is being materially assisted by large quantities of agriculture machinery from the United Kingdom. Harvesting machinery, grinding mills, threshing sets, and other plant of British manufacture have already reached that country, and more is to follow. Thus, Mesopotamia is likely to prove an increasingly valuable market for British implements and machinery, especially as the goods already shipped to that country are admirably qualified to demonstrate the excellence of British production.

Ukraine Coal.

In view of the coal crisis in this country and the probability of a coal famine in the Near East, which will completely paralyse industry, there has been considerable anxiety recently in all industrial centres there as to what measures must be taken in case the cost of transport from America and the prices in England advance the cost of coal delivered at any of the Eastern Mediterranean ports to a prohibitive point. Hopes are entertained of the opening and utilisation of coal mines in South Russia, and, it is said, some arrangements are in progress on this matter. As is known, in the former Russian Empire the iron industry was chiefly found in three districts, of which by far the most important were the South Russian iron and coal deposits. Next in value came the Ural district, and then the Polish ironfields. The iron and coal production of South Russia in 1912 amounted to 21,284,172 tons of coal and 5,358,553 tons of iron; whilst that of the Caucasus amounted to 68.796 tons of coal. The largest proportion comes from Krivoi Rog, in South Russia, and this district is now incorporated with the Ukraine Republic. Kertsch is the second largest producer in South Russia. Ukraine has been given the largest and richest coal area of the South Russian Donetz basin. The new republic has, therefore, very large deposits of both coal and iron at its disposal, and, with the unique facilities she possesses in her Black Sea ports, she may prove the principal supplier of the Near and Middle East for these minerals, and, therefore, a serious competitor of England in that line.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.

The following information has been received from the managing director of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields in Roumania :—"The bulk of our production at the moment (1,689 tons for May) is coming from Moreni, but Chiciura has supplied nearly all up till now, and I understand that the Germans have taken from our No. 4 well, Chiciura (which began to flow just before their occupation), over 10,000 tons of oil. The value of this oil will be included in the claim to be made through the Roumanian Government, which is in addition to our claim against the British Government. We have received in Ploesti the first consignment of material from Liverpool and the casing has also arrived in Galatz. In a couple of months' time we should be able to double our present production. We started on May 26 to drill in the Baicoi well, and we are also trying to clear one at Moreni. We may have to build a tank before finishing the Baicoi well, which we believe will be a good one."

TRADE WITH EGYPT.

At a recent meeting at the Manchester Chamber of Commerce of merchants engaged in the Egyptian trade, for the purpose of an interview with Mr. E. H. Mulock, the newly appointed commercial agent for H.M. Government in Egypt and the Sudan, and with Mr. M. G. Harris of the Consular Service, who has spent the last five years at Cairo, Mr. Mulock said it was his hope to visit Manchester from time to time for the purpose of holding private interviews with firms engaged in the Egyptian trade and giving such information as may be useful to them. A general discussion took place, according to the Chamber of Commerce monthly *Journal*, in regard to the hindrance to business conveyed by the recent disturbances; the language question in the Law Courts; legal reform; the question of an Amended Merchandise Marks Act; and standardisation of weights and measures.

TURKISH FOUR PER CENT.

In answer to a letter addressed to the Foreign Office respecting the claims of holders of Turkish Four per Cent. Guaranteed Loan, 1855, the Council of Foreign Bondholders has received a reply stating that the contents of its communication are being brought to the notice of the British Peace Delegation in Paris.

The death is announced, at Neuilly-sur-Seine, at the age of 77, of M. Jules Dollfus, engineer, Officer of the Legion of Honour, President of the Port Administration of Tunis, Sousse and Sfax, a former president of the Société des travaux publics and a director of various companies.

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is issuing a prospectus which contains, amongst other information, the following particulars:—
A copy of the prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies.
This issue is made under licence of his Majesty's Treasury under Defence of the Realm Regulation in 30F, dated the 30th May, 1919 but it must be distinctly understood that in granting such licence the Treasury does not thereby take any responsibility for the financial soundness of the proposal or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to it.
The special permission of the Committee of the Stock Exchange for dealing in the shares now offered after allotment has been granted.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will CLOSE on or before Saturday the 28th day of June, 1919.

CAPITAL - - - - - £1,000,000.

divided into

800,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	**£800,000**
200,000 Deferred Shares of £1 each	**200,000**
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The Ordinary Shares are entitled to priority in any distribution of assets on capital account, and to participate to the extent of one-half in any surplus assets after repayment of the Deferred Shares. The yearly profits of the Company available for distribution are to be divided in the following manner:—(1) 7 per cent. to the Ordinary Shares, (2) 7 per cent. to the Deferred Shares, and the balance—one-half—to the Ordinary Shares and one-half to the Deferred Share .
Of the above-mentioned capital the whole of the deferred shares have been allotted to the British Trade Corporation at par, and have been paid up in full in cash.
The BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION are instructed, as bankers of the Company, to offer for subscription

400,000 of the above Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

Payable—On Application 1s. per share; on Allotment, 9s. per share; on 1st September, 1919, 5s. per share; on 1st December, 1919, 5s. per share.—£1 per share.

Payment in full may be made on allotment only, and interest on such prepayments until the due date thereof will be at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. Definitive share certificates will be issued as soon as the payments are concluded.

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Sir FRANCIS HENRY BARKER, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, London, S.W. (Director of Vickers, Limited).

ARTHUR GEORGE MITTON DICKSON, Esq., 13, Austin Friars, London, E.C. (Manager British Trade Corporation).

ALEXANDER HENDERSON, Esq., 626, Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C., merchant (a Managing Director of the Company).

GUY HAROLD LOCOCK, Esq., C.M.G., Rushwood, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey.

ROBERT GROSVENOR PERRY, Esq., C.B.E., Aston Somerville Hall, Broadway, Worcestershire (Chairman the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers).

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SOLICITORS:

Messrs. NORTON, ROSE, BARRINGTON & CO., 57½, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE:

GEORGE DE BELS BROUNLIE, Esq., Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.

This Company has been formed to develop trade relations between Great Britain and the Levant and the Near East, and for other purposes set forth in its memorandum of association. It aims at reviving in a modern form the commercial side of the activities of the old Levant Company which, during the 16th and 17th centuries, was the recognised spearhead of British influence in the Near East, with a view to reconquering for British trading interests the predominant position in the basin of the Eastern Mediterranean and adjacent countries, which during recent years had passed into other hands. It is believed that, with suitable organisation, a large demand for British goods of almost every kind can be estimated.

Mr. A. G. M. Dickson (a director of the Company) has recently completed a tour of the principal commercial centres of the Levant and Caucasus, which has provided the Company with first-hand and up-to-late local knowledge of the industrial and commercial potentialities of each district.

It is recognised that CONSTANTINOPLE will remain a centre around which much trade with Asia Minor and the Black Sea will revolve, and the arrangements with J. W. Whittall and Company, Limited of Constantinople, hereinafter referred to, have been entered into. The business of that company has attained so high a reputation in the Near East that it is believed great benefits will be derived from the Company's close connection with it.

Another extensive field for the Company's operations exists in EGYPT. Official evidence has from time to time been published as to the scope likely to be afforded to British firms by the declaration of the British protectorate in Egypt, and it will be this Company's aim to take full advantage of the situation thus created as well as to open up trade with the undeveloped markets of the Sudan and adjacent regions.

In GREECE the Company has already acquired an important connection with an existing commercial undertaking as a nucleus for its activities in that country.

In the BALKANS a great deal of reconstruction, arising out of the war, will be necessary, and the Company has despatched a number of representatives to these districts, and has already received encouraging reports on trade possibilities in this area.

MESOPOTAMIA will be included in the Company's sphere of activities, and the Company has already established an Agency at Baghdad, which is in active operation.

The Company has also opened an Agency at BATOUM, and has despatched to that town considerable quantities of goods for which there is a ready market owing to the shortage existing in the Caucasus of all classes of British commodities.

Arrangements have been made for opening up Agencies at ODESSA, NICOLAIEFF, and NOVOROSSISK, which will commence active operations as soon as possible.

Arrangements are in progress for the appointment of the Company as the Shipping Agents for the KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP AND GRAVING DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED, in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

An agreement has been entered into with the ABYSSINIAN CORPORATION, LIMITED, whereby this Company will act as its Commercial Agents in the United Kingdom.

It is essential in opening up trade that there should be connected with an enterprise persons having good knowledge of the local conditions prevailing, and it is believed that this Company is particularly fortunate in having associated with it practical men possessed of this knowledge, and this policy is being actively pursued both at home and abroad.

As a nucleus for its operations the Company has acquired, as from 1st January, 1919, the business of general merchants heretofore carried on by Messrs. Henderson, Lane, and Company, as well as the whole of the share capital, consisting of 30,000 fully paid shares of £1 each, of Hendersons (Manchester), Limited, the consideration being the sum of £30,000, and in addition the service agreements referred to under sub-clause (b) of the contracts were entered into as part of the arrangement and as the consideration for goodwill. No other payments of any kind have been made, except in connection with the actual carrying on of the business from the date of the acquisition above referred to.

The Company has also acquired for cash at par 7,000 of the preference shares of £10 each of J. W. Whittall and Company, Limited, a company formed in December, 1918, to acquire and develop the business assets and undertaking of the firm of J. W. Whittall and Company, of Constantinople. J. W. Whittall and Company, Limited, has a share capital of £350,000 in 15,000 preference shares of £10 each, and 200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 10,000 preference and 150,000 ordinary have been issued and are fully paid.

The preference shares in J. W. Whittall and Company, Limited, are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, and to a moiety of the net earnings of the Company after payment of a non-cumulative dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares and certain payments to the management and the directors, as set out in the articles of association of that Company.

If any application be accepted for less than the number of shares applied for the surplus paid on application will be appropriated towards the amount payable on allotment, and any balance will be returned. Where an application is not accepted the deposit will be returned in full.

Failure to pay any instalment when due will render all instalments previously paid liable to forfeiture and the allotment to cancellation.

Interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum will be charged on instalments in arrear.

A brokerage of 3d. per share will be paid in respect of allotments on applications bearing the stamps of brokers or bankers.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from the British Trade Corporation, 13, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2, or from Messrs. Greenwood and Co., 28, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

The prospectus above referred to upon which applications can alone be received, contains information given in compliance with the provisions of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, and amongst other details states that the issue has been underwritten by the British Trade Corporation for a commission of 2½ per cent. and an overriding commission of ½ per cent.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

ALEXANDRIA WATER.

The forty-first annual general meeting of the Alexandria Water Company, Ltd., was held at Alexandria on June 21, Mr. M. C. Salvago, the chairman, presiding.

The following is the directors' report to the shareholders:—The directors have the honour to submit to the shareholders their report and statement of accounts for the past financial year ended March 31, 1919. The happy end of the war and glorious victory of the Allies will, it is hoped, have a favourable effect on the abnormal prices which have been paid for all articles in connection with the exploitation of the company and also be the means of considerably decreasing the working expenses during the coming year. During the past year the heaviest item of expenditure has been the fuel oil and, owing to the difficulty in obtaining supplies from the Red Sea oilfields, it has been necessary to resort to a more expensive fuel from the Far East. War bonuses to all employees and workmen were considerably increased during the year to meet to some extent the further marked increase in the cost of living. The extra cost of alum, amounting to over £4,000, is due to the increased quantity used and the large increase of price, which has lately been about four times the pre-war price.

The total quantity of water pumped, amounting to 23,903,755 cubic metres, shows an increase of 2,336,418 from the previous year. The Port supply shows an increase of £3,229 over last year. The increase in the number of consumers shows continued progress, being 1,538 more than last year. No extension of machinery has been made during the year with the exception of the installation of two 21 ft. Jewell filters to replace two lost at sea in 1917.

The manager has recommended the Board to make further considerable extensions to filters and pumping machinery in view of the continued progress in the company's affairs, and already four more 21 ft. Jewell filters are on order and will be erected during the coming summer at a cost of about £10,000, also designs have been prepared and a project for two large sets of pumps and Diesel engines for the main pumping station, which with the cost of the new engine house will necessitate a capital expenditure of about £31,000. The engines and pumps have already been ordered from the respective makers. These Diesel engines will effect a very considerable economy in combustible and running expenses. The installation of these engines necessitates the transfer of the present workshop to another site so that the new pumping station can be constructed on the old workshop site. Further capital expenditure will be necessary in the near future for purposes of extension of the company's works, viz., new pump Ramleh Works £3,500, 4 Jewell Filters referred to above £10,000 and an additional reservoir at Kom el Dick £25,000, making a total of £69,500.

The company has during the past year purchased a further share in the ice factory, referred to in last year's report, and now holds one third share instead of one quarter. A sum of £9,251 8s. 2d. has been spent on new works during the year. The extension of mains during the year has been comparatively small owing to the limited amount of new buildings and shortage of buildings material, and only 3,166 metres of new pipes have been laid.

The total receipts amount to £189,622 as against £176,057 realised last year, showing an increase of £13,565 and it is satisfactory to note that under nearly every heading of receipts there is an appreciable increase. The working expenses for reasons given above show an increase of £18,929, due to the continued increase in cost of labour and all materials. In the profit and loss account a sum of £12,937 8s. 8d. has been written off as depreciation of machinery and other wasting assets in accordance with the rates fixed by the board. Some of the securities held at March 31, 1918, have been sold and replaced by National 5 per cent War Bonds. The sum of £6,464 representing the loss realised on the sale of these securities, which stood in our books at the market price of March 31, 1914, has been written off. On the other hand this transaction has resulted in the saving of about £6,500 on the depreciation provided by the special provision put aside in the years 1915 and 1916. This sum will not now be required and has been written back into the present profit and loss account. The "provision for the depreciation of securities" is thus reduced to £20,536. The municipality, having for some years contested the amounts of its share in the profits of the company, and also having recently raised other questions in connection with our contracts with the Egyptian Government, negotiations have been started with a view to arriving at a settlement of these questions.

The balance of the profit and loss account after making the above depreciation and usual allowances, and after deducting the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on December 15, 1918, is £69,000, from which should first be deducted 6 per cent. on the capital, £36,000; leaving a balance of £33,000, of which one half is due to the municipality according to our conventions, £16,500, and the other half to our shareholders, £16,500, which represents 2s. 6d. per share, and this added to the 6 per cent. above mentioned, makes a total of 8s. 9d. per share for the dividend of June 15, 1919. The directors therefore recommend the shareholders to fix the dividend payable on June 15, 1919, at 8s. 9d. per share, which with the interim dividend of 4s. paid on December 15, 1918, makes a total dividend of 12s. 9d. for the year. According to article 84 of the articles of association Messrs. M. C. Salvago and H. R. C. Blagden are the two directors who retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The report and accounts were passed unanimously and the two retiring directors were duly re-elected.

BALANCE SHEET, March 31, 1919.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Share capital, authorised and issued:						
120,000 Shares of £5 each, fully paid..				600,000	0	0
Creditors and other accounts:						
Deposits by consumers	£31,534	7	0			
Sundries	51,543	17	9			
				83,078	4	9
Reserve, belonging to the shareholders				105,097	0	8
Provision for depreciation of securities				20,536	0	0
Profit and Loss account:						
Balance carried forward, March 31, 1919				69,000	0	0
				£877,711	5	5

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Land, Buildings, Machinery, Mains, Furniture, &c., at cost to the Company	532,121	11	11			
Less Depreciation	159,618	19	0			
				372,502	12	11
Concession, at cost				233,684	18	10
Securities:						
£30,000 Egyptian Privileged Debt 3½%						
*£53,000 Egyptian Unified Debt 4% ..						
*1,500 Agricultural Bank of Egypt 4% cum Pref. shares of £10 each	92,872	0	0			
£53,000 British National 5% War Bonds	53,000	0	0			
				145,872	0	0
British National 5 % War Bonds				15,000	0	0
Cash at Bankers and in hand				55,470	8	2
Sundry debtors—						
Sundries	7,900	5	8			
Amount due on Water Rates, etc.	8,818	3	1			
				16,718	8	9
Stock of material in hand, at cost less depreciation, as certified by the Manager				38,462	16	9
				£877,711	5	5

*At market price of 31st March, 1914.

M. C. SALVAGO
H. E. BARKER } Directors.

We have audited the above balance sheet of the Alexandria Water Company, Limited, dated March 31, 1919, as above set forth.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

In our opinion such balance sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given us, and as shown by the books of the company.

RUSSELL, HARRIS and CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Alexandria, May 17, 1919.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH, 1919.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Dividend paid on June 15th, 1918, at 8/9 per share	52,500	0	0			
Municipality share to March 31st, 1918, by convention	16,500	0	0	69,000	0	0
Interim Dividend paid December 15th, 1918, at 4/- per share				24,000	0	0
Depreciation on buildings, machinery, mains, etc.....				12,937	8	8
Gratuity to staff				5,097	15	4
Employees' relief fund				1,461	17	0
Provision for compensation claims				2,000	0	0
Balance carried to Balance Sheet				69,000	0	0
				£183,497	1	0

	£	s.	d.
By Balance as per Profit and Loss Account, March 31, 1918	69,000	0	0
Balance from Revenue and Expenditure Account	90,228	15	0
Services and fittings, sale of ice, materials and sundry receipts	9,638	17	10
Interest on securities, etc.	8,129	8	2
Provision for depreciation of securities, proportion not now required, applicable to securities realised.....	6,500	0	0
	£183,497	1	0

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., was held on June 25, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, the Earl of Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Locke), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I assume that, as usual, you will take the directors' report and the balance-sheet as read. In rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts up to the end of December last, I cannot refrain from expressing pleasure that I am privileged to address you in happier circumstances than has been the case on the last four occasions. I refer, of course, to the ending of the terrible conflict through which the world has recently passed.

Trading Accounts.

As you will see by the report, the trading accounts for the three years ended December 31, 1918, after making provision for bad debts, taxes—including British income-tax—writing down investments, placing £5,000 to staff pension fund, and writing off the cost of moving into new premises in London, show a credit balance of £53,339 10s. 10d., but, owing to heavy depreciation in exchange and the general unsettled political situation in the Near East, the directors have come to the conclusion that, under the circumstances now existing, they feel unable to recommend the distribution of this amount. They have, therefore, decided that it would be in the best interests of the shareholders to carry this sum to the credit of a contingency account. I might mention that soon after the outbreak of war in 1914 the official rate of exchange in Roumania was fixed at lei 25.22 in the pound sterling. In April of this year this rate was 50.44, and since our report was printed it has been fixed at 44.25. When we take into account the fact that for two years we were cut off from communication with our Bucharest office, and the great handicap to business occasioned by the enemy occupation of a large portion of Roumania, the trading accounts show as favourable a result as one can expect in the circumstances, and I think that we can congratulate ourselves that our position is so satisfactory. During the two years that Bucharest was in the hands of the enemy forces the bank had to cope with many difficulties in handling business. With the retirement of the Central Powers from Roumania communication with our officials in Bucharest was restored, and we were happy to find that our property there was intact.

On the signing of the Armistice in November last the solution of so many business problems became necessary, and our London manager, Mr. Locke, proceeded to Bucharest immediately in order to investigate matters on the spot. He has since paid another visit to Roumania, and has only quite recently returned. Our late manager in Bucharest, Mr. E. E. Goodwin, owing to his advanced age, has retired after nearly fifty years' service. The directors desire to place on record their high appreciation of the long and able assistance that he has rendered to the bank,

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and they trust that good health will enable him to enjoy for many years the rest he so well merits. I also desire to take this opportunity of expressing the special thanks of the directors to the management and staff at Bucharest for their loyalty and devotion to the bank's interests during the two years they lived under such difficult conditions, deprived of all communication with us in London. An important factor in the development of Anglo-Roumanian trade relations is the recent founding in London of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, in the establishing of which your bank took an active interest. This Chamber should, when conditions permit, be of considerable assistance to the business houses in this country connected with Roumanian trade, and its aid should also prove valuable to the many firms now wishing to extend their operations into Roumania. I beg to move: "That the report and balance-sheet now read be received and adopted.

The Viscount Goschen: I beg to second that motion.

In the absence of questions the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I beg to move "That the Viscount Goschen be and is hereby re-elected a member of the board."

General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence: I have pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. J. Rossell: I beg to propose "That Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, and Co. be and are hereby elected auditors for the ensuing year, and that their remuneration be fixed at 50 guineas."

Mr. J. W. Hoskins seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Chairman: That concludes the business.

Mr. A. Hood, in proposing, on behalf of the shareholders, a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and to the directors and the management and to the staff, both at home and abroad, complimented the board on the cautious policy they had pursued, and expressed his entire agreement with the course they had taken.

Mr. E. C. Barter seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: Mr. Hood and gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues and the staff, both at home and abroad, and myself, I thank you very much for your vote.

The proceedings then terminated.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

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

May 29, 370,000 francs against 310,000 francs; May 30, 380,000 francs, against 200,000 francs; May 31, 330.000 francs, against 70.000 francs: June 1, 180,000 francs, against 230,000 francs; June 2, 200,000 francs, against 260.000 francs; June 3, 360,000 francs, against 100.000 francs; June 4, 530,000 francs, against 50,000 francs; June 5, 340,000 francs, against 300,000 francs; June 6, 210,000 francs, against 450,000 francs; June 7, 350,000 francs, against 310.000 francs; June 8, 800,000 francs, against 210.000 francs; June 9, 220,000 francs, against 110,000 francs; June 10, 290,000 francs, against 400,000 francs.

The London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd., announce that their Brussels branch is now open at 114 and 116, Rue Royale, under the management of Mr. E. S. Tear.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY, LIMITED.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Eighteenth Ordinary General MEETING of the Members of the New Egyptian Company, Ltd., will be HELD on Tuesday, the 8th day of July, 1919, at 12 o'clock noon, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, in the City of London, to receive and consider the Annual Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon: to elect Directors and Auditors; to declare a Dividend: and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 25th day of June to the 8th day of July, 1919, both days inclusive.

Dated this 5th day of June, 1919.

By Order of the Board,
THOMAS DAY,
London Manager and Secretary,

Pinner's Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

To enable Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer to attend or vote personally or by proxy, they must deposit their Warrants at the Head Office of the Company, Pinner's Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C., three days before the Meeting.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the half-year ended March 31, 1919, states that there was a net increase of 8.71 miles in the open mileage worked. Gross receipts were Rs.6,49,85,756, against Rs.6,04,54,778; expenditure, Rs.3,86,65,004, against Rs.3,24,34,575, net revenue, Rs.2,63,20,752, against Rs.2,80.20.203. With an increase of Rs.45,30,978, or 7.49 per cent. in the gross receipts, there was an increase of Rs.62,30,429, or 19.21 per cent. in the expenditure, showing a decrease in net revenue amounting to Rs.16,99,451, or 6.07 per cent., as compared with the corresponding period of 1918. Total interest charges were Rs.1,49,36,576, and, excluding State lines, the surplus of net revenue amounted to Rs.93,48,264. The company's proportion of surplus profits after deduction of income-tax amounts to Rs.9,76,293. Rs.9,76,293 has been remitted to England, at the exchange of 1s. 8d. producing £81,358, which, with £667 brought forward, plus interest due on June 30, makes £82,254. Out of this sum the directors propose that a dividend of 35s. per cent., amounting to £45,062, be declared in addition to the guaranteed interest of the half-year, leaving sufficient balance to meet a possible claim for excess profits duty by the Inland Revenue authorities. Capital expenditure during the half-year amounted to Rs.24,23,091. Meeting, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., to-day at 12.30 p.m.

New Egyptian.

The report of the New Egyptian Company for 1918 states that profit and loss shows a credit balance of £59,393, and, deducting £4,196 for service of debentures, there remains a profit of £55,197; £24,483 was brought forward, after deducting dividend of 1s. per share (equal to 6¾) in respect of coupon No. 6, making £79,679. The directors recommend a dividend of 1s. 6d. per share (equal to 10 per cent.), less income-tax at 5s. 9d., which will absorb £33,478, leaving £46,201. In view of the damage caused by the recent riots to plant, buildings and crops on some of the company's estates (the amount of which is approximately estimated at from £10,000 to £15,000), and the general disorganisation of the trade and services of the country, the directors recommend that the balance be carried forward. The net income derived from the estates amounts to £23,210, compared with £23,391. Owing to the increase in the price of all agricultural produce, high rents have been obtained for the current year. The area sold was 1,160 feddans, 229 in Upper Egypt, at an average price of £134 12s. 7d. per feddan, as compared with 150 feddans, at an average price of £111 10s. 7d. per feddan, and 931 in Lower Egypt, at an average price of £118 4s. 9d. per feddan, as compared with 381, at an average price of £100 6s. 2d. per feddan. A further 618 feddans were sold, at an average price of over £150 per feddan, but the deeds were not signed at the conclusion of the year, and therefore they have not been taken into account. Lower Egypt (5,157 feddans).—Capital expenditure amounted to £5.550, as compared with £4,922. The purchase of 215 feddans adjoining the Kahwakia property at a satisfactory figure has been completed. Upper Egypt (2,012 feddans)—Capital expenditure amounted to £1.257, compared with £938. 126 feddans previously sold were expropriated and bought in by the company. During the year the company's loans were redeemed by over £33,000 and the debenture debt by £25.000. In view of the improved results, the directors' remuneration has been calculated in accordance with the articles of association instead of the reduced fees accepted since 1915. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., July 8, noon.

Morum's Oriental Stores.

Residents in and most visitors to Egypt are well acquainted with the big departmental stores which were formerly conducted under the style and title of Stein's Oriental Stores, Ltd., and more recently under the style of Morum's Oriental Stores. A company has been formed for the purpose of taking over and carrying on this business, under the title of "Morum's Oriental Stores (Limited)," with a share capital of £500,000, consisting of 300,000 preference shares and 200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each.

Burmah Oil.

The report of the Burmah Oil Company to December 31 last states that the profit, after charging income-tax, directors' fees, etc., and writing off £491,021 for depreciation, is £2,814,058, which added to the balance brought forward, after payment of excess profits duty, £148,867, makes £2,962,924. There has been transferred to fields reserve £80,000, and the directors have made the following further appropriations:—To insurance reserve £20,000, to general reserve £186,695, leaving £2,676,229. The directors recommend the following final dividends for the year, payable July 10, namely: On the First Preference shares, 7 1-5d. per share (equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum), less tax at 5s. 9d. in £; on the Second Preference shares, 6s. per share (equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum), less tax at 5s. 9d. in £; on the Ordinary shares, 5s. per share, free of tax, making 30 per cent. for the year; and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, estimated at £1,580,000, the balance of £2,776,229. Depreciation has, as usual, been fully provided for, and the following amounts have been written off:—Refineries account, £104,257; oil wells, etc., account, £282,453; pipelines account, £40,000; tankers and tank installations account, £64,310. The large increase in profits is due partly to the further advance that took place on the prices of most petroleum products during the year up to the declaration of the armistice and partly to continued improvements and economies in refining. The total kerosene trade of India, owing to the continued effect of the war on tonnage, showed a large falling off, but with the imports of foreign oils thus enormously curtailed the company's sales of kerosene were considerably greater than those for the previous twelve months.

BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

Appeal to Employers.

The War Office is anxious that no misconception should exist among employers in this country as to the position of the troops in India whose demobilisation has been suspended for the present. Last April details from Mesopotamia and other men awaiting embarkation for the United Kingdom were asked to remain temporarily in India in view of the disturbed state of the country. The men agreed to this on the understanding that they would be released and sent home as soon as the situation admitted and shipping became available. Before this occurred, however, trouble broke out on the Afghan frontier, and with a view to meeting the emergency, demobilisation was stopped by order of the Army Council. Demobilisable men are in no way being kept in India for the Army of Occupation; their services are necessary only while the present situation continues, and will be dispensed with at the earliest possible moment. It appears, however, that there is still some misunderstanding on this point, and that certain men now necessarily detained have been informed that their employment has been cancelled "because they have volunteered for the Armies of Occupation." The War Office accordingly appeals to all employers concerned still to keep open the places reserved for these men, and so relieve their minds of the very real and deeply felt anxiety as to their future when they return to this country.

THE MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that WARRANTS, in payment of the Dividend on the 5 per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Shares for the Half-Year ended the 30th June, 1919, will be POSTED on that date.

The BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 18th instant to the 30th instant, inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
ROBERT H. EGGAR, Secretary,

57½, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.
20th June, 1919.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Labour questions have overshadowed all other matters in the market this week. Contrary to expectations, the employers and trade union officials failed to agree on mill hours and wages last Friday, and a strike began on Monday. On that day, however, as a result of a further conference, it was decided to recommend the masters and the workpeople to accept a working week of forty-eight hours with a rise in wages of 30 per cent. on list wages. At the time of writing, there is a little uncertainty as to whether certain sections of the operatives will confirm the arrangement. There is disappointment in labour circles that the union officials have not been able to obtain a working week of forty-six and a half hours. It is anticipated, however, that the mills will be running on Monday under the new conditions. Varied reports continue to be received relating to the Egyptian crop. Water is said to be sufficient, but there are still advices of low temperatures. Official reports relating to the American growth will be published by the Government on Tuesday next. Egyptian yarns have advanced in price. Quite a substantial rise has occurred in certain special kinds. Without the turnover being very large, an encouraging demand has been met with, and most spinners can afford to be very firm at the higher quotations. In spite of advancing rates, a considerable trade continues to be put through in piece goods for Egypt and Near Eastern outlets generally. Sized goods and printing cloths have been in active request, especially for anything like early delivery. India is now showing more life. A welcome improvement has taken place in the offtake for Calcutta. The requirements of China are not yet satisfied. Certain makes are being sold for delivery into next year. Most cloth manufacturers have distinctly improved their position during the last few weeks. American yarns have not been sold freely, but the tone has been firm, and a very fair trade has been done. Plenty of offers have been about in bundles for India and cops for the Continent. Coarse numbers continue to be sold for the Levant.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Ceylon Land and Produce Company announce that an interim dividend of 10 per cent., being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, will be paid on the ordinary shares on July 1.

Land Bank of Egypt.—Coupons No. 28 of the Three and a-Half per Cent. bonds and No. 26 of the Four per Cent. bonds, payable July 1, should be presented in London at the Comptoir National d'Escompte.

Nedeem Tea.—The directors of the Nedeem Tea Company recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 20 per cent. for 1918, subject to income-tax at an average of 5s 9d. in £, payable on and after July 26, making 25 per cent. for the year.

Egyptian Salt and Soda First Mortgage Debenture.—Coupon No. 34, due June 30, will be paid by the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

The directors of the Ceylon and Indian Planters' Association announce a dividend of 5 per cent. (10s. per share), less income-tax, on ordinary shares (interim), payable June 24. Last year, dividend same.

The directors of the South Behar Railway announce a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on capital stock for half-year (interim), payable July 15. Last year, dividend same.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.—Warrants in payment of the dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative preferred shares for the half-year ending June 30 will be posted on that date.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company announce a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on ordinary stock for quarter (interim), payable July 15. Last year, dividend same.

London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.—Transfer books will be closed on July 1 for that day only, for preparation of dividend payable August 1. Proprietors registered on June 30 will be entitled to the dividend.

The directors of the East Indian Coal Company recommend a dividend of 12 per cent., less tax, for the half-year ended April 30 last, payable July 10.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at March 31, 1919, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,462,500
Special Reserve		487,500
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		18,645,206
Mixed Tribunals		2,633,133
Egyptian Government		8,141,817
Bankers' Accounts		1,206,538
Cheques and Bills payable		379,318
Sundry other Accounts		734,882
		£E.36,815,894
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		£E. 16,888,042
Sundry Securities		282,888
*Advances on Merchandise		7,802,710
Advances on Securities		3,155,366
Advances otherwise Secured		593,208
Sundry other Advances		357,725
Bills of Exchange		2,001,028
Local Bills Discounted		75,289
Buildings and Furniture		230,752
Money at call and at short notice		1,603,875
Bankers' Accounts		1,511 383
Sudan Government		4,587
Sundry other Accounts		299,933
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,478.016	
Gold	39,459	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	49 1,333	
		2,008,808
		£E.36,815,894

Issue Department.	£E.
Notes issued	44,400,000
	£E.44,400,000
	£E.
Gold	3,309,191
†British Treasury Bills	18,890,809
	22,200,000
Securities:—	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	537,029
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	21,662,971
	£E.44,400,000

* This figure includes advances against merchandise and advances made to the Cotton Control Commission and the Cotton Seed Control Board.

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

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

Our market has been rather irregular this week. There has been a large demand from Egypt for Egyptian Government stocks and Bank shares, and this has more than sufficed to absorb what was offering on this side in these securities, which have been realised, no doubt, with a view to reinvestment in the new War Loans. On the other hand, there has been a certain amount of local pressure to sell some of the other securities, and, generally speaking, this has led to some lowering of prices in order to attract buyers.

Egyptian Unifieds close unchanged at 86, with some large business round 85½. The 3½ per cent. 1890 loan is in strong demand at the quoted figure, but sellers are practically non-existent.

In Bank shares the feature has been the rise in National Banks, which spurted very sharply 11-16 to 20⅜ on a big demand from Egypt. There was keen competition for the shares offering here, and the price advanced rather rapidly. Agriculturals, although closing unchanged, are a much better market, as Egypt has taken several hundred shares between 5 15-16 and 6. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been bought locally, and are ⅜ up at 16. Land Banks have been wanted, but no business has resulted, as there are no sellers.

Delta Light Railway Prefs. have remained unaltered.

In Land shares Aboukirs have receded a further fraction to 23s. 6d. on local realisation. Some small business has taken place in Béhéra at 12⅛, at which price the shares are still wanted, but sellers are asking 12½. A large business has been done in Egyptian Consolidated Lands, which have further receded 4½d. to 2s. 10½d., after changing hands as high as 3s. 1½d. Delta Lands are 3d. lower at 14s. 3d. Gharbieh Lands and Sidi Salems have both receded ⅛ to 2¼, but at this price Gharbiehs are rather buyers, whilst Sidi Salems are rather sellers. New Egyptians close unaltered at 24s. 9d., after having been up to 25s. 3d. The report just issued is considered an excellent one, and shows the company to be in an exceedingly sound financial condition and with very good prospects. Sudan Plantations are 1-16 firmer at 7⅛. Union Foncières, on a forced sale, dropped to 3⅛, at which price, however, there are buyers, while at the moment there are no sellers under 3¼.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Markets have dropped 2s. 6d. to 22s. 6d., at which price several hundred shares changed hands. On the other hand, Salts and Sodas have been persistently inquired for, and have risen 3-16 to 3⅛. Khedivial Mails are ⅛ lower at 6⅛.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-32 easier at 6 5-32, while Roumanian Oil have been a feature of strength, and have jumped 2s. to 21s. 6d. Traians, however, have been a dull spot, and are 6d. lower at 13s.

In Greek securities there is again a further rise to record in certain descriptions. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are both 3 points higher at 75, and Rentes have gained a point at 55.

The plant of the Constantinople Telephone Company was taken over finally from the Turkish authorities as from April 1, 1919, and the service is now conducted by the company.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

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

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

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

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

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	June 18	June 25
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	84½	84½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	86	86
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	73	73
Greek 5%, 1881	57	72	75
Do. 5%, 1884	56	72	75
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	59½	59½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	54	55
Do. 5%, 1890	56	74½xd	74½xd
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	67	67
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	86	86
Do. 5% Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82¾	82½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15½	16
Bank of Athens	£2	72/6	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	8	8½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	77	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	9⅜	9⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅜xd	6⅜xd
London County and Westminster	—	17	16⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅛	20¾
National Bank of India	43	53	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅜	7⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	87	50	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	101½	45	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc. Rail. 4½%.	90	67	67
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	23/9	23/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	12⅜	12⅛
Do. Pref.	4¼	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	—	2/6	2/10½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/6	14/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/9	14/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2½
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/9	24/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2⅜	2½
Sudan Plantations	—	7⅛	7⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅝	3⅝
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅝xd	12⅝xd
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅛	25/-	22/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	2⅛	3⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	6½	6⅛
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	90½	—	98½
Chinese 4½% 1898	92	—	81
,, 5% 1896	101	—	91
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—	—
,, 5% 1907	—	—	86¾
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	¾	6⅞	6⅝
Anglo-Persian	1⅝	27/-	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	—
Roumanian	1⅞	19/6	21/6
Traian (Roumanian)	—	13/6	13/-

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JUNE 6.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	105½
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	150
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	13½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	12⅜
,, priv.	L.E.	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	164
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3½
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5⅛
Bonded Stores	L.E.	12⅛
Unifiée	L.E.	87
Privilégiée		75
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	7½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
,, ,, Fond.	£	460
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4⅜
,, Ord		121
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	16⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
,, Jouissance	Frs.	175
Egyptian Markets		22/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	420exc
,, Div.	Frs.	355exc
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	313
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda		53/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	725
,, Fondateur	Frs.	980
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	432exc
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	305
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	283½
United Lands	P.T.	4½
Assoc. Cotton Jinners		5⅜

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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

PARIS.

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

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

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

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

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

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

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

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

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

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £2,400,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

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

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

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

Head Office: ATHENS.

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

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

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

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

GREECE.

Area (1914), 25,138 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 24·40 Drachmæ to £1.

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

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ¾ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: PIRÆUS, SYRA.

CAPITAL - Drs. 10,000,000.

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

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

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

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

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

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

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

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

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

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

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

Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN ALL CITIES OF BULGARIA.

The Bank effects the following transactions :—

1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
2.—Receives private deposits for fixed periods or on current account. 3.—Discounts commercial effects and allows quarterly loans.
4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
6.—Buys and sells country and foreign cheques, etc. 7.—The Bank is entitled to the exclusive privilege of putting in circulation gold and silver banknotes. The telegraphic address for the Head Office: **Nationalbank**, and for the branches and the agencies: **Bank.**

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1885. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£120,000*

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£650,000**
RESERVE - - - - -	**£220,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Anwas, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed. Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiras. Sultanabad. Tabriz and Yezd. Agencies at Busrah and Baghdad

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	**Rs.2,00,00,000**
Reserve Fund	**Rs.1,61,00,000**
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	**Rs. 25,00,000**

Head Office: Strand Road, CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, PATNA, RANGOON, SIMLA.

Agency: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE, BOMBAY.

Sub-Agencies: NARAINGUNGE and SECUNDERABAD.

Pay Offices:

CHANDPORE, SERAJGUNGE } Usually open from July to December.
PARBHANI (DECCAN) ,, November to March.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody. Purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches, Sub-Agencies or Pay Offices.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	**Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund - - - -	**Rs.52,00,000**

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

REMITTANCES TO SERBIA.

Remittances to Belgrade, Uskub and Monastir can now be effected through

THE BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE,

27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2. | Telephone 1110 LONDON

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGER.

Authorised Capital -	**£2,000,000**	**Called-up Capital** - -	**£580,000**
Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER . LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. **MANCHESTER.** **NEW YORK:—** 100 BEAVER STREET.
EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.
MOROCCO:— CASABLANCA, FEZ, MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, SAFFI, TANGIER.
CANARY ISLANDS:— LAS PALMAS.
WEST AFRICA:— THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£2,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,000,000**
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each ..	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,550,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman.* ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq. SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, Esq. J. N. STUART, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

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

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

BRANCHES.

Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Karachi	Cawnpore, Lahore, Amritsar, Delhi	Tuticorin, Coconada (S. India), Chittagong, Rangoon	Mandalay, Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Colombo	Kandy, Newera Eliya, Zanzibar	Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu — British East Africa	Entebbe, Kampala, Jinja — Uganda

OCCUPIED TERRITORY GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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